



Terms of Reference for the UN Migration Network in The Gambia

Mission Statement

The UN Resident Coordinator, IOM (in its capacity as coordinator of the Network) and the UN Country Team in The Gambia establish a country based United Nations Network on Migration for The Gambia (The Network) to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide support to The Gambia on migration policy, including on the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) where a common UN system approach would add value. The Network endeavours to promote migration policy that uphold the human rights (political, as well as socio-economic and cultural rights), dignity and well-being of migrants and societies in a coherent, holistic and balanced manner, including policies and their implementation that are aligned with the SDGs, the African Union Migration Policy Framework, Agenda 2063 and other sub-regional initiatives while supporting progress in implementing all of the GCM's 23 objectives.

In all its actions, the Network will be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, the core international human rights instruments and other international law conventions, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and the GCM. It will align itself, in its working methods, with the terms of reference of the West and Central Africa regional Network on Migration as well as with the global UN Network on Migration.

In line with global and regional efforts, the Network aims to foster a better understanding of current and emerging issues on migration, and to enhance coordination and collaboration within the UN system and with other stakeholders at national level. The network will also advocate and promote parliamentary oversight of the implementation of the global compact and migration related legislations

Objectives of the Network:

In order to implement its mission, the Network commits to taking concrete actions, as follows:

- Share regular updates on key/emerging migration issues with members of the Network; and share relevant data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the national context;
- Ensure at the national level in coordination with the Regional UN Migration Network, effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to The Gambia in its implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, for the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit;
- Support other global initiatives such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the UN Human Rights system in their effort to progress the GCM at a national level;
- Support coherent action by the UN system at country level in support of GCM implementation, in line with the regional and global UN Network on Migration initiatives and where such action would add value, while ensuring well-defined linkages with UN structures at all levels;
- Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanism called for in the GCM;

- Ensure Network actions promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants;
- Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UN system, including by speaking with one voice as appropriate, in accordance with the UN Charter, international law, and the mandates and technical expertise of relevant UN system entities.
- Contribute and support regional initiatives including those emanating from the Regional UN Network as well as from regional grouping such as ECOWAS and the Migration Dialogue in West Africa (MIDWA) (West Africa’s Regional Consultative Process (RCP)) when relevant for the implementation of the GCM in the region and in the country;
- Provide support at the country level to the capacity building mechanism as outlined in the GCM.
- Organize once a year – contingent on availability of resources - a meeting between all the Network members and external partners. This could include migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers’ and workers’ organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, the National Human Rights Commission, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders;
- Provide information to the Regional UN Network on Migration on progress made and activities related to the GCM and seek guidance from the global Network, as necessary.

Membership and Composition

The Network will be comprised of all UN agencies present in The Gambia.

The Network will complement and draw upon the expertise of other initiatives already in place in the country, such as the National Coordination Mechanism for Migration (NCM)

Organizational arrangements

- The Network will be convened by the Chair of the Network
- The Network will meet as needed and as a general rule every two months;
- The Network will be Chaired by IOM (IOM having been designated by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration), with OHCHR and UNICEF as alternates, and in close coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator and the Executive Committee.

The **Chair and Alternates** of the Network will:

- Coordinate country-level activities with the Regional UN Network on Migration Chairs and Executive Committee;
- On behalf of the Network and in consultation with the Executive Committee and relevant members, deliver joint statements on specific issues, on its own initiative and at the request of its membership;
- Brief the UN system, Member States and other stakeholders on the activities of the Network;
- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Network;
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Network;
- Facilitate engagement with relevant external stakeholders as the need arises (with representatives from INGOS, the private sector, academia, etc.);
- Keep the member list updated and share it regularly with its members.



Members of the Network will contribute to the design and implementation of the Network's objectives, promote coherence on migration within the UN system, and provide input and advice to the Chair and Alternates and the Executive Committee on strategic priorities.

An **Executive Committee** within the Network in The Gambia will be established, in line with the global structure established by the UN Secretary General. Membership of the Executive Committee will mirror the global Network Executive Committee, with entities with clear mandates, technical expertise and capacity in migration-related fields, and will be comprised of IOM, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and UNODC. The Executive Committee will provide overall guidance to the work of the Network, and work with its members to elaborate an annual working plan.

Decision-making

Decisions by the Network will be made by consensus of the Executive Committee after full consultations with all Network members.

Working Groups

Smaller Working Groups can be established by the Network, as appropriate, to focus on specific issues;

Terms of Reference for Working Groups, including their focus, composition and chair, will be developed over time as needs and opportunities emerge;

The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members and other partners, as relevant; Chairing or co-chairing will be open to all working group members;

The Working Groups will be reviewed periodically by the Chair and Alternates, in consultation with the Executive Committee and the Network members.

Annual Review

There will be at least one annual meeting of the full membership of the Network to include other relevant stakeholders, in order to review Network progress; explore ways to further enhance collaboration; identify emerging challenges.

Secretariat

Secretariat duties of the Network will be undertaken by IOM, with support from OHCHR and UNICEF.

Reporting

The Network will report back to the Regional UN Migration Network on its activities and on progress made at country level in the implementation of the GCM.