

FINLAND'S VOLUNTARY INPUT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REGIONAL REVIEW FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION (GCM)

We thank for this opportunity to contribute to the Regional Review for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and state the following:

The GCM sets the standards for safe, orderly and regular migration and provides us with commonly agreed language at global level related to all aspects of migration. Finland fully supports multilateral cooperation and rules-based international order and UN's key role in it.

The GCM emphasises that an effective approach to migration management in general requires a whole-of-government approach. In terms of implementation of the GCM, this approach is utmost important since many of the actions to reach the 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles, cross-governmental cooperation and stepping-up of policy coherence is clearly needed. Also in Finland, the different objectives fall into responsibility of several Ministries.

The implementation of the GCM is also an opportunity to emphasize the value of strengthening the whole-of-society approach to migration. By engaging all actors we can make use of all the skills and capacities of various stakeholders, from employers through to service providers, from local communities to migrant workers.

The Finnish voluntary input focuses here on some of the key objectives of the GCM.

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

Promoting evidence-based migration policies was one of the main objectives of Finland's EU Council Presidency in 2019. It is clear that our policymaking can gain from a broader information base and a higher level of situational awareness.

During our EU Council Presidency we also promoted discussion on systematic use of forecast and foresight methods, as well as on the whole-of-route approach. These concepts should be further explored and developed so that our migration policies can become even more evidence-based and forward-looking, benefiting also from our partners' knowledge and sharing ours with them. The whole-of-route approach entails looking at the different routes from a

broad perspective and taking into account the patterns and profiles along the whole route from countries of origin through transit countries to the EU, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the routes, including the respective root causes of irregular migration.

Objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

In relation to objective 2 of the GCM, Finland emphasizes the need to adopt a holistic, whole-of-government approach to addressing the various underlying factors which cause forced displacement and irregular migration.

While the aim of Finnish development policy and cooperation is to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, Finland sees that each of its development policy priorities – that is 1. enhancing the rights and status of all women and girls, 2. supporting developing countries' own economies, 3. equitable and quality education and accountable governance, and 4. climate change mitigation and adaptation – also contribute in a meaningful way to the structural inequalities and the various and intersecting drivers behind irregular and forced migration.

Finland directs its development cooperation funding directly to the countries of origin and transit as well as to the stabilization of the most fragile contexts. In 2019, the three largest recipients of Finnish development funding were Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Syria. Finland has also provided significant support to the EU Africa Trust Fund. Finland recognizes that addressing the drivers behind irregular and forced migration requires both long-term partnerships as well as ability to react quickly to changes. In addition to development policy and cooperation and humanitarian aid, this also requires a broad set of other instruments, including political dialogue, crises management, peace mediation as well as for instance coordinated trade, energy and climate policies.

In 2015 - 2019, the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) implemented the EU-SPS (EU Social Protection Systems Program) project, which aims to support the construction of social security systems in African and Asian countries.

Regarding employment issues, Finland is a founding member of the global occupational safety and health coalition coordinated by the International labour organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The goal of the international coalition is to support the realization of the conventions, declarations and sustainable development goals of labour protection.

Finland works to promote global health safety through international organizations and network co-operation bringing together different sectors. Human rights, the status of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality are crosscutting themes in Finland's international health policy.

Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

Regarding objective 6, promoting the use of legal avenues is not only a central part of the comprehensive approach to migration, but also a central part of the Finnish governmental program. Especially industries, where there's a clear shortage of manpower, are emphasized when it comes to enhancing work-related migration and legal avenues. To achieve this, a wide ranged program of actions is to be compiled. To make the processing more effective, the administration regarding work-related migration is to be delegated from the ministry of the interior to the ministry of employment and the economy.

Objective 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

Regarding objective 10, as per the Finnish governmental program, a law on assisting the victims of human trafficking will be written, which will, to name one improvement, safeguard the municipalities' possibilities to help the victims. Adding to this, a governmental coordinator on actions against human trafficking will be appointed with resources sufficient enough to act to reveal and investigate cases of human trafficking. On a more concrete level, personnel of the social and health care have been trained in cooperation with the IOM.

Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

Developing and implementing bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks and agreements, including readmission agreements, ensuring that return and readmission of migrants to their own country is safe, dignified and in full compliance with international human rights law, is a key objective.

The EU and Member States have in recent years developed and expanded their instruments and frameworks for migration cooperation with external partners. This should advance building balanced, sustained and mutually beneficial partnerships. Partnerships are pivotal when aiming in preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and enhancing the cooperation on return and readmission.

The EU should continue to advance global responsibility-sharing and develop partnerships at bilateral, regional and global level. Cooperation with the African Union and the United Nations have brought good results and should be further promoted.

Voluntary return should always be the preferred means of return, as it is the most sustainable alternative in view of the reintegration of migrants. Finland actively cooperates with IOM, when returning migrants voluntarily from Finland to their countries of origin.