UN Network on Migration in Armenia
Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

On 13th of July 2018, at the United Nation's Headquarters in New York, Members States agreed on the final draft of the United Nations' first ever Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). Recalling the New York Declaration, the GCM was adopted on 10 and 11 December 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco by 152 states, including Armenia. The Compact covers all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner and presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that builds on the principles, commitments and understandings agreed upon by Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions.

To this end, the United Nations established a Network on Migration (UNMN) at the global level to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States. In carrying out its mandate, the Network prioritizes the rights and well-being of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit. In all its actions the Network aims to respect the principles of the GCM and be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, international law and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

The Government of Armenia greeted the establishment of the UNMN at global level and expressed expectations on its effective and coherent support also at national level, which will support to better migration governance and fulfilment of international commitments on migration management. The UN Resident Coordinator also expressed commitment to engage the UNCT agencies to actively support the Government of Armenia in implementing the objectives of GCM and in reporting on the outcomes, in close correlation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IOM's role in supporting the Network, and as the Network Coordinator, was acknowledged and reconfirmed in Armenia, by bringing together all the UN resident agencies, but also serving as a platform for engaging CSOs and other entities to ensure a 360-degree and whole-of-society approach to migration governance and in the implementation of the GCM.

The Republic of Armenia is a country of both origin and destination for migrants. According to UN DESA the number Armenian nationals residing outside Armenia is 899,649. The Russian Federation, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the European Economic Area continue to be the main destinations for Armenians. Building on the economic and social ties, the government of Armenia is keen on strengthening existing ties with countries and regions also because international remittance inflows from the same to Armenia, amount to $1,528 billion USD or which constitutes 11,4 % of Armenia's GDP (WB report 2019). In recent years Armenia has become increasingly attractive for migrants, making it a country of destination for many migrants. The estimated number of international migrants in the country according to UN DESA 2019 is 190,200 or 6,4 % of the national population.

MISSION STATEMENT

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Republic of Armenia established a United Nations Migration Network in 2020 to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated United Nations (UN) system-wide actions supporting and contributing to migration management and overall governance in the Republic of Armenia. It is understood and recognized that the efforts of the UNMN are in line with the 2017-2021 Strategy for Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia, 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy, National Security Strategy of Armenia, the 2019-2023 Programme of the Government of Armenia, as well as the new Concept for State Regulation of Migration adopted in May 2021, where a common UN system approach would add value. As the GCM is rooted in the SDGs, the UNMN's efforts will also be in line with the same.

The UN Migration Network will foster a better understanding of migration dynamics, enhance information exchanges and coordination within the UN system and with the Government of Armenia and other stakeholder at national level, as well as strengthen national ownership over the GCM implementation and promote the protection of the human rights of migrants in Armenia.

The UN Migration Network will work closely with the Migration Service of Armenia and all other relevant governmental and non-governmental entities, including but not limited to international and foreign organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, think tanks, academia, private sector, donors and other entities dealing with migration issues in Armenia to promote migration policy and approaches, supporting well-being of migrants and societies in line with the GCM and migration priorities, underlined by the Republic of Armenia.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the UN Network on Migration are drawn from the Executive Committee decision of 23 May 2018 and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

To implement its mission, and mirroring both the Global and Regional Networks, the UN Network on Migration in Armenia commits to carry out the following duties:

1.   Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to the Republic of Armenia in implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM for the rights and well-being of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit.

2.   Support and facilitate access to collection, analysis and dissemination and exchange of reliable data, information, statistics, tools, innovative research, good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanisms established in the GCM (e.g. Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF)/Start-up Fund; Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub).

3.   Promote the application of relevant international and national norms and standards related to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants and advocate for greater transparency and accountability in migration policy and related activities.

4.   Share regular updates on key, emerging migration issues, research and activities with the Network members, including information, data, statistics, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the evolving migration dynamics in Armenia, including age and gender considerations, and the linkages with regional dynamics and trends.

5.   Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UNCT, including by speaking with one voice as appropriate, in accordance with the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities.

6.   Promote and ensure effective, timely and coordinated UNCT support to the Government of Armenia in implementation of the Migration strategy, in line with the GCM, wherever such action would add value.

7.   Act as the main interlocuter with development partners and donor community in Armenia on migration issues.

8.   Support the Government of Armenia at the request of the latter in its participation to global initiatives relevant to migration, including but not limited to Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the regional and global review processes on the GCM, Regional Consultative Processes, and other such regional and/or global fora.

9.   Promote cooperation and exchanges between UNMN members and external parties, primarily the Migration Service and with other governmental bodies and stakeholders, including but not limited with migrants, civil society, diaspora organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, academia, media and other relevant stakeholders, aiming to address migration-related issues, actively seeking out synergies and avoiding duplication.

10.   Identify areas where effective consideration of migration issues can accelerate SDG achievement and highlight this in the development of UN Joint Work-plans.

11.   Provide support to the capacity building mechanism, as outlined in the GCM.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

•   Co-chairs: The United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Armenia and the Head of Office of IOM Mission in Armenia.

•   Coordinator and Secretariat: The IOM Mission in Armenia (in line with the designation of IOM by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the global UN Network on Migration).

•   Members: UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, ILO, FAO, WFP, WHO, and UNOCHA. Other interested UN Agencies may be invited to be member of the UNMN.

•   Participation Level: Heads of Agencies, or his/her designate.

- Meeting Frequency: The UN Migration Network will meet on a bi-annual basis, or upon request by its members, whenever possible in conjunction with the UN Country Team meetings.

ROLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The UN Migration Network will meet on a quarterly basis, or upon request by its members, as proposed by the partner agencies - within the already established structure of the RMTG meetings.

The Network will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM Armenia Head of Office. The co-chairs will:

- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Network;

- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Network;

- Deliver One Voice joint statement in the name of the Network on specific issues;

- Coordinate activities with the UN Migration Network Secretariat and Members;

- Coordinate submission of Migration MPTFs and advocate for resource mobilization on initiatives that support the advancement of the GCM objectives, all the while ensuring complementarity with other national and regional frameworks.

IOM, acting as Coordinator and Secretariat, will convene the meetings and provide the meeting minutes. IOM will keep the member list updated and share it regularly.

Members of the Network will contribute to design and implementation of the Network's objectives and workplan, provide advice on strategic direction and share information and knowledge about their migration related work. Members will promote coherence of migration-related activities within the UN system.

Decisions relevant to the work of the Network will be made by consensus based on consultations with all Network Members, and, on all issues relevant to or of concern to the state, with the Migration Service and other relevant ministries.

Working Groups can be established on a permanent or ad-hoc basis, to focus on specific issues, depending on the needs and opportunities. The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members and may include external partners, including the Migration Service and other relevant ministries.

There will be at least one Annual Network Meeting of the full membership of the Network to include other relevant stakeholders, in order to review Network progress; explore ways to further enhance collaboration; identify emerging challenges.