REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S BI-ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GCM IMPLEMENTATION

STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

Submission by Zambia

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The speed, volume, scale and complexity of migration remains unprecedented. The increased globalization and interconnectedness of national states have accelerated the flow of goods, services, ideas and mobility of people beyond national borders [1], with 258 million people living in a country other than their country of birth [2]. Africa's population is relatively young where the age group of 15–24 years is projected to almost double in size, from 231 million to 461 million in the period 2015–2050. Urbanization is projected to increase from 40% in 2015 to 56% by 2050 [3]. Women's migration is also growing in importance. In 2017, female migrants accounted for 47.1 percent of the international migrant stock [4]. In Africa, migration is occurring mostly within the continent at 79% [5]. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), is a result of decades-long efforts by States, to improve how migration is governed [6].

Zambia has experienced unique and complex migration challenges characterized by mixed migration flows, human trafficking, smuggling of persons and forced displacements. The Zambian Government prioritizes effective migration governance in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) to harness the benefits while countering negative effects of migration. Good migration governance on migration is being promoted through a path of evidence-based decision making and policy development as supported by a Migration Profile for the country.

As a country of origin, transit and destination for migration; and by virtue of its hub location, migration presents both challenges and opportunities to Zambia. Expectations are high among stakeholders concerning the GCM as a kick-off point to addressing migration issues and reaffirm the country's commitment to protecting vulnerable migrants. The approach to addressing migration in Zambia is both inclusive and multi-sectoral as it is believed that different sectors are affected in different ways and have a stake in migration.

The GCM is not implemented exclusively but within national priorities and interventions. Zambia pursues an evidence-based migration discourse and policy development. In the space of one year after the adoption of the GCM in 2018, the country developed its first National Migration Profile. The Migration Profile was preceded by an assessment on migration related data [7]. The assessment of the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) was yet another milestone, also conducted which highlighted well developed areas and weaknesses (potential areas) concerning migration governance in the country.

In line with the first objective of the GCM, Zambia has made a significant effort to achieve the key milestones on migration data including mainstreaming migration questions into the 2010 National Census and forthcoming 2021 National Census (rescheduled for 2021). Further, a module on labour migration and remittances was added to the national Labour Force Survey instruments with data on this module collected since 2018. The Statistics Act 2018 was also enacted which among other things, aims to establish a National Statistical System comprising data producers; data suppliers; users; research institutions; higher education institutions; and the media

To improve migrant protection, well-being and mitigate vulnerabilities, the country developed the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2014 (revised in 2020). This is a tool which provides guidance on the different stages and types of assistance available to vulnerable migrants requiring protection assistance. It promotes coordination of national stakeholders for the provision of effective and comprehensive protection assistance to selected categories of vulnerable migrants in line with national legal frameworks and international best practices.

To address irregular migration through managing borders and combatting transnational crime, the Border Management and Trade Facilitation Act of 2018 was enacted. The Act provides for coordinated border management and control for the efficient movement and clearance of goods; gives effect to the provisions of agreements on one-stop border. One of the modern approaches for improving border operations is the establishment of one-stop border posts (OSBPs). Border control and management is the responsibility of the Department of Immigration in Zambia, established under the Immigration and Deportation Act No. 18 of 2010. The Zambia Police Service is also involved in ensuring border security. Zambia Police, through its Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB). The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) is also an important stakeholder in the in curbing the smuggling of goods.

Zambia is an active member of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), an initiative which started in 2000 to create a framework for regular migration dialogue among the Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) so as to enhance inter-state cooperation in an effort to improve migration governance. MIDSA actively promotes well managed intra-regional labour migration and policy dialogue; Zambia is also a signatory to the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour. The Ministry of Labour and Social

Security developed the Labour Market Information System (LMIS) pending operationalization. The system is meant to collect labour migration data through administrative record.

Zambia has committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), under the auspices of the United Nations 2030 Agenda to cover all dimensions of migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, with emphasis on "leaving no one behind". The Seventh National Development Plan 2017–2021 (7NDP) mainstreams migration, and migration policy development is explicitly mentioned in Pillar 5 [8].

The implementation of the GCM cannot be treated separate from achieving the SDGs as the two frameworks are intertwined. Failure on the implementation of the GCM can directly and indirectly translate into failure to achieve the SDGs. The 7th National Development Plan is being implemented congruent with (the 7NDP) cannot be implemented disjointly from the GCM and the SDGs.

The GCM is firmly rooted in the 2030 Agenda and will provide an opportunity to improve the governance of migration, address the challenges associated with it, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development of the country.

> **BOX 1: Key Messages**
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> - Given the migration dynamics that Zambia experiences, pursuing effective migration governance is a national priority. Implementing the GCM is the starting point to address migration challenges while maximizing the opportunities.
> - As a host country to the population of concern, the GCM presents an opportunity for Zambia to reaffirm its commitment to protect refugees and migrants whilst minimizing the risks and vulnerabilities.
> - The implementation of the GCM should consider the national priorities and interventions rather than being exclusive.
> - An inclusive and multi-sectoral approach to addressing migration in the spirit of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
> - Separating the GCM from the Agenda 2030 is an attempted failure to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as the two frameworks are intertwined.
> - Zambia acknowledges that migration issues cannot be addressed in isolation but require international cooperation.

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