

Asia Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Joint Stakeholder Statement on Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration

Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23

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This Joint Statement is the culmination of regional multi-stakeholder engagement generously hosted by UN-ESCAP in the lead up to the Asia Pacific Regional Review. While acknowledging the progress made in implementing GCM Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23, this Statement offers recommendations to meet the challenges that remain. Now, more than ever, there is an urgent need to act together to address the vulnerabilities faced by migrants across the region.

GCM Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

1. State-led data collection on migration should be conducted through a transparent process in partnership between States, other stakeholders, and migrants themselves, as experts in their own experiences, for data harmonization and verification at every stage of the migrant journey, and with guaranteed protection for migrants. Disaggregated data, including gender and age-related data, should be available so as to establish more responsive migration policies, acknowledging the complexity of migrants' experiences and needs.

GCM Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

2. Governments and other stakeholders should ensure that essential information for migrants is accessible, disseminated broadly through digital and non-digital channels, and available in multiple languages using appropriate and inclusive language, so as to ensure migrants are informed and empowered at every stage of their journey.

GCM Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

3. States should ensure that migrants have full access to legal and other services, regardless of their status, with particular attention for the most vulnerable, including those at risk of trafficking, those affected by crisis or disaster, women, survivors of SGBV, unaccompanied children and migrants in irregular situations. Firewalls should be established to safeguard migrants against repercussions from immigration authorities when seeking access to basic services, and to justice.

Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

4. Discrimination is not only a significant deterrent to social integration for migrants, it is also a barrier to accessing basic services and rights, including employment, housing, healthcare, and education. States should adopt and implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and national action plans to combat hate speech and protect the human rights of migrants, ensuring full and equitable access to healthcare, including COVID-19 care and vaccination, and with focus given to particular groups that may face heightened risk of stigma, including LGBTQ+ migrants, migrants with underlying health conditions or disabilities and survivors of SGBV and trafficking.

GCM Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

5. States should strengthen multilateral cooperation with other States, local authorities, NGOs, migrant-led organisations, academia and the private sector to optimize existing mechanisms for monitoring and compliance with local, national and international laws regarding exploitation, and human rights abuses to ensure migrants will have timely and improved access to justice, with full protection, promotion and fulfilment of their human rights.