UN Network on Migration in Uzbekistan

Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

International migration policy and governance is one of the most urgent and profound tests of international cooperation in our time. 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 into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development deemed to be a driver of development and a way to reduce inequalities, as well as pledging that no one would be left behind.

In Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), within the 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".

With this understanding, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles and contains 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.

On 19 December 2018, the UNGA adopted Resolution 73/195, endorsing the GCM and establishing the global UN 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 global UNMN 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. On 9 May 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 the Migration MPTF is conditioned upon initiation of the United Nations Migration Network on the country/regional level.

Uzbekistan's application to join the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a member-state was approved by the IOM Council in November 2018, and the country completed the application process by submitting a ratification instrument of the IOM Constitution to the Organization's Headquarters in March 2019. Furthermore, Uzbekistan was among the UN member-states, which supported the GCM during its adoption in Marrakech, as well as within its endorsement by the UNGA in December 2018.

In September 2020, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (UNSDCF) was signed between the UN Country Team in Uzbekistan (UNCT) and Government of Uzbekistan (GoU). The UNSDCF

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

represents the UN development system's collective offer to support Uzbekistan in achieving its national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) priorities[3].

To ensure mainstreaming of cross-cutting priorities across the joint work of the UNCT in implementing the UNSDCF, five Thematic Groups (TGs) have been established. The TGs also serve as the internal quality assurance mechanisms for the design, implementation, and monitoring of the UNSDCF and provide technical advice to the UNCT and to the Results Groups (RGs). The TGs will remain operational throughout the entire period of the UNSDCF. The UN Migration Network in Uzbekistan (UNMN) is one of the five TGs agreed in the UNSDCF.

MISSION STATEMENT

The UNMN is initiated by the UNCT on the country level to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN system-wide actions supporting the GoU in implementing objectives set forth in the GCM and in line with the international human rights obligations and relevant national priorities of Uzbekistan, striving to ensure respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, human dignity, well-being of migrants and members of their families.

The purpose of the UNMN is to foster better understanding of migration dynamics, enhance information exchange and coordination within the UN system, GoU, and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, civil society organizations (CSOs), at the national level in frames of the UNSDCF strategic priorities. The Network will work closely with the Oliy Majlis, line ministries and other GoU agencies, including the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (including the Agency for External Labour Migration under the Ministry), Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Human Rights Centre, international organizations and donor community, CSOs, including non-government organizations (NGOs), diasporas, academia, experts, mass-media, and other stakeholders 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.

The UNMN 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 UNMN will be guided, inter alia, by the UN Charter, international law, including core UN human rights treaties (notwithstanding their ratification status by Uzbekistan), SDGs, UNSDCF, in addition to the GCM.

OBJECTIVES

▪ The objectives and key accountabilities of the UNMN Uzbekistan, as stated below, are drawn from the global UNMN's Executive Committee decision of 23 May 2018 and the GCM:

▪ Share regular updates on key, current and emerging migration issues, research and activities with the UNMN members, including data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the evolving migration dynamics in or with linkages to Uzbekistan and their linkages with (sub)regional and global dynamics and trends.

▪ Act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, advice and policy guidance for the GoU and UNCT on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanisms identified in the GCM.

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[3] There are currently 24 participating UN agencies who have signed the UNSDCF 2021-2025: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, WHO.

- Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Uzbekistan, its relevant ministries, agencies, and structures in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.

- Support coherent and coordinated action by the UNCT at country and (sub)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.

- 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.

- Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UN system in Uzbekistan, 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.

- Engage with external partners, including migrants, civil society, migrant communities and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, media and other stakeholders at global, (sub)regional and national levels.

- Identify areas where effective consideration of migration issues can accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda and national SDGs, national development strategies and programmes, and highlight this in the development of UN Joint Workplans.

- 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.

- Provide support to the national capacity building mechanisms, as outlined in the GCM.

- Undertake other activities, as might be defined and agreed among the UNMN members, including delivery of UNMN joint/one-voice statements on migration specific issues.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

The UNMN comprises focal points from the UN entities that have signed the UNSDCF, willing to be a part of the Network and for whom migration is of relevance to their mandates. The UN system entities in Uzbekistan shall nominate members to the UNMN in line with their expertise and capacity in the relevant area. Participation level: deputies/senior programme or project managers.

The initial membership of the UNMN is indicated in Annex I. Other UN system entities may become members of the Network upon unanimous approval by its current members.

The UNMN is chaired/coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The IOM Chief of Mission in Uzbekistan or his/her designee will serve in this capacity. The UNRC co-chairs the Network.

The UNMN members will contribute to design and implementation of the Network's objectives and workplan, provide advice on strategic directions, share information and knowledge in the areas of their expertise, and provide updates about their migration related work. Members will promote coherence and complementarity of migration-related activities within the UN system in Uzbekistan.

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Decisions relevant to the UNMN work will be made by consensus based on consultations with all its Members. All decisions will be taken in full respect of the mandates of Network members. The UNMN may adopt any additional working methods, as necessary.

ROLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Based on UNCT priorities and UNSDCF commitments the UNMN may develop (costed) annual work plans (AWPs), with key actions, responsible participating agency(-ies) and timeframes. The AWPs shall be endorsed by the UNMN members, and the implementation is to be monitored and reported to UNCT on regular basis.

Working Arrangements

The UNMN meets[4] one time per quarter, or upon request by its member(s), or more frequently depending on the workload and key deliverables.

In its work, the UNMN will be guided by the following principles:

Accountability: The Network and its members have the responsibility to implement their decisions as agreed and will be accountable to the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan (UNRC), who in turn, is accountable to the UN Secretary General, including through the biennial reporting requested by the GCM, and other follow-up mechanisms of the GCM.

Human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach: The Network will uphold and advocate the laws and principles to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all migrants and their communities, especially those in the most vulnerable situations.

Coherence: The Network will draw from the mandates, technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the UNCT in supporting GCM implementation and promoting the overall coherence of the UNCT's work on migration.

Unity of purpose: All members of the Network will be jointly committed to its success, placing emphasis on the added value of their coordinated work and of collaborating to achieve common goals.

Efficiency: The Network will be fully aligned with existing UN system coordination mechanisms and will adopt a streamlined and efficient approach in all its activities.

Inclusivity: The Network, in its own working methods and in engaging others, will operate in an inclusive, systematic, predictable and transparent manner.

Results-oriented: The Network will focus on supporting the progress of Uzbekistan towards achieving implementation of the GCM.

Agility: The Network will regularly review – both formally and informally – and where necessary recalibrate its methods and the focus of its work to ensure its impact is maximized.

The UNMN will closely collaborate with other UN RGs, TGs and Task-Forces (TFs) in mainstreaming and implementation of key programming principles, with a focus on Leave No One Behind, in pursuit of the strategic priorities of the UNSDCF.

Coordination and Secretariat

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[4] Whenever an offline (in-person) meeting is not feasible or not recommended due to security and/or health related or other concerns, or due to absence of a member(s) in the duty-station, or due to *force majeure* instances, the Network may conduct its meeting(s) virtually (online) or using other alternative (combined) modes. The chosen mode of a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

IOM, as the UNMN Coordinator, will have primary responsibility for:

a) Fostering collaboration and consensus among Network members in all aspects of its functioning and work, and ensuring effective collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms and stakeholders.

b) Working with Network members to identify priorities and opportunities for action by the Network, focusing on the added value of coordinated work.

c) Convening and ensuring the smooth functioning of the Network, including the capacity building mechanism.

d) Briefing the UN system in Uzbekistan, GoU and other stakeholders on the activities of the Network.

e) Proactively identifying funding opportunities for Network operations, with the support of the Executive Committee.

f) Maintaining an effective Secretariat in support of the Network.

IOM will serve as the Secretariat for the UNMN and ensure that all meetings are convened, facilitated, documented, and action points followed up. The Secretariat will share all minutes of UNMN meetings and relevant documents/materials on UNSCDF and AWPs implementation with UNRC's Office (RCO) for reporting and archiving purposes.

All email-communications of the UNMN will be shared through the UN system corporate email-accounts (in cases of (temporary) absence of access to the corporate account, non-essential communication might be exceptionally shared through verified non-corporate accounts), UNCT mailing-lists, primarily through the UNMN one: migration.uz@one.un.org, which lists all the members of the Network. The UNMN member-entities are responsible for timely provision of needed (updated) information to the Secretariat (IOM) on the names (indicating their position and corporate email accounts) to be included or excluded from the UNMN mailing list (migration.uz@one.un.org). The UNMN mailing list is maintained and updated by the IT staff/Unit, as designated by the UNRC.

Role of the RCO

The RCO will serve as a knowledge repository for the TGs, including the UNMN, to ensure timely communication of UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) guidance and knowledge and information exchange. The RCO will also nominate a focal point for the UNMN so that policy and operational guidance can be provided on time to ensure coherency across the RGs, TGs, and programme support groups.

Annex I: UNMN membership[5]

International Organization for Migration (IOM) – *Chair, Coordinator/Secretariat*
United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) – *Co-Chair*
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

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[5] Resident and non-resident UN system entities operating under the auspices of the UNCT in Uzbekistan.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Bank (WB)

World Health Organization (WHO)