Terms of Reference
Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific

Mission Statement

The United Nations (UN) system in Asia and the Pacific, drawing on the global United Nations Network on Migration, establishes a Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific (The Regional Network) to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), where such a common UN system approach would add value. The Regional Network promotes migration policies that support the well-being and realisation of the human rights of migrants and their communities in a coherent, holistic and balanced manner. This includes policies and their implementation that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional and sub-regional initiatives of relevance, while progressing in the implementation of the 23 objectives of the GCM.

In its overall objectives, working principles and methods, the Regional Network will take cognisance of the terms of reference of the global UN Network on Migration (Annex I). In all its actions, the Regional Network will be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, relevant international laws and instruments, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the GCM.

In full respect of the GCM guiding principles, including a human rights-based, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole of government, whole of society approach to migration, and in line with the working principles of the global UN Network, the Regional Network will:

- Enhance effective and timely collaboration within the UN System to support States' implementation of the GCM including through carrying out joint projects and programmes, and collaborate with other existing coordination mechanisms and the system wide efforts as relevant, to avoid avoiding duplication with existing regional initiatives[1];
- Provide support, guidance and information to Resident Coordinators/UN Country Teams (RCs/UNCTs), including country UN Networks on Migration (country Network), in support of the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM at the national level;
- Provide policy guidance on approaches to safe, orderly and regular migration as set out in the GCM in the region including through targeted capacity-building as relevant; and promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants; and in consideration of various drivers and root causes of migration in the region, support countries to balance short-term responses to addressing the impacts of migration with long-term sustainable development solutions;
- Foster a better understanding of current and emerging migration issues, and strengthen the evidence base on migration at the regional level and the collection, dissemination and analysis of age-sensitive and gender-disaggregated data and information on migration;
- Support the global UN Network on Migration as well as seeking exchange and collaboration with other regional UN Networks on Migration on cross regional matters as relevant and needed, including through the capacity building mechanism.

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[1] The Regional Network will complement and draw upon the expertise and experience of relevant initiatives in place at the regional level, such as the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism's Thematic Working Group (TWG) Sustainable Societies (including its predecessors on International Migration including Human Trafficking), TWG Statistics, UNSDG Human Rights Network, IASC, etc.

Strategy of the Regional Network

In order to implement its mission, the Regional Network commits to support work at the national, subnational, regional and global levels in support of States' implementation of the GCM safe, orderly and regular migration, with a focus on supporting GCM implementation by States, and to engage effectively with external stakeholders. The Regional Network will develop a detailed annual work plan to operationalise the overarching strategic objectives detailed below.

1. Provide guidance, technical support and other input as relevant to RCs/UNCTs/country Networks or other relevant coordination mechanisms in order to support the GCM follow-up and review, including through:
   o Providing guidance, technical support and other inputs as relevant, in order to support the GCM follow-up and review by Member States (including through national plans of action);
   o Assisting UNCTs and country Networks (or other coordination mechanisms) in their support to Member States to mainstream the objectives of the GCM in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and national plans.

2. Enhance collaboration among the Regional Network entities through joint regional actions on identified common priority areas, including support to regional meetings relevant to the GCM and joint advocacy at the regional level, including through:
   o Identifying emerging and good practices that could be scaled up throughout the region, and opportunities for coordinated capacity-building where this adds value to implementation of the GCM;
   o Sharing relevant updates and information, and where this adds value, jointly collecting and disseminating relevant quantitative and qualitative, age and gender-disaggregated data, reporting, analysis and other information on regional migration dynamics in order to foster enhanced understanding of migration;
   o Engaging in joint advocacy efforts and seeking to speak with one voice where appropriate, both reactively and proactively, on key priority and pressing issues related to migrants and migration in the region, including through consistent policy inputs to regional institutions and processes and external messaging to a wider audience;
   o Supporting the organization of regional meetings relevant to the GCM, including regional reviews meetings, and strengthening links with regional entities and regional processes relevant to GCM follow-up and review.

3. Supporting the global Network s well as other regional networks on cross regional matters as needed and ensuring engagement with all relevant external stakeholders at the regional level to ensure effective support to GCM follow-up and review, including through:
   o Providing regular updates to the global Network as relevant and necessary;
   o Preparing and providing regional input to the Secretary-General's biennial report to the General Assembly;
   o Engaging proactively with external partners and stakeholders working at the regional level as relevant to the GCM. External partners include migrants, civil society organizations, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media, and other relevant stakeholders;
   o Supporting, as needed, the global initiatives and activities of the global and other regional Networks.

Membership and Composition

The Regional Network will be comprised of all UN agencies at Asia and the Pacific regional level wishing to join.

Coordination and Organizational Arrangements

The Regional Network will be convened by IOM (as the Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration) who will:

- Organize and chair meetings in Bangkok to ensure the smooth functioning of the Network;
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Network;
- Monitor progress of the work plans and decisions taken by the Network; organize technical level meetings on a quarterly basis and as needed.
- Undertake Secretariat functions for the Network, including maintaining the members list, the record of meetings and events, and drafting minutes of meetings.

Regional Executive Committee

A Regional Executive Committee will be established within the Regional Network, cognizant of the global structure established by the UN Secretary-General, overall regional coordination of the UN System, and the specificities of the Asia-Pacific region. Membership of the Regional Committee will comprise Executive Committee and other entities with clear mandates, technical expertise and capacity in migration-related fields, namely ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, ESCAP, OCHA, UNAIDS, UN DRR, UNFPA, UN Women.

Annual Work Plan

The Regional Network will develop and monitor the achievement of results against an annual work plan. It will ensure this work plan is well coordinated and ensures synergies with the work plans of the global UN Migration Network and takes into account the country network/UNCT plans.

Task teams

Task teams will be established over time as needs and opportunities emerge per decision of the Regional Network including their focus, composition, (co)-chairing arrangements and a ToR as required. The task teams will focus on specific issues and be results-oriented. The task teams will include the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Decision-making

The Regional Network will endeavour to take all decisions by consensus, after full consultation with all Network members, and in the framework of the overall guidance provided to the Regional Network by the Regional Executive Committee. It will guide and support the setting strategic priorities, developing annual work plan and establishing time-bound or other tasks teams, working with other members of the Regional Network.

The Regional Network may adopt any additional working methods as necessary.

[Annex I – global Network ToR]
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