



**EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN  
BANGKOK**

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No. UNESCAP-X/2020

14 October 2020

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Bangkok presents its compliments to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and with reference to latter's letter No. OES/B/8 dated 3 June 2020, has the honour to enclose the requisite information in respect of Government of Pakistan regarding the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Bangkok avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific assurances of its highest consideration.



**Mr. Mitchell M Hsieh,  
Secretary to the Commission,  
United Nations Economic and  
Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,  
Bangkok.**

Copy to:

Mr. Srinivas Tata,  
Director, Social Development Division,  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok.



Question	Reply
<p><b>1. Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular: GCM Objectives 2,5,6,12,18</b></p> <p>a) Please highlight the migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.</p> <p><i>The response could make reference to trends in migration; outcomes of migration; or migrant experiences</i></p>	<p>Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis &amp; Human Resource Development (OP&amp;HRD), Pakistan is making every possible effort to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration through digitization of recruitment procedure, strong regulatory measures, providing awareness to intending emigrants about all stages of migration and skill up-gradation. From 1971 till June 2020, more than 11.29 million emigrants have been registered by Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BE&amp;OE), an attached department of M/o OP&amp;HRD. More than 96% concentration of Pakistani workforce is towards Gulf Council Countries (GCC) particularly Saudi Arabia and UAE.</p> <p>During the entire emigration history of Pakistan, year 2015 witnessed the highest numbers when 946,571 Pakistanis were registered by BE&amp;OE for overseas employment. Pakistan has been exporting manpower abroad in skilled, unskilled, semi-skilled, highly skilled and highly qualified occupations. Labour migration is playing a vital role to support the national economy through foreign remittances, which contribute almost 7% of the GDP.</p> <p>Foreign remittances have increasingly become important and key source of foreign exchange reserves and at the same time play a major role in economic stabilization. Remittances have always been a major driving force for emigration and have served as an effective source for economic development of Pakistan. Remittance of US\$ 23.1 billion in Financial Year 2019-20 helped the country toward balance of payments and the corona pandemic. Moreover, labour migration is also contributing to raise the per capita income and reducing unemployment in the country.</p>
<p>b) Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).</p> <p><i>Examples could include policy reforms undertaken, adoption of new laws, drafting of national-level implementation plans, entering into bilateral/regional agreements, signature / ratification of relevant conventions, engagement in dialogue processes.</i></p>	<p>Government of Pakistan has taken various legal and policy related measures to improve the migration governance in the country. Various amendments have been made in Emigration Laws (Emigration Ordinance &amp; Rules 1979) to make them compatible with present day needs and challenges. Moreover, M/o OP&amp;HRD has developed a first ever "National Emigration &amp; Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis" which is in advance stages of approval at implementation. Furthermore, Government of Pakistan has also signed various Bilateral Agreements in recent years on labour migration with the countries such as UAE and Japan and pursuing for signing of agreements with other countries.</p>



	<p>Prime Minister of Pakistan has also established a National Task Force under the chairmanship of Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on OP&amp;HRD with the aim to promote regular migration and welfare of overseas workers in which all relevant stakeholders are its members. This task force convenes meetings from time to time in order to resolve the migration related challenges. Moreover, Pakistan is also part of various International Migration Platforms / Dialogues such as Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Colombo Process and Budapest Process. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan is the Chair of one of the Thematic Areas Working Group (TAWG) on Remittances formed under Colombo Process.</p>
<p>c) What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives? <i>These gaps and challenges may include challenges at national, regional and global levels; capacity challenges; data needy; financing and others.</i></p>	<p>At national level, lack of awareness about legal emigration process especially among low-skilled workers, lack of skills as per required international standards and lack of financial literacy are some of the major challenges to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. Moreover, migrant workers also face various problems in destination countries with their employers i.e. non implementation of Foreign Service Agreement (FSA), tough working conditions and confiscation of passports.</p> <p>Further, there is need to enhance the capacity of relevant officials / organizations through providing migration related training opportunities at International level. Though Government of Pakistan has improved the service delivery mechanism through various initiatives, however, there is need for developing a centralized / regional international system for skills recognition at the level of UN including funding for the same. Furthermore, destination countries may also be urged to adopt <i>employer payee model</i> to curtail recruitment cost for ensuring safe and ethical recruitment.</p>
<p>d) Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.</p>	<p>Government of Pakistan took various initiatives to improve the labour migration governance in the country. The most important was the implementation of the project titled "Registration of Intending Emigrants Via Biometric System Linked with NADRA" in all seven Protectorate of offices of the country working under BE&amp;OE in order to digitize the registration process, improving efficiency and curbing malpractices. It has enabled to ensure mandatory presence of every intending migrant worker at Protectorate office for Pre-Departure Briefing and registration of Foreign Service Agreement.</p>



	Moreover, uploading of verified foreign jobs on BE&OE website and creation of online linkage for matchmaking of available foreign jobs and potential job seekers are the key initiatives to minimize the role of illegal actors in recruitment process.
2. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures GCM Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13,21	<i>This component of GCM review is about illegal migration / smuggling of migrants and human trafficking etc. which relates to Ministry of Interior / FIA</i>
3. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development GCM Objectives: 14,15, 16, 19, 20,21	Ministry of OP&HRD has appointed Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) in various countries to look after the interests and welfare of overseas workers. Moreover, Pakistan Missions / Embassies are providing counsellor services to overseas Pakistani community. The migrant workers are being facilitated in all stages of migration i.e. Pre-employment, Pre-Departure and Post Arrival. M/o OP&HRD is sharing the data of outgoing emigrants to CWAs in order to provide them every possible support/facilitation in destination countries. BE&OE, an attached department of M/o OP&HRD has started an awareness campaign through electronic, print and social media to educate the intending emigrants about safe, orderly and regular migration process. M/o OP&HRD (BE&OE) has established one window facilitation desks in Protectorate Offices and all international airports of the country to provide access to basic services for migrants.
a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.  <i>The response could make reference to trends in migration; outcomes of migration; or migrant experiences.</i>	
b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).  <i>Examples could include policy reforms undertaken, adoption of new laws, drafting of national-level implementation plans, entering into bilateral/regional agreements, Signature / ratification of relevant conventions, engagement in dialogue processes.</i>	Further, 4 new Protectorate offices are also being established in the country for social inclusion / social cohesion and empowerment of migrants. Furthermore, migrant workers are playing a vital role to develop the national economy through their remittances and Government of Pakistan is developing a comprehensive strategy of diaspora engagement through draft National Emigration & Welfare Policy in order to provide them opportunities of investment in the country. Recently, a comprehensive reintegration strategy has also been developed for emigrants' safe return and their reintegration through skill development, re-hiring and social inclusion.
c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?  <i>These gaps and challenges may include challenges at national, regional and global levels; capacity challenges; data needs; financing and others.</i>	
d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.	



**4. Improving value driven and evidence based policy making and public debate and enhancing cooperation on migration.**

**GCM Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23**

- a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

*The response could make reference to trends in migration; outcomes of migration; or migrant experiences.*

- b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

*Examples could include policy reforms undertaken, adoption of new laws, drafting of national-level implementation plans, entering into bilateral/regional agreements, signature/ratification of relevant conventions, engagement in dialogue processes.*

- c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

*These gaps and challenges may include challenges at national, regional and global levels; capacity challenges; data needs; financing and others.*

- d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

Ministry of OP&HRD developed the draft National Emigration & Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis after detailed deliberations / consultations with all relevant stakeholders i.e. government departments, International Organizations like International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and academia. The baseline of the Emigration Policy was the emigration data / emigration trends maintained by this Ministry available since 1971 in various forms. Furthermore, accurate information / awareness to intending emigrants is being provided through various means and the concerns of migrant workers are being addressed through the strong online complaint mechanism system.

Government of Pakistan is providing equal opportunities of legal migration to all people without any discrimination. Moreover, Pakistan is working with various international organizations i.e. International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to improve the labour migration governance in the country. Furthermore, Pakistan is also an active member of various international forums like Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Colombo Process and Budapest process.

5. What steps has the Government taken to integrate the vision and cross-cutting and inter-dependent guiding principles of the Global Compact for Migration (see paras 8 to 15 of the Global Compact (see General Assembly resolution 73/195)) into its implementation? How was this accomplished? (please check against the principles that have been integrated)

Guiding Principle	Principle has been integrated <input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	Explanation (please provide explanation on additional paper and attach relevant documentation).
People-centred	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
International Cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
National sovereignty	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Rule of law and due process	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Gender-responsive	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Child-sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Whole-of-government approach	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	
Whole-of-society approach	<input type="checkbox"/> = Yes <input type="checkbox"/> = No	

**Explanation:**

Government of Pakistan developed the draft National Emigration & Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis keeping in view the vision and guiding principles laid down in paras 8 to 15 of Global Compact for Migration. The focus of the Emigration Policy is the promotion of overseas employment and welfare & protection of overseas workers through improving the migration governance and providing awareness to intending emigrants about safe, orderly and regular migration process.

**Questions (about 500 words per question 6,7, 8,9, 10 - please attach paper and documents, as needed and relevant):**

6. How is the Global Compact for Migration contributing to realizing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? What has your Government done to integrate the implementation of the Global Compact objectives into SDG implementation?	<p>The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is a comprehensive document, which provides a broader vision and guiding principles to formulate national migration plans and policies to promote the safe, orderly and regular migration. The objectives of GCM are very much aligned with the targets and indicators of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. M/o OP&amp;HRD (BE&amp;OE) has taken various steps to improve migration governance in compliance of SDGs implementation especially SDG target 10.7 which defines to "facilitate safe, orderly and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies".</p> <p>Several measures have been taken to reduce the migration cost and remittance transfer fee</p>
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	<p>which are the key indicators of SDG 10.7. Most importantly, this Ministry has digitized the emigrants' registration process in order to provide one window facilitation services. The verified overseas jobs are being uploaded by this Ministry on BE&amp;OE's website which is an attached department of this Ministry, for intending emigrants which has reduced the role of intermediaries in recruitment / migration process. Moreover, Government of Pakistan through State Bank of Pakistan / Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) has introduced various schemes to incentivize the transfer of remittances.</p>
<p>7. From the Government's perspective, are there any objectives of the Global Compact for Migration that are of particular importance in the national context? Please name the objectives that the Government has prioritized and explain why.</p>	<p>M/o OP&amp;HRD (BE&amp;OE) has given special priority to the GCM Objective 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 18, 20, 21, 23 to improve migration governance and promotion of legal migration in the country. The detail of steps taken and their relevance with GCM objectives is as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The emigration data has been digitized which is in accordance with GCM objective 1.</li> <li>• The awareness campaign to educate the intending emigrants about safe and orderly migration is in accordance with GCM objective 3.</li> <li>• The project titled "Registration of Intending Emigrants via Biometric Verification System Linked with NADRA" has been implemented which has ensured the mandatory presence of emigrants in Protectorate Offices. Their identification is being verified with biometric system with the National database of citizens maintained by NADRA. This initiative is in accordance with GCM objective 4.</li> <li>• The verified foreign jobs have been uploaded on M/o OP&amp;HRD (BE&amp;OE)'s website in order to provide first-hand / useful information to intending emigrants. It will enhance / promote the legal pathways of migration and it is very much aligned with GCM objective 5.</li> <li>• A campaign has been started against illegal job advertisements in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Moreover, an online</li> </ul>



complaint management system has also been established to address the grievances of emigrants to ensure ethical recruitment practices. These steps are in accordance with GCM objective 6.

- Government of Pakistan has increased the posts of Community Welfare Attaches from 19 to 24 in 16 different countries to promote export of manpower through legal channels and looking after the interests and welfare of migrant workers. The Government of Pakistan is planning to enhance the number of CWAs in other potential countries to enhance the outreach and maximum facilitation to the overseas workers. This step is aligned with GCM objective 14.
- Government of Pakistan has introduced various initiatives to upgrade the skills of workers. National Vocational Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) is the relevant government organization under Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training that is responsible to skill development of workers. Moreover, M/o OP&HRD through BE&OE is in close coordination with destination countries for mutual skill qualification / recognition. The area of mutual skill recognition is the prioritized area in the proposed bilateral agreements with destination countries. These efforts are in accordance with GCM objective 18.
- Government of Pakistan is focusing hard to increase the flow of remittances through legal channels. The State Bank of Pakistan through Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) has introduced various schemes/programs to incentivize the transfer of remittances through legal channels. Currently, Government of Pakistan is launching *National Remittance Loyalty Program (NRLP)* to incentivize the transfer of remittances and promoting digital channels to send the remittances in order to curb the illegal channels i.e. *hawala / hundi*. In this regard, Government of Pakistan recently launched "*Roshan Digital Account*" for Overseas Pakistanis allowing them to open and manage their bank accounts digitally from anywhere in the world. These measures are in accordance with GCM objective 20.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M/o OP&amp;HRD has developed a comprehensive reintegration strategy for returnee migrant workers through skill upgradation, reemployment, entrepreneurship and social inclusion. Under this initiative an online data portal has been developed for data collection/registration of return migrants by Ministry's attached department; BE&amp;OE. The data of returnees is being shared to all the relevant stakeholders for their reintegration. This step is in accordance with GCM objective 21.</li> <li>• Mandatory insurance coverage is being provided to all the outgoing emigrants. Under the scheme every intending emigrant is insured up to Rs.1,000,000/- (one million) against one time premium of Rs.2,500/- for the period of five years, with respect to death and disability. Insurance Coverage is renewable for another period of 5 years on payment of Premium of Rs.2500 if an emigrant desires so. The Premium is collected directly by the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan. This initiative is in accordance with GCM objective 22.</li> <li>• Pakistan is actively participating in all major international migration forums like Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Budapest Process. Moreover, Ministry is working closely with various international organizations i.e. International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations' Office on Drugs &amp; Crime (UNODC). This cooperation is in accordance with GCM objective 23.</li> </ul>
<p>8. From the Government's perspective, how and to what extent have regional plans and strategies incorporated the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration? What are the main achievements, gaps and challenges to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans?</p>	<p>As described above, Pakistan is the member of Colombo Process and as the Chair lead the important Thematic Area Working Group on Remittances. Moreover, Pakistan adopted various themes and concepts of TAWGs of CP member States for developing the National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis. Furthermore, migration related proposals / issues are also discussed at the level of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) but these plans could not be materialized due to political issues of member states.</p>



<p>What methodology was adopted for completing this voluntary GCM re-view; how was a whole-of-government approach applied through engaging the various relevant ministries and other sectors of government; what mechanisms were used to engage civil society and other relevant stakeholders for a whole-of-society approach?</p>	<p>To be filled by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).</p>
<p>10. Given the outbreak of COVID-19 which has affected all countries in the region, what challenges has the Government identified in implementation of the Global Compact for Migration as part of the COVID-19 response, and what has the Government done to address the specific situation of migrants and their families?</p>	<p>The outbreak of Corona virus pandemic has affected the economies of countries around the world in including labour migration. Covid-19 has badly affected the Labour Migration with actual and potential job loss of 200,000 which is expected to increase. It includes 102,387 jobs under different stages of recruitment process, which may not materialize due to existing situation of covid-19. Due to worldwide travel restrictions and suspension of flight operations, 59,783 registered emigrants could not proceed abroad. About 50,000 lay-offs (visit visas excluded) have been registered so far. Moreover, 50,000 emigrants (Azaad Visa excluded) have returned on paid / un-paid leave, which may also increase in coming days.</p> <p>To tackle the above situation, Government of Pakistan started special flight operation for safe return of migrant workers and urged the destination countries to avoiding layoffs. Furthermore, a comprehensive reintegration strategy was also developed to facilitate the returnee migrant workers and their families. The strategy is mainly based on skill development/certification, re-employment, entrepreneurship and social inclusion.</p>

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