

First Regional Consultation

on the Review of the Implementation
of the Global Compact for Safe,
Orderly, and Regular Migration
for the year 2021

Secretariat
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OUTCOMES REPORT

First Regional Consultation on the Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration for the year 2021

Dates	16-17 February 2021
Location	Zoom Webinar
Organizers	Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants

On February 16 and 17 of the year 2021, the Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) organized a webinar on the implementation of the global compact on migration. The workshop was the first in 2021 among a planned series of webinars and national workshops planned by the CCRM in the MENA region, following significant changes in migration governance at the global and regional levels. The webinar aimed to discuss the topics of labor migration, trafficking and smuggling in persons, access to consular protection services, diaspora, remittances, data, vulnerabilities, discrimination, and international cooperation. The webinar aimed to give the floor to local civil society organizations to discuss the progress done (if any), good practices and lessons learned, challenges, difficulties, possible solutions, and recommendations.

16 organizations attended the workshop from the MENA, Gulf and the Mediterranean Basin.

Day 1 - 16 February 2021

Mediated Discussion 1: Labor Migration

The Global Compact on Migration encompasses in its objectives 2, 5, 6, 12, and 18, labor migration and offers a path to walk on in order to ensure safe and orderly migration.

The regional consultation on migration gave the floor to different organizations and journalists to share their country's implementation of the global compact on migration. The push factors of migrants in the region are usually war, economic or political instability. These factors force them to leave their home country and seek stability in another country.

Labor migrants in the region are subject to different types of exploitation and unfair treatments, while the law does not provide an umbrella to cover them. In Egypt, for example, there is no law to control or direct migrant workers' mobility which makes them subject to different types of harmful acts. There are no local policies or systems to control the presence of migrant workers in the local market which pushes the migrant workers to head towards informal markets. The case of Lebanon is similar and also implies to migrant domestic workers. Migrant domestic workers are not included in the labor law in Lebanon which means that they are not protected by the law. Also, and similarly to Lebanon, migrant workers in Jordan fall under the Kafala system and work in fields with low income and where only basic skills are required. Yet, the Jordanian government stopped restricting the fields of work for migrants in Jordan, and stated instead specific fields where the migrants are allowed to work. But, due to the type of work migrants are restricted to, and due to their low-income nature, many migrant workers tend to head towards the informal sector in order to gain a higher income.

Migrant workers are highly affected by the economic situation in the host country. For example, the economic crisis in Lebanon highly affected migrants' decision to consider Lebanon as a destination country.

Plus, migrant workers are not covered by social security nor health insurance. Not having social security means that these workers cannot receive end-of-service compensation. The case of Lebanon clearly shows how harmful to the migrant workers that is. All of that, in addition to the pandemic, made migrant workers more vulnerable and at higher risk of multiple abuses and violations.

Migrant domestic workers faced a lot of difficulties due to the pandemic; Many cases suffer from non-payment of wages, yet the Bahraini government tried to find solutions to this problem but many steps are yet to be taken. Adding to that, there are many challenges and new problems that make the situation more complicated and the main reason behind that is the political and economic factors that lead to the delay in the activation or putting into action some laws and policies that affect migrant workers. Bahrain was able to embrace many situations unlike other gulf countries but due to the current situation and the rise of Bahraini unemployment, there are internal disputes at the Bahraini parliament with members split between prioritizing actions in regard to improving and developing the job market for Bahrainis and others want to work on ameliorating the situation of Migrant workers and give them the better working environment and access to rights.

In all of the region's countries, the effects of the pandemic were very harmful on the migrant communities as many of them lost their jobs while others had to receive only half or none of their salaries. In addition, discrimination makes handling daily life situations harder on migrants, especially that they do not have unions in many cases to support them. During her experience working in Lebanon, a participant in the regional consultation mentioned that discrimination has become part of the culture, mentioning that even though migrants were affected same as others from the Beirut Blast, they did not get the same kind of support.

So, the main problems migrant workers are facing are:

1. Exclusion from the labor law all together or the exclusion from certain provisions of the labor law when it applies to migrants.
2. The Kafala system which is still heavily applied in most of the countries and even in countries that announced the abolishing of the Kafala system, it still applies to some categories of workers such as domestic workers.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic, which caused a further deterioration of the situation of migrant workers and caused more severe violations to migrant rights.
4. The inability of migrants to form unions or join unions in many cases for the defense of their labor rights.

Yet, some temporary measures were taken by governments following the pandemic and lockdowns; for example, giving amnesty periods or removing penalties for delays in renewing residency or work permits. The Lebanese general security announced a decision of not using the term runaway when migrant domestic workers leave their jobs without prior notice, but to say that they "left their job" instead.

Suggestions from the participants to overcome the main issues suggested:

1. Include ALL migrant workers in the national Labor laws without exclusion clauses.
2. Abolish the Kafala system for all kinds and all categories of work.
3. Provide further protection of rights of migrants specially during crisis (such as the COVID19 pandemic).
4. Protect and provide the rights of ALL migrants (including domestic workers) to unionize; by joining and forming unions.

Mediated Discussion 2: Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of migrants, Integrated Border Management

The GCM objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 21 directly interlink with trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and integrated border management.

The region has always witnessed such actions but it wasn't until the Syrian refugees' crisis that these practices have increased. For example, and in the Egyptian context, Syrian refugees used to come to Egypt before the crisis normally using visas and it was relatively easy to get one. However, after 2013, it became quite more challenging; they started to come in irregular means through Sudan. Unfortunately, it is very difficult nowadays for Syrian refugees to reunite with their families and it is equally difficult for them to enter the country through regular means. This leads to the problem of becoming undocumented migrants. Even with the registration with UNHCR, all they get is a yellow card or a white certificate, and they still do not have the right to get a residency permit issued by the country. This results in difficulty to access services and the formal labor market in Egypt, in addition to various discrimination practices against them. For instance, Syrians who enter the country in irregular means are feared they might be looked at as potential ISIS members. Illegal entry to Egypt may lead also to detention, not only in the context of Syrian refugees but to all the migrants who enter in an irregular way. Detention includes men, women, and children. In the case of Syrian refugees, the detention is less restricted as most of them get released and move to Cairo to register at UNHCR and access the status of asylum seekers while the other nationalities aren't always released easily. In light of the wars in countries around Egypt, Egypt has witnessed a rise in detention. In addition, non-Egyptians aren't granted services when they are in the police stations. UNHCR usually interferes and plays a major role when it comes to the release of migrants from police stations or even detention.

In the context of SOM and TIP, an Egyptian law from 2010, amended in 2016, implies that national entities including several ministries in Egypt are in charge of combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons. This law criminalizes the smugglers and does not by any means criminalize the victims regardless of their nationality.

Meanwhile, despite the borders being usually closed between Lebanon and Syria, smuggling and trafficking are very common in the area. Moreover, closure of borders may be seen as a practice that goes against humanitarian principles especially in periods of war.

As for the Bahraini case, and since Bahrain's an island, it is easier to have more control over the borders and to witness less smuggling of migrants compared to other GCC countries. Yet, one of the issues that are not raised clearly is the issue of sex workers and sex trafficking. The government took some steps in this matter, but these steps are not enough. In addition, it is important to mention that the KAFALA system was abolished in Bahrain back in 2009, but this act is not fully put into practice yet, which emphasizes the importance of the enforcement of laws.

As for Cyprus, it is a country with a very complicated political situation, and the Syrian crisis emphasized this complexity as well. The northern Cypriot border is

occupied by Turkish forces. The Syrian refugees are mainly following the same path and smuggling networks, crossing the borders with Turkey and traveling to Cyprus by boat, risking their lives and risking being victims of trafficking. Even when they reach Cyprus, their acceptance in the country is not guaranteed as the government might push the boats back to Turkey or Lebanon. Many migrants were separated from their families while using different boats to try and reach the coast. In addition, another problem is faced after entering the country; Migrants are detained in overcrowded camps for identification and registration, including minors, where they all live in inhuman conditions.

Syria is a neighboring country of Jordan. At the beginning of the crisis, there was a humanitarian approach towards the refugees' case. The Jordanian government took into consideration their challenges, them being undocumented, and started building camps for all the refugees arriving. But after the creation of ISIS, more rigid measures were taken in terms of security and entrance to the country which led to fewer refugees arriving in Jordan. Now, refugees are being able to enter the country but under more rigid measures.

In Tunisia, the human trafficking issues is not limited to the Syrian refugees context, but it is viewed and addressed as a potential threat to all the migrants in the country. For instance, women and men from the Ivory Coast are promised certain types of jobs, but they end up being tricked and may become victims of human trafficking. The national body in charge of human trafficking is the only national body that works properly in terms of security and migrants' protection. This body is neutral and follows up with investigation and respects its secrecy. This body ensures that a person subject to human trafficking, is given the choice to either stay in Tunisia through obtaining a residency permit, or return safely to their countries. Otherwise, there is no way to support the migrant through the security system, because if they are undocumented, they are sent immediately to the detention centers.

Furthermore, many migrants seek Libya, unaware of what they could face there in terms of Trafficking, smuggling, slavery, and even organ trafficking.

In the case of the UAE, the borders are heavily restricted. People can enter the UAE using a visitor/tourist visa, and work upon getting the work permit. Valid visas are required either way which makes the SOM practices in the UAE very hard.

So, the solutions to these problems are in improving the code of law and the legal frameworks, as well as ensuring their application and enforcement, raising awareness, focusing on education, trying to balance between the rights of all the parties, and trying to fight the black markets that use the migrants to work in illegal ways. There is also a need for more efforts to fight smugglers, especially domestic workers smugglers

While NGOs and CSOs are encouraged to cope with all the challenges faced by migrants, providing the needed economic and psycho-social support to the victims of human trafficking, as well as raising awareness controlling the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons remain the responsibility of countries and governments, especially that trafficking in persons is a transnational issue; All countries should have laws related to the trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, there should be pressure from civil society organizations in all countries to implement such laws and regulations. Combating trafficking in persons should be a collective practice that requires a whole of government approach and an international network to prevent the trafficking in persons and incriminate and sanction the trafficker. The above is to be done through unified laws and standards recognized internationally to fight trafficking in persons and a network between the different countries to identify and cooperate around these issues.

On a similar note, the case of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon shows how the above is needed. There are some countries that have prohibited their citizens from coming to work in Lebanon, yet that remained a one-way practice, meaning that Lebanon did not take such measures. As a result, migrant workers from these countries are finding illegal ways to get smuggled to the country, leading to giving them an undocumented status and therefore becoming more vulnerable to trafficking. This is why such decisions should be made through bilateral agreements.

The GCM addresses human trafficking through a certain perspective and encouraged countries with already set laws to implement them and enhance them and grants the countries access to full rights and to rehabilitation, reintegration, protection, prevention. Not all countries have the same level of protection nor the same legal frameworks and such countries need to refer to the protocols already existing regarding the issue of trafficking in persons. This means that multi-actors are absolutely recommended and needed to counter these practices. Also, a legal framework, which respects the human rights and civil rights of both the nationals and nationalized individuals needs to be set and finalized. In Tunisia, victims of human trafficking receive services such as family planning, healthcare, and other services, while the service provider respects their secrecy and anonymity. Meanwhile, there are a lot of gaps as well in social protection and judicial representation when it comes to migrants and there is no specific law that targets exploitation. In short, economic rights and the right to access healthcare for migrants in Tunisia are protected by law but challenges in accessing them still exist.

Finally, the issues of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and integrated border management are rising issues in the MENA region, the GCC countries, Cyprus, and many other Mediterranean countries. Due to COVID-19 and the heavy flow of refugees, there has been closure of borders in many countries which led to the rise of humanitarian concerns regarding migrants and asylum

seekers. Many migrants also faced sex trafficking in the GCC area. All of the statement made by the speakers who joined the discussion helped us see the link between labor migration, trafficking in persons, and undocumented migrants. This entitles a need for intergovernmental coordination to face this problem.

Common challenges:

1. Smuggling of migrants in the region is very common which increases human trafficking, especially in the case of undocumented migrants.
2. Migrants' usage of sea travel is considered often as dangerous.
3. Migrants with illegal entry to a country of destination, often lead to the migrant's separation from family.
4. Migrants are being misled as to promised jobs in the COD, and are facing trafficking, slavery, and organ trafficking after their arrival at the COD.

Suggestions:

1. Governments should address the SOM and TIP through a transnational approach, and an establishment of an international network to counter TIP.
2. Improving the code of law and the legal frameworks for the countries in the region to avoid SOM and TIP.
3. Improving laws and regulations to sanction the smugglers and traffickers.
4. Raising awareness to avoid such practices and to avoid misleading migrants about their jobs in the COD.
5. Ensuring the application of the existing laws and regulations that promote human and especially migrants' rights.

Day 2 - 17 February 2021

Mediated Discussion 1: Access to services, Consular protection, Diaspora, Remittance

The Global Compact on Migration addresses the topics of access to services, consular protection, diaspora, and remittance in its objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 22.

Migrants' Consular protection is of high importance in terms of protecting the migrants, assisting them with their various needs, and helping them through

challenges they might face in the country of destination. This protection is required more than ever during this pandemic, as many migrants are struggling in many ways, and especially in some cases, where the migrants are facing xenophobia in accessing medical care and needs. Throughout this pandemic, there have been many protection-approaches from different embassies, that varied from human rights-based approaches to those that do not truly reflect such practices, especially when it comes to undocumented migrants. In all cases, the consular protection during the COVID-19 times was minimal, whether in terms of providing aids, or helping the migrants get back home which left them helpless. This was the case in Lebanon, where, due to the arising economic crisis and in the shadow of the pandemic, many migrant domestic workers were left stranded in front of their embassies with no money, and no one to turn to for help. The embassies were not cooperating until the press interfered and raised awareness on this topic, which led to the embassies' cooperation regarding the safe return of their nationals to their country of origin. Based on the above, it is important to note that the press and media have a major role in highlighting the challenges migrants face and can be an influencing advocate for positive change.

Furthermore, in Tunisia, irregular migrants faced many challenges during the lockdown periods, and the embassies' protection and cooperation were of minimal importance. Undocumented migrants are faced with deportation caught and the resulting fees fall on the migrant, therefore, the latter who cannot provide deportation fees will be detained until the amount requested is covered. This has been an issue of major importance during the lockdown period since the detention centers were full. Migrants were forced to stay even after providing the needed funds, since airports were closed, which made their living conditions miserable. In such cases, the embassies were not involved, which made the situation more complicated. The Civil Society played a crucial role in raising awareness on this matter. Having signed all the UN conventions and protocols, Tunisia appeared in a bad position politically and diplomatically, which was the reason behind allowing some embassies to access the detention centers and help deport their nationals.

As for the UAE, and due to the combination of the pandemic and the bad economic situation, a lot of migrants and especially the low-skilled ones were forced to leave the country without getting paid or receiving their end of service salaries. To confront this challenge, migrants relied on their embassies for support. Some embassies faced many obstacles in responding to the migrants' needs due to the lack of funding, and lack of partnerships between some embassies and the government of the UAE. In some cases, the government of the UAE facilitated the migrants' access to healthcare and their return to the countries of origin.

On a positive note, two of the good practices taken in light of the pandemic, by the government of the UAE and by other governments in the region as well,

were allowing people with expired visas to remain legally in the country until the end of 2020 and giving the migrants the ability to change employers if they needed to do so.

In Turkey's case, embassies' role is generally limited to providing grants, since embassies tend to avoid any clash that might occur with the Turkish government.

Another issue raised by the Civil society in the region would be the lack of migrants' visibility and documentation; Embassies and Unions, when existing, do not possess clear numbers and data which leads to harder processes in finding the best practices to address migrants' problems. More good practices and case studies to rely on and learn from are needed in this regard.

On another note, migrants' social protection schemes and their rights for pensions are still topics of confusion. Due to the implementation of the Kafala system, or the lack of a legal framework, many countries do not provide their migrant residents with their basic right to social protection, pensions, and end of service benefits. Labor migrants in most of the MENA regions and the Gulf have no social protection; countries of origin must negotiate bilateral agreements or multilateral agreements with the host countries to ensure that migrants have access to social protection, pensions, and end of service benefits when they return home from countries of destination.

There should be one minimal standard of protection given by the embassies to the migrants. Bilateral agreements are noteworthy instruments in this regard, as they can regulate the role of the embassies and set a minimum standard of protection that should be respected. This is why consular assistance needs to be enhanced and fortified.

Another issue addressed in this matter is the need is to put pressure on the governments in order to establish laws and regulations that respect the balance between the migrant's rights and the nation's rights.

A potential solution to the above-mentioned challenges would be the creation of one code of law for all the countries in a certain region which will lead to more equality and equity between migrants from all nationalities. In addition, the creation of a center of care for migrants from all nationalities taking care of the migrants' health and providing psycho-social care, paralegal and legal support, for all migrants without any discrimination is a good solution and step towards supporting migrants and safeguarding their rights without discrimination of any kind. This center can have both local and regional administrations.

Moreover, it is vital to stress on the importance of the cooperation between civil society organizations and trade unions to put greater pressure on the

governments and make a greater impact and change in terms of migrants' rights.

A concrete change cannot be done by only one actor, acting alone. To make an impact and make actual changes, a multi-actor's approach should be considered. To ensure the whole of society and the whole of government approach, this practice should include not only governments of the COO and COD but also all the national borders officers, the police, lawyers, the embassies, migrants' community...

Challenges:

1. Migrants are facing xenophobia in accessing medical care, needs and services.
2. The Consular protection provided to migrants during the COVID-19 times is minimal especially in the case of undocumented ones.
3. Migrants were kept in detention centers during the lockdown, and endured miserable living conditions.
4. Migrants, in most countries, do not benefit from social protection, pensions and end of service benefits.

Suggestions:

1. Ensure migrants' rights to access services and medical care without discrimination, of any kind.
2. Enhance the cooperation between embassies and governments and promote the consular protection provided for ALL migrants.
3. Develop and adopt policies to protect migrants and ensure their well-being in times of crisis and pandemics.
4. Develop strategies to ensure migrants' rights in terms of social protection, pensions and end of service benefits.

Mediated Discussion 2: Data, Vulnerabilities, Discrimination, International cooperation

The Global Compact on Migration covers the topics of data, vulnerabilities, discrimination, and international cooperation under objectives 3, 7, 17, and 23.

When leaving the country of origin for the country of destination, the migrants often face many difficulties, a lot of which are related to misconceptions around their new jobs, their contracts, their work environment... and in short migrants frequently arrive in the country of destination without proper orientation. Throughout the given orientation, there is no focus on the rights of

the migrants in the host country nor the proper institution to go to when in need of any kind of support. The recruitment agencies that are usually responsible for this orientation, often don't do it properly. Trade unions and civil society are taking over in this matter and raising awareness about legal processes and services. Unfortunately, and in many cases, this practice is usually taking place after the migrant is faced with problems and difficulties. In addition to that, the lack of access to data led to putting migrants' health at risk during the pandemic.

What makes the situation more complicated is the language barrier which remains an obstacle in data accessibility. In addition, it is noticeable that migrants tend to stay with their community in a new country, as it helps them get a good start, and reduce the language barrier.

In the Cypriot context, as in many other countries, the language barrier is the first obstacle in access to data and information, so civil society organizations exercise an important role in collecting data and transmitting it in the proper way, in a child-friendly manner when necessary.

Another obstacle is the lack of consideration of vulnerabilities, gender sensitivity, women migrants who might have children on the move and the presence of minority groups in the country.

In the context of Tunisia, the national strategies do not focus on the situation of migrants, they focus on the situation of Tunisians who become migrants in other countries. Equal rights should be granted to both parties especially that the Tunisian government is highly involved in the return of migrants and especially undocumented ones to Tunisia through either voluntarily or involuntarily return techniques.

Moreover, and as already stated, the trade-unions, when implemented, play a major role in helping migrants. Furthermore, migrants need to be educated about their right to access trade-unions when possible. In Bahrain, there have been some improvements concerning the creation of trade-unions, but migrants lack knowledge about such institutions or are discouraged to join them by their employers.

Generally, in the region, there are still barriers when it comes to forming trade-unions for migrant domestic workers.

As to vulnerabilities among migrants, we have noticed that a considerable number of migrants are vulnerable especially when those are working informally which may lead to not getting their full wages, facing exploitation, not getting any days off...

In Jordan for example, and due to the lack of awareness of the labor rights of migrants, a lot of migrants end up enduring exploitation rather than revealing it and making it stop. The civil society started some awareness campaigns

about the right of migrants to file a legal complaint, without being asked by the judge about their legal status or means of entry to the country.

Meanwhile, in Turkey, many programs address refugees, while programs addressing migrants are very few which may be seen as discrimination, similarly to other countries in the region. In 2013, all the attention of civil society and funds went to the Syrian crisis in Egypt, overlooking the African communities who are considered to be vulnerable as well, especially since they also face xenophobia. The black community faced a lot of racism, especially during COVID-19 because undocumented migrants were kicked out of their homes, and advocacy was done through awareness campaigns to help fight discrimination through civil society actors, leading to a new anti-discrimination law applicable to all.

In addition to that, it is important to state that the press organizations and journalists play a major role in raising awareness and fighting xenophobia, which is why they need to be more gender-aware and have knowledge of child's rights, which may be done through proper training.

In a nutshell, it should be noted that misinforming migrants and not giving them the needed information should be stopped. Migrants need to be fully aware of their rights in the country of destination through proper orientation methods, provided both in the country of origin and upon arrival, in the country of destination. The migrants should absolutely not sign a contract without being able to read it or to fully understand its clauses.

Challenges:

1. Migrants are not getting the proper orientation concerning their new environment, and are having misconceptions about their new jobs in the host countries.
2. Migrants are facing high risks of infection during the pandemic because of lack of access to data.
3. The language barrier is a major obstacle in migrants' data accessibility.
4. Migrants who are working informally are facing numerous vulnerabilities such as wage theft, working overtime, exploitation...
5. Xenophobia is very common in terms of migration.
6. Vulnerable migrants are facing many challenges in the host countries especially in terms of gender sensitivity, women and children on the move's rights, minority groups...

Suggestions:

1. Migrants should get the proper orientation in both the COO and COD. They should be fully informed about their new job and environment. Responsibility should also fall on the Recruitment agencies in this matter.
2. Migrants should have proper access to data, especially in terms of getting the right education to minimize the risks of getting infected.
3. Migrants should be provided with booklets in their language explaining the process of access to services, basic needs and support systems. Awareness sessions should also be mandatory in this regard.
4. The need to put in place legal frameworks that regularize the informal migrant workers' status.
5. The need of awareness sessions to counter xenophobia among the population in the COD, and the need for new laws that sanction people who are promoting xenophobia.
6. The need for new laws and regulations that take into consideration gender sensitivity, women and children on the move's rights, minority groups.

Conclusion

Conclusion and Recommendations:

In conclusion, during the two-days regional consultation regarding the review of the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, the participants stated that the main factors leading to migration in the region are war, economic or political instability, and finding better work opportunities. In normal circumstances, migrants usually face many challenges upon arriving at the COD. In our contemporary context, all those challenges were aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic that had a huge impact on the migrant communities in terms of wage theft, unemployment, feeling forced to leave the country of destination in many cases without the payment of salaries, not being able to access basic healthcare services... Furthermore, and following the Syrian refugees' crisis, and more recently the spread of the pandemic, border management policies were highly affected and border closure led to movement restrictions which increased the challenges faced by migrants. In addition, the lack of legal frameworks that regularize migrant workers' mobility, makes them subject to harmful acts especially that the smuggling of migrants may lead to a higher number of undocumented migrants, thus a higher percentage of human trafficking. Moreover, migrant domestic workers, in many countries, are still excluded from the labor law and are still governed by the Kafala system (even in countries where Kafala was abolished for other

categories of workers), and therefore do not benefit from legal protection, nor their basic human rights and needs.

The CCRM organized this regional consultation, preceding the Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region and the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), and the discussions resulted in a list of recommendations to counter inhuman practices and help the migrants in acquiring their rights so they can live in dignity. These recommendations are summarized as follows:

1. Abolish the Kafala system for all types and categories of work.
2. Include ALL migrant workers in the national labor laws without exclusion clauses.
3. Develop strategies to ensure migrants' rights in terms of social protection, pensions and end of service benefits.
4. Set up plans for the protection of migrants' rights, especially in the period of crisis and pandemics.
5. Include documented and undocumented migrants in the COVID-19 vaccination plan applied to nationals.
6. Grant ALL migrants the right to form and join unions.
7. Address the issues of Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons using a transnational approach.
8. Establish international networks to counter human trafficking.
9. Improve the code of law and the legal framework related to SOM and TIP.
10. Improve laws and regulations to sanction the smugglers and traffickers.
11. Ensure migrant's rights to access services and medical care without discrimination.
12. Enhance the cooperation between governments and embassies through bilateral agreements to protect migrants' rights.
13. Establish a legal framework that forces the proper orientation of the migrants in the COO and COD.
14. Establish rules and regulations that guarantee the right of migrants to access data and services.
15. Put in place processes that regularize informal migrant worker's status.
16. Establish and implement laws that criminalize xenophobia.
17. Establish new laws and regulations that promote gender sensitivity, women and children on the move's rights.

Annex

CCRM participated and delivered the below speech during the “regional review conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region”.

“The Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) is composed of more than twenty national, non-governmental and independent organizations that work in more than 13 Arab and Mediterranean countries in the Middle East, North Africa, the Arabian Gulf and the Mediterranean region.

These organizations have decades of experience in the various fields of migration and asylum in all aspects of human rights and life of migrants of all categories.

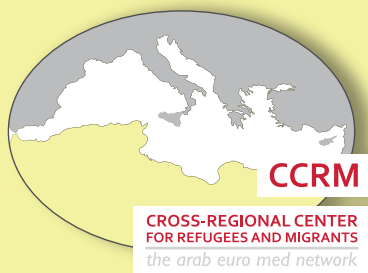
During the Civil Society Regional Consultations for the review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held online (via Zoom) and organized by the Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants on February 16 and 17, 2021; Arab and Mediterranean civil society organizations together with representatives of trade-unions and the media concerned with migration exchanged, their experiences regarding the application of the Global Compact on Migration and the status of migration and migrants in the region, since its ratification in Marrakech – Morocco in December 2018.

Civil society also addressed the impact of recent international developments, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, on the rights of migrants.

The civil society consultations addressed the need to extend and fortify the cooperation with the governments in the region, especially since the latter have decades of experience in dealing with the issue of migration in terms of security and administration, and have failed significantly in addressing the migration topic on its legal, humanitarian, social and economic levels.

Unifying the governments and civil society’s efforts in this regard may constitute a historical pathway through which the migration dilemma will no longer be a burden to the governments but will rather fall into its natural shape and size, as it is part of human life since human existence.

The Arab and Regional civil society calls upon its governments a sincere and serious call to gather expertise and employ it in the service of all human beings everywhere, so that many burdens turn into productive energies and generate the first true partnership in our Arab world between governments and non-governmental organizations, which will result in the guarantee of rights, dignity and security”.



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