UN Network on Migration in Turkmenistan
Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

The majority of migrants move between countries in a safe, orderly and regular manner resulting in significant gains for migrants, sending and receiving countries alike. However, irregular migration will most often cancel these gains presenting challenges for communities and leaving migrants vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. It was with this realization that migration was incorporated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deemed to be a driver of development and a way to reduce inequalities. In SDG Goal 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries the SDG target 10.7 aims at "facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."

International migration policy and governance is one of the most urgent and profound tests of international cooperation in our time. With this understanding, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact) which contains a set of 23 objectives for migration governance ranging from minimizing adverse drivers of migration, facilitating ethical recruitment, combatting trafficking and smuggling of migrants to empowering migrants to realize their full inclusion, to mention a few.

The United Nations established a Network on Migration[1] to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to the Member States in implementation of the GCM. In carrying out its mandate, the Network prioritizes the rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit. It places emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

In 2019, a Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Migration MPTF) to support Member States in their implementation of the Global Compact was established[2]. Assistance from MPTF is conditioned upon initiation of the United Nations Migration Network on the country/regional level.

MISSION STATEMENT

United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Turkmenistan initiates a United Nations Migration Network (UNMN Turkmenistan) on the country level to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide actions supporting the Government of Turkmenistan in implementing objectives set forth in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and in line with the national priorities of Turkmenistan.

The purpose of the UNMN Turkmenistan is to foster a better understanding of migration dynamics, enhance information exchange and coordination within the UN system, the Government of Turkmenistan, and other stakeholders at the national level. UN MN Turkmenistan will work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, State Migration Service of Turkmenistan and all relevant Governmental entities, International Organizations (IOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and other entities to assist in implementation of the GCM, migration policy and approaches that support the well-being of migrants and societies in a coherent, holistic and balanced manner and in accordance with the national legislation of Turkmenistan.

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[1] UN GA Res 73/195:
https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf
[2] http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/MIG00

The Migration Network will align itself, in its structure and working methods, the composition and terms of reference with the global UN Network on Migration. In all its actions, the Migration Network will be guided, inter alia, by the UN Charter, international law, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in addition to the GCM.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the UN Network on Migration (Network) as stated here are drawn from the Executive Committee decision of 23 May 2018 and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (see Annex I to TOR of the UN Network on Migration)[3]:

1. Share regular updates on key, current and emerging migration issues, research and activities with the Network members, including data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the evolving migration dynamics Turkmenistan and its linkages with regional and global dynamics and trends.
2. Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, and policy guidance for the Government and UNCT on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanisms identified in the GCM.
3. Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Turkmenistan, its relevant ministries, agencies, and structures in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.
4. Support coherent and coordinated action by the UNCT at country and regional and global levels in support of GCM implementation, where such action would add value, while ensuring well-defined linkages with UN structures, frameworks, and programs at all levels.
5. Promote a comprehensive and coordinated approach in mobilizing resources, including through Migration MPTF, for the implementation of the GCM and addressing matters relating to migration.
6. 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.
7. Engage with external partners, including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.
8. Identify areas where effective consideration of migration issues can accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda and highlight this in the development of UN Joint Workplans.
9. Support and facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, up-to-date and disaggregated migration related data and knowledge on migration in the country.
10. Provide support to the national capacity building mechanisms, as outlined in the GCM.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP
- Coordinator and Secretariat: IOM Turkmenistan Mission (in line with the designation of IOM by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the global UN Network on Migration).

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[3] https://www.un.org/en/conf/migration/assets/pdf/UN-Network-on-Migration_TOR.pdf

- Members: UN Resident Coordinator (RCO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Fund for Population and Development (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), and other interested UN Agencies.

ROLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The UN Migration Network will meet on a quarterly basis, or upon request by its members, whenever possible in conjunction with the UN Country Team meetings.

The Network will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM Turkmenistan Head of Office. The co-chairs will:
- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Network.
- Facilitate regular interaction between the members of the Network.
- Deliver One Voice joint statement in the name of the Network on specific issues.
- Coordinate activities with the UN Migration Network Secretariat and Members.

IOM, acting as Coordinator and Secretariat, will convene the meetings and provide the meeting minutes.

Members of the Network will contribute to design and implementation of the Network's objectives and workplan, provide advice on strategic direction and share information and knowledge about their migration related work. Members will promote coherence of migration-related activities within the UN system.

Decisions relevant to the work of the Network will be made by consensus based on consultations with all Network Members.