Voluntary GCM Review[*]

Survey conducted to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation
of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
Bangkok, (10-12 March 2021)

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) (General Assembly Resolution 73/195) calls for review of the progress of "implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders" (OP48), and "invites United Nations regional economic commissions ... to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020" (OP50)

This voluntary GCM review is issued to fulfil this mandate, by enabling member States to provide information on their progress towards the objectives of the Global Compact. The results will inform the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be held at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok from 10 to 12 March 2021, the preparation of the 2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Report and related background documentation.

The survey has been informed by the suggested outline prepared by the United Nations Network on Migration ([Proposed framework to assist Member States in the organization of regional reviews](#) – Annex II: Indicative outline for Member States) to review the status of implementation of the GCM at national, subregional, regional and cross-regional levels (General Assembly resolution 73/195, OP48 and OP50). It has been structured according to the four round tables to be organized for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review meeting which correspond to the four round tables of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 (General Assembly resolution 73/326, OP21).

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1. **Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular**	**GCM Objectives: 2, 5, 6, 12, 18**
	2. **Minimize the adverse divers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin** 5. **Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration** 6. **Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work** 12. **Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening assessment and referral** 18. **Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies**

Please highlight the 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.*

- Like other Pacific nations, Vanuatu is a country of origin, transit, and destination to migrants from different parts of the world. Vanuatu is characterized by: internal mobility within Pacific countries; intra-island mobility for the purpose of employment; movement to neighboring countries of destination in search of economic opportunities, improved health and education outcomes – this is in the case of students, permanent residents, seasonal workers and temporary migrants[i].

- Despite having a relatively small population in the South Pacific sub-region, Vanuatu is developing towards having the greatest percentage of immigrants in relation to its whole population[ii].

- Emigration is also recorded as increasing in Vanuatu with a rise of 1.1% since the 1990s (UNDESA). Out of the 21.2% of migrants originating from Oceania 1.1% originate from Vanuatu (UNDESA 2019a)[ii].

- Migration to the major countries of destination occurs both temporarily and permanently for many reasons[iii]. This includes the migration of temporary and seasonal workers through labour mobility schemes such as Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) for Australia and Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme of New Zealand and the movement of permanent residents through established permanent migration pathways[iv].

- Vanuatu has a modest diaspora in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand, and a more significant community in New Caledonia (3,802). Many among the Ni-Vanuatu diaspora in Australia can trace their ancestry to the practice of "black-birding" between 1847 and 1901 when thousands of Ni-Vanuatu were taken to Australia as indentured labourers to work on the sugar plantations.

- Vanuatu is the largest provider of Pacific labour to Australia and New Zealand's labour mobility programmes. 10,224 labour mobility visas were granted to Vanuatu workers over the 2018-2019 season[v]. Intra-Pacific migrations also an important trend in regional migration, particularly for technical and high skills labour migration. Vanuatu also host migrants from some developed and developing countries outside of the Pacific region, although numbers are small in comparison to other Pacific Island Countries[vi].

- Migration in Vanuatu is driven by differences in wages, opportunities and living standards in urban centres and between neighbouring countries. Vanuatu has high levels of informal and vulnerable employment and subsistence economic activity. Although 71% of the labour force is considered economically active, only 30% receive regular paid income. About 52% of the labour force works in subsistence agriculture or fishing, only 20% are in formal employment, and the remainder are in informal employment[vii].

- Migration to and from Vanuatu is also attributed to education. Vanuatu participates in international schemes with common qualification frameworks. The [Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS)](#) was developed with the expectation that if a course is included in the Register it will be recognized across the region. In addition to the PRQS there is the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) which serves as a meta-framework for countries with no qualifications authority. These countries are able to benchmark their national qualifications to the PQF[viii].

- Tourism and the business community also play a critical role in Vanuatu's migration and economic development. Prior to COVID –19 the number of annual tourist arrivals were projected to equal the total population by 2020. Cruise ship visits increased by 200% between 2009 and 2013, and by 300% to 2015. After a slight drop following Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015, the numbers picked-up again and the 2016-2030 National Sustainable Development Plan forecasts this trend to continue. These arrivals present a real challenge to the Visa Immigration Services (VIS) because VIS has neither the number of staff nor an automated border information system to record and manage increasing movements[ix].

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) study estimates that Vanuatu has a 57% chance of suffering a significant disaster related to natural hazards each year[x]. The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) estimates that cyclones, earthquakes, and tsunamis cause average annual damage and losses equivalent to 6.6% of GDP, and that within the next 50 years, Vanuatu has a 50% chance of experiencing a loss due to cyclones, earthquakes, or tsunamis valued at more than 45% of GDP and a 10% chance of a loss exceeding 74% of GDP[xi].

- Cyclones, bringing damaging winds, heavy rain, flooding, and storm surge, are the most significant natural hazard for Vanuatu. In 2015, TC Pam, the most [intense cyclone](#) in the country's history, caused widespread damage and economic loss. The devastation was so severe that it wiped out around 64% of the country's GDP, displaced nearly a quarter of the population, destroyed crops on a large scale, contaminated water supplies and damaged 81% of homes in affected areas[xii].

- In April 2020 when TC Harold (a Category 5 cyclone) struck Vanuatu as the

country was suffering from a steep decline in tourists due to border restrictions imposed by the government in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) concluded an estimated total loss and damages associated with TC Harold and COVID-19 at around US$ 525 million, which corresponds to approximately 54% of Vanuatu's GDP in 2020[xiii].

- In addition to the challenges in importing food imposed by COVID-19, Vanuatu's food security was also affected by TC Harold which destroyed crops and home gardens. A post disaster situation report estimated that over 17,000 hectares of cropland were exposed to the cyclone, which caused substantial damage to staple crops at the outset of the growing season. (FAO, 2020) Humanitarian response to TC Harold, alongside ongoing food security programmes implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) and other regional and UN organizations have scaled up support to address any potential food shortages arising in the context of the cyclone and COVID-19[xiv].

- Although tropical cyclones are the principal hazard affecting Vanuatu, the country is also exposed to volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and droughts. According to recent data, Vanuatu has experienced 18 earthquakes since 2000. The most recent non-volcanic earthquake, of magnitude 7.0, occurred in Malampa province in April 2016 and led to loss of fishing grounds and reduced sea access for fishing and coral death, but no significant damage to crops or property. Mount Yasur, an active volcano on Tanna Island continuously emits smoke, gases, lava and ash routinely affecting vegetation and displacing residents[xv].

- Migration in response to climate change impacts is already reported as underway in many Vanuatu. However, this is often considered to be "economic migration" or labour migration pushed by the impacts of climate change on livelihoods. Migration and the receipt of remittances is associated with greater resilience to climate change impacts. Future migration is likely to be influenced by environmental change and household economics[xvi].

a. 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.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LABOUR)

- In June 2019 the Labour Law Act (1985) was amended to include the right for repatriation. The amended enforced that when employment contracts are ended or terminated the employer are required to pay travel costs to return to place of residence, provided the employee worked more than 50 kilometers from place of residence[xvii].

- The Vanuatu government, through Labour Mobility Program's such as the Recognized Seasonal Employment (RSE) and the Seasonal Workers Program (SWP), regulate,

oversee and screen for TIP indicators in the labour recruitment processes. The Labour Department issues licenses to local agents and Permit Holders to be able to recruit in Vanuatu. There is a provision under Seasonal Employment Act No. 23 of 2007 which gather for the process of licensing and permit for recruiters overseas and in country[xviii].

- In 2019, Vanuatu adopted a new [National Labour Mobility Policy](#) which aims to provide better protections for workers, including better recruitment practices, reduced costs, creation of VNPF superannuation arrangements, and increased access to labour mobility schemes for women and people with disabilities.

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Vanuatu has adopted and is implementing the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030, under which a National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement was also prepared and approved by the Government in 2019. The Policy aims to address displacement in times of disaster or resulting from the effects of climate change and provides a broad overview of the key sectoral and cross-cutting actions which need to be implemented to address displacement[xix].

- In order to support the implementation of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement, the Government is working closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ensure that stakeholders have technical skills and knowledge needed to implement the policy, including displacement tracking tools and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) on planned relocation, local integration, and return to places of origin.

- Following Tropical Cyclone Pam in March 2015, the Government, along with humanitarian agencies, established a National Cluster System to implement disaster-preparedness activities year-round and to respond to disasters when they arise. This Inter-Cluster is the coordinating mechanism for the 8 technical clusters:
  1. Education
  2. Emergency and Telecommunications
  3. Food Security and Agriculture
  4. Gender and Protection
  5. Health and Nutrition
  6. Logistics; Shelter
  7. Water, and Sanitation and Hygiene
  8. and the newly established Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management Cluster Set up in May 2020.

- Each cluster is jointly led by a Government agency and a humanitarian partner. The inter-ministerial cluster system to coordinate government response with non-governmental organizations and UN agencies is activated once the Council of Ministers issues a state of emergency declaration. The National Disaster Committee is the internal government structure responsible for coordinating humanitarian action and it is comprised of all heads of government departments.

- During events such events the Government issues emergency communications via the Internet, radio broadcasts and SMS messages. The National Disaster Management Office also accepts incoming calls from the public. Government updates are published online via the Department of Meteorology and Geohazards website. However, emergency communications systems do not currently take into account the specific vulnerabilities of immigrants, such as the need for evacuation.

b. 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.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LABOUR)

- The Government does not currently assess the labour market to determine demand for migrant labour. Moreover, there is no data on the number of workers in the various provinces; this has led to labour shortages at peak season in outlying provinces. Similarly, there are no assessments on the effects of emigration on the domestic labour market. There are no programmes to manage labour immigration, such as adjusting visa awards according to labour market demands, or considering migrants' skills when assessing visa applications[xx].

- The Department of Labour collects some data on the labour market on an ad hoc basis with the latest data collection recorded as having been collected in 2017. The data collected is limited and is not published. The data is disaggregated by sex and consists of registration of unemployed persons, seasonal workers (emigrants) and work permit holders (immigrants)[xxi].

- Access to education is not restricted and student visas are issued to international students. However, some institutions may charge higher fees to international students. There are currently no schemes that specifically facilitate international students working following graduation. International students may work during their studies only if this activity is a compulsory element of their course[xxii].

- There are restrictions for immigrants accessing the labour market compared with nationals. In order to take up employment in Vanuatu, a work permit is necessary for foreign residents holding a residency permit, or foreign investors who hold a certificate under the Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Act. The Labour Act (1985) allows work permits to be refused should the Commissioner of Labour decide that a position should instead be filled by a national. Furthermore, certain occupations are reserved for nationals (as specified in the Labour Act and the Foreign Investment Promotion Act). Examples of these occupations are typists and waiters, as well as sectors such as tourism ventures, trade in certain products, manufacturing of handicrafts, services such as vendors and drivers, and certain fishing activities[xxiii].

- The National Labour Mobility Summit recommended the development of agent and employer guidelines to inform the seasonal worker programmes, including: improvement of selection procedure, pre-departure orientation, and licensing of labour recruitment agents. The summit also highlighted the need for the development of a programme for integration of returning workers. The Government is not currently promoting the creation

of a formal remittances scheme[xxiv].

- Although spot checks are carried out on employers jointly by the [Department of Immigration](#), [Department of Labour](#) and [Department of Customs and Inland Revenue](#), there is limited awareness of human trafficking and no protection arrangements in place for victims of trafficking in Vanuatu[xxv].

- While Vanuatu legislation allows dual citizenship with the aim to attract nationals who have emigrated, there are no formal programmes for facilitating the return and reintegration of Ni-Vanuatu migrants to their home country[xxvi]. However, since COVID-19 the Government has been involved in repatriating stranded citizens.

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030 does not cover specific situations that migrants may face during crises because of their specific status in the country. There is no official process for making exceptions to the immigration procedures for immigrants whose country of origin is experiencing a crisis. However, under a recent border treaty with the Solomon Islands there is a provision for movement between the two countries' bordering provinces in times of disaster[xxvii].

- Vanuatu has recently adopted the Disaster Risk Management Act 2019.

- The Government of Vanuatu's national development strategy, [Vanuatu 2030](#), captures climate change and disaster risk reductions but does not make specific provisions regarding internal displacement[xxviii].

- Although Vanuatu has developed guidelines and standard operating procedures to facilitate evacuations, guidelines and standard operating procedures for temporary and permanent relocation are yet to be developed.

- There is a need for enhanced provision of social services, such as education and health, in communities affected by disasters, and the areas of relocation. Communities, particularly those in remote areas away from the reach of transport and infrastructure, are at greatest risk of disaster displacement. These "last mile" communities have limited education and/or access to media, especially in local languages, which limits early warnings of disasters and affects preparedness. It was also noted that there is a general lack of understanding of climate change (slow-onset processes, climate variability etc) amongst communities[xxix].

- There are no appropriate micro and meso level climate risk insurance or disaster risk financing instruments that individuals, businesses, organizations, cooperatives, sub-national governments or others can access. The closest example of a coping mechanism for Ni-Vanuatu is the PCRAFI facility through which USD $1.9 million emergency fund was released to the government just one week after the 2015 Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu. The government however, has acknowledged the absence of microinsurance as a

key market failure and has called for research on potential designs for insurance products suitable for informal markets[xxx].

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

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LABOUR)

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, hosted the National Labour Mobility Summit with over 100 participants comprising government officials, parliamentarians and representatives from host countries Australia and New Zealand. The national Labour Mobility Summit led to the new National Labour Mobility Policy in December 2018[xxxi].

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The Government has various unpublished evacuation/contingency plans regarding inhabited volcanic islands. The National Disaster Management Office, under the Government of Vanuatu, also published Evacuation Centre Guidelines and checklist which list minimum safety requirements for evacuation centres.

- Since 2015 Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office has been collaborating with IOM in strengthening its disaster preparedness and response mechanism by building its technical skills and capacities in running Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) humanitarian assessments. Most recently the NDMO partnered with IOM in rolling out a DTM humanitarian assessment in response to T.C. Harold, capturing key multisectoral data to develop evidence-based durable solutions policies for those affected (forced to migrate).

- In addition, with the support of IOM in May 2020 Government agency and humanitarian partners established Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management Cluster.

- The Vanuatu Ministry of Education is also reported to have developed a special curriculum on climate change and natural disaster management that is implemented from primary school to university[xxxii].

- At the community level, community disaster committees (CDCs) and Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCCs) have been established and comprise youth, churches, chiefs to act as the first responders to disasters and to support implementation of national and regional level policies on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) work with the CDCs and CDCCCs to ensure that these committees are inclusive of women and

people with disabilities and also expand their capacity by raising awareness of policy frameworks[xxxiii].

- Initiatives are underway to help communities monitor weather patterns and understand climate change trends. 'Women wetem weta' is a project that provides weather updates to women in rural communities and enables them to take preparedness measures. The church also plays a critical role in dispelling faith-based myths related to disasters[xxxiv].

- In terms of data and information on climate change, the NDMO conducts risk mapping for specific hazards. These risk maps are used by the Government and CSOs for community selection for disaster risk reduction programmes.

- The Government of Vanuatu is also looking into the options of linking labour migration to climate change adaptation was to include clauses in the contracts of seasonal workers to create an enabling environment for them to spend remittances and other resources on climate change adaptation[xxxv].

MIGRATION AND COVID-19

- Following NDMO's 'Instrument of Directions to Government Agencies relating to COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold (Amendment) Order No. 77 of 2020' dated 23 May under the Disaster Risk Management Act, people approved by NDMO to be repatriated or travel to Vanuatu will do so under strict conditions imposed by NDMO and the Ministry of Health. All returning citizens and residents arriving from countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will spend 14 days in quarantine at a government-designated hotel or facility[xxxvi].

Questions (about 500 words per question 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d - *please attach paper and documents, as needed*):

19. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures	GCM Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21
	4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
	8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
	9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
	10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
	11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

	13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
	21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable

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.

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Vanuatu is seeking to expand it tourism industry. It is already an established cruise ship destination. Vanuatu's tourism strategy is seeking to bolster tourism links with China and Chinese tourism authorities are increasingly promoting Vanuatu as a destination. As such, China has proposed the establishment of a direct flight from mainland China to Port Vila and is seeking to increase the visitor numbers to 500,000 over the coming years[xxxvii].

- Vanuatu has a citizenship by Investment Program which is available to those who invest USD 130,000 for an individual and USD 180,000 for a family into a local development fund. Vanuatu has the only citizenship programme of this type in Asia-Pacific. Revenue from the fund is a substantial contribution to Vanuatu's GDP.

- Birth registration is variable across Vanuatu, although recent efforts are increasing registration coverage.

MIGRATION & PROTECTION

- Vanuatu experiences many challenges in terms of border management, compounded by the vast maritime domain and large number of remote islands. Other challenges relate to effective immigration information management systems and record keeping.

- In October 2018 twelve migrants with Bangladeshi citizenship escaped from an exploitative situation in the capital city, Port Vila, and presented themselves to the Vanuatu Transnational Crime Unit (TCU). Following an investigation a total of 101 vulnerable migrants were freed from exploitive conditions. The court proceedings against the alleged traffickers (five charges against four perpetrators, including charges of trafficking, money laundering and slavery/servitude) started in the week of 18 November 2019 and is continuing[xxxviii].

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that that Chinese, Filipinos, Thai and Bangladeshi nationals have been trafficked into Vanuatu. Mining, logging and fishing industries have also brought foreign workers to Vanuatu which is thought to have contributed to young girls being forced into prostitution[xxxix].

- Many of Vanuatu's 82 islands are remote and experience frequent natural hazards, which see many communities repeatedly displaced and moving from one island to another. There

are reports of internal displacement contributing to commercial sex work amongst women and girls, such as during the recent mass evacuation of the island of Ambae due to volcanic eruptions[xl].

- There is also anecdotal information about internal trafficking which suggests that there may be instances involving Ni-Vanuatu men, women and children who are subjected to forced labour, especially in the form of domestic work. Ni-Vanuatu children are also considered at risk of human trafficking as families follow a traditional practice of sending children to live with relatives or families in towns. There are also recent reports that following the Ambae volcano mass evacuation (which displaced 11,000 people in 2018-19) families have been exchanging their children, both male and female, with landowners in order to secure new land[xli].

- Ni-Vanuatu adults working overseas, including in Australia and New Zealand are also vulnerable to forced labour, particularly in construction and agricultural industries[xlii].

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.

- In 2019 Vanuatu adopted a new security strategy where under Pillar two of the strategy Vanuatu has committed to review its border management agencies and establish a border management sub-committee[xliii].

- In 2017, Department of Customs and Inland Revenue took over frontline primary passenger processing from Department of Immigration.

- The Vanuatu National Statistics Office uses visitor details sourced from port and airport arrivals/departures which are published monthly, and is planning to include migration questions in the next mini-census. Furthermore, to gather internal and external migration data, the latest Vanuatu National Population and Housing Census (2020) is expected to contained questions regarding citizenship, usual place of residence, residence five years prior to the census and place of birth. The census reports is expected to contain specific sections on migration[xliv].

- Birth registration practices are increasing in Vanuatu through concerted efforts supported by Civil Registry, within Ministry of Internal Affairs.

- Vanuatu does not have a specific Trafficking In Person (TIP) law, however certain TIP related offices are covered under the following legislation: Vanuatu's Counter Terrorism

and Transnational Organized Crime 2006 Act,[1] as amended by the Bill for the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (Amendment) Act 2017, defines TIP as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person for the purpose of exploitation." Part 5 of the Act deals with offences relating to people smuggling and TIP, including children. Vanuatu's Penal Code (Cap 135), Section 102 also prohibits slavery and TIP. It states: "No person shall – (a) take or keep another in slavery; or (b) engage in any traffic in persons."[xlv]

- The Vanuatu Immigration Act (2010) sets out the institutions that regulate immigration to Vanuatu and the determination of refugee status. The legislation is complemented by the Immigration Visa Regulation Order (2011) which sets out the criteria and processes for applying for various types of visa[xlvi].

- Vanuatu has ratified the following key human rights instruments[xlvii]:
  o UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo, 2000);
  o International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (2008);
  o Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (1995);
  o Optional Protocol – CEDAW (2007);
  o Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2007);
  o Optional Protocol – CRC – Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2007);
  o Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (2008); &
  o Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2012).

- Vanuatu in addition has also ratified eight ILO conventions[xlviii]:
  o C29 – Forced Labour Convention, 1930,
  o C87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Rights to Organise Convention, 1948,
  o C98, Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949,
  o C100, Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951,
  o C105, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957,
  o C111, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958,
  o C182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

- There are also various labour laws that regulate the actions of employers, recruiters or labour agents in relation to charging worker recruitment fees and related activities. These laws include[xlix]:
  o Employment Act (Cap 160) 1983
  o Health and Safety at Work Act (Cap 24) 1986
  o Minimum Wage Act (Cap 182)
  o Seasonal Employment Act 2007

- Vanuatu has also ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and subsequently acceded to both CRC Optional Protocols.

- Vanuatu ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1993.

- Vanuatu ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1995.

- Vanuatu ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1999.

- Vanuatu has acceded to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

- Vanuatu is not, however, a State party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. Neither is Vanuatu a State party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons nor the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness[1].

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.*

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Vanuatu also faces numerous challenges in managing its borders. The country consists of 83 islands spread across 680,000 square kilometers of Exclusive Economic Zone. The location in the Pacific, with air links from Asia to Australia and New Zealand, makes Vanuatu an obvious transit route for legal and illegal activities around the Pacific Island region.

- Vanuatu has no border management information system; as a consequence, there is limited data and evidence to inform policy development. The Department of Immigration does not publish data on migration regularly outside of the census[li].

- The Department of Immigration has a manual system for notifying residency permit holders regarding their permit expiration, and therefore it is unable to detect overstays automatically; a border management information system is required.

- There are no dedicated inter-institutional coordination mechanisms or national focal points responsible for Vanuatu's response to trafficking in persons or smuggling of

migrants. The Government does not regularly publish information regarding counter-trafficking activities[lii].

- The Department of Immigration's website outlines various visa options, but does not offer much detail to aid understanding on different visa categories or how to apply. The visa processing system for seasonal workers going to Australia and New Zealand is yet to be improved.

- Recent cases of breaches of border processes both at the air and sea borders have raised serious concerns about Vanuatu's vulnerability to transnational criminal activities to which Vanuatu needs to continue to work towards effective responses.

- The 2018 case of 101 Bangladeshi victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling being stranded in Vanuatu took the country by surprise. The case, which included two children, was not only the largest in Vanuatu's history but also the largest in the Pacific region. The Government of Vanuatu has been working in coordination with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) towards finding durable solutions for the victims of trafficking[liii].

- Vanuatu lacks funding to develop the legislative and policy framework and to support training and awareness raising for the police and the public in general on human trafficking.

- Further trainings for frontline police and immigration officers on human trafficking and verification of passports are needed. However Vanuatu, lacks funding to engage other relevant government and non-government institutions necessary to combat human trafficking[liv].

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

MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Primary line functions, such as checking passports and issuing visas upon arrival has transferred from the Department of Immigration to the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue. Vanuatu also started using an electronic passenger recording system, however the system has limited functionality to support passenger risk assessments beyond capturing passenger movement.

- In 2020 The GoV has requested IOM's support in developing an Integrated Border Management Strategy.

- Whilst there are no official inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on migration, the Department of Immigration has in the past held meetings with counterparts from the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, the Department of Labour and the

Citizenship Commission, but only on an ad hoc basis. In terms of vertical integration, there is room for improvement as the Department of Immigration has thus far not held any meetings with decentralized government agencies[lv].

- The Government has developed a border management curriculum with the IOM and has rolled out a pool of trainers from the Department of Immigration and Department of Customs. Capacity building of frontline and secondary line border officials is supported by the joint collaboration between the Australian border force and the International Organization for Migration.

- In 2017, the Vanuatu Government, in conjunction with UNDP, took measures to establish a digital identification system to replace voter cards but which also included birth and death registrations, issuance of citizenship documents and national identification cards. In addition to streamlining electoral processes, the I.D system also enables greater, and smoother access to public and private services as well as merging records of duplicates and the deceased. Before the official role out in 2019, the national ID card process was piloted on the island of Mota and in Port Vila in 2017, and in Luganville in 2018[lvi].

- The government of Vanuatu in 2018 took new measures to establish the identity of local population, including birth registration and issuance of documentation, citizenship and nationality. The introduction of the new digitalized National ID card system for all Vanuatu citizens has enabled better identification processes for individuals and then families even increase transparency during election. The ID cards were introduced with a purpose to crack down on underage alcohol consumption, however several other major purposes include travel and ticketing, birth registration, banking, passport checks.

MIGRATION & PROTECTION

- Under Vanuatu's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime 2006 Act, as amended by the Bill for the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (Amendment) Act 2017[lvii], Trafficking In Persons (TIP) is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment or a fine of VT 50 million (approximately USD 425,000) or both. Trafficking in children is punishable by up to fifteen years imprisonment or VT 75 million (approximately USD 640,000) or both. Vanuatu's Penal Code (Cap 135), Section 102 states that the punishment for slavery and TIP is imprisonment for 20 years.[lviii] The reasons for the discrepancy between the two pieces of legislation is not clear[lix].

- The Government of Vanuatu's Immigration and Customs Department, with support from IOM recently developed a "Border Control Operations Standard Operational Procedures Manual for Vanuatu". The Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) documents contains procedures to be observed for border control operations at airports and seaports of Vanuatu and the applicable law references. It contains a checklist which provide step by step guide to officials and serve as instructions to the officer in order to follow the correct procedure (Border Control Operations Standard Operational Procedures Manual for Vanuatu. 2018. P.1). The 6th Checklist is on trafficking and smuggling of migrants. It provides guidance to the office and steps on how to provide victim identification. This SOP includes screening of all persons including vulnerable groups. While this SOP is new both departments have slowly incorporated the guidelines into their daily work routines.

- Until 2018 Vanuatu had never reported experiencing and managing victims of trafficking. The Government worked in close collaboration with IOM, the private sector and the local community to provide services and relief to the victims of trafficking. Financial support was provided by both the New Zealand and United States Governments. The types of care services included:
    - Housing – through GoV support, three furnished properties have been provided to the 101 victims. Each property has a fair number of victims housed within each of the premises.
    - Health care services: provided for free by the GoV. IOM provided support in more serious health conditions for victims.
    - Food – through Gov and IOM support, food was distributed on a weekly basis to each of the three houses.
    - Water: through GoV and IOM support, three water tanks have been purchased and installed at each of the three houses and victims were able to collect water for drinking, cooking etc…
    - Cleaning supplies and personal hygiene kits: provided by IOM to all the 101 victims
    - Mattresses – provided by IOM for all the 101 victims.
    - Internet and data connection – provided for free by telecom Vanuatu limited
    - Church and community groups provided water, food and cloths and moral and spiritual support to the victims.

- The National Intelligence Unit (NIU) under the Vanuatu Police Force, has replaced the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) as the designated lead on TIP in Vanuatu. NIU focuses mainly on transnational issues, including providing assistance to border agencies with specific focus on drug trafficking and smuggling, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, mutual assistance requests, money laundering and proceeds of crime, terrorism financing, cybercrime of any kind, illegal smuggling of flora/fauna and any other transnational issues of intelligence[lx].

- NIU works in partnership with other national agencies such as Customs, Immigration and Passport Office, Biosecurity, Airports Vanuatu, Telecommunication and Radio Regulator, Financial Intelligent Unit and Prosecutions.

- There are no specific anti-TIP trainings provided by the Government of Vanuatu for police, and other law enforcement officials. However, IOM through its Migration Capability Improvement Programme (MCIP) in Vanuatu has provided training on trafficking and smuggling of human beings for the Customs and Immigration Department officials[lxi].

- In line with Vanuatu ambition to grow its tourism industry, the Government of Vanuatu sought support from the Government of Australia to carry out an assessment of its border security management in March 2020. The assessment delivered a detailed report into Vanautu's border security and provided 32 recommendations how to strengthen and improve the country border management systems.

- The Transnational Crime Unit has conducted a few awareness campaigns in the past,

however to limited funding none have been conducted recently. DFAT previously provided funding to the TCU specifically for trafficking of drugs, which there has been a wide awareness raising covering all the provinces of Vanuatu Since TIP is a fairly new concept for Vanuatu, progress on awareness raising, training is still a work in progress[lxii].

Questions (about 500 words per questions (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d - *please attach paper and documents, as needed***):**

20. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development	GCM Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22
	14 Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle **15** Provide access to basic services for migrants **16** Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion **19.** Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries **20.** Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants **22.** Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

- 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.

MIGRATION AND COVID-19

- Vanuatu like other Pacific island countries has faced immediate impacts of COVID-19[lxiii]. Lockdowns, travel bans and physical distancing measures in response to the crisis have disproportionately affected migrant workers, who have found themselves stranded unable to return to their place of work or their communities of origin.

- It is estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause a 20 percent decline in the amount of remittances sent by migrants back home to low- and middle-income countries. This is due to loss of wages and employment by migrants alongside restrictions placed on remittances providers during lockdown[lxiv].

- In terms of impacts on economic security of Pacific Diaspora, communities in Australia and New Zealand have continued to face economic hardship with many pacific islanders out of work. Vanuatu migrants for instances who do not qualify for government financial support, in addition to the loss of remittance revenue has impact their household income[lxv]

MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

- Vanuatu has a modest diaspora in Australia and New Zealand, and a more significant community in New Caledonia (3,802). It is however by far the largest provider of Pacific labour to Australia and New Zealand's labour mobility programmes. 10,224 labour mobility visas were granted to Vanuatu workers over the 2018-2019 season[lxvi].

- All immigrants, regardless of their legal status, can access government-funded national health services, including both emergency and non-emergency services[lxvii].

- There is a Special Portability Agreement between New Zealand and Vanuatu (and 21 other Pacific countries) with regard to pensions, which allows those who qualify for pensions from New Zealand to continue to receive these from Vanuatu[lxviii].

- All (non-visitor) types of visa allow family members to be granted the same class and length of visa as the original applicant. The Immigration Act (2010) defines a family

member as a partner, dependent child or any other person who, in the opinion of the Principle Immigration Officer, can be treated as family[lxix].

- The Constitution of Vanuatu allows for any person to apply to become a naturalized citizen of Vanuatu if they have lived there continuously for at least 10 years prior to application[lxx].

- The Representation of the People Act allows for the Electoral Commission to designate a polling station in a foreign country and for the registration of Ni-Vanuatu emigrants living overseas.

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.*

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (REMITTANCES)
- There is anecdotal evidence of diaspora groups who pool resources for developing community assets such as rehabilitation of school teachers, housing, and school classrooms. Furthermore, there is some diaspora engagement and mobilization of remittances for community development especially through the Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority[lxxi].

- Vanuatu has a small diaspora population in both Australia and New Zealand, totaling 1,456. Its seasonal worker cohort represents a far larger number of Ni-Vanuatu who live, work and remit from their employment locations. Over the 2018/2019 season (the last full season prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), there were over 10,000 Ni-Vans working across the SWP, PLS and RSE schemes, representing by some distance the largest source of Pacific labour[lxxii].

- Despite so many Ni-Vanuatu people potentially remitting regularly, competition remains quite limited. However, this is set to change in late 2020 and 2021, with the introduction of new digital services into Digicel Vanuatu and Vodafone Vanuatu's (M Vatu) mobile wallets.

- Although Vanuatu engages with the diaspora on an ad hoc basis, it has not yet established an institution tasked with coordinating efforts to engage with its diaspora population. There are limited diaspora engagement activities headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; more structured and regular diaspora mapping, skills and resources profiling and diaspora engagement is required.

a. 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.

MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

- There is no provision in the [Immigration Act](#) for the issuance of permanent residency, and the Act states that residency permits may only be issued for a period of one to ten years. Permanent resident visas (up to 10 years) may be granted to those with Ni-Vanuatu descent, those who have resided in the country for the last 12 months, or those willing to invest large amounts in the country[lxxiii].

- The law does not provide for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and the government only provides protection to refugees and grants temporary refugee status and asylum on an ad hoc basis[lxxiv].

- Although all immigrants have access to public health services, at private health-care facilities different fees may apply to both Ni-Vanuatu and non-Ni-Vanuatu patients[lxxv].

- Education is not compulsory in Vanuatu, it is not enshrined in the law and many students have to resort to internal migration to the capital to access the full range of education services. Access to education for immigrants is not guaranteed in all institutions.

- Vanuatu is yet to ratify the ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97).

- Vanuatu is yet to ratify the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (REMITTANCES)

- A lot of money is brought back in cash at the end of the contract rather than being remitted. There is a lack of understanding of the security risks, and financial losses that may be incurred by workers who return and wait days for a great FX rate but in the meantime spend money whilst in Port Vila.

- Workers do not have much awareness of how to compare remittance products and most had not heard about SendMoneyPacific.

- Senders tend not to change their remittance service provider regularly. Western Union is popular in Vanuatu. Many Western Union offices provide workers with a card that has their details/ID on it, to address ID requirements. Sending methods are related to the education levels of the sender. Sometimes workers may go an entire season without sending money home because they do not know how to and do not seek advice[lxxvi].

- There is reluctance of sending money via an app based service (send side). This may be

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explained by the common fear of sending money online or purchasing online and he perceived fraud or scam risks that this entails. **Popular services:** Western Union (most popular service), Bank account transfers and MoneyGram[lxxvii]

- Western Union often run short on cash at some of its branches in the islands. They cannot pay out remittances to a receiver if they are due to receive a large amount. Western Union are very strict with ensuring that correct name spelling is provided by receivers[lxxviii].

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

MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

- Following the Ambae Volcanic eruption the Government of Vanuatu initiated the 'Second Home' programme. Under the programme, the Government facilitated leases and provision of land so that displaced communities would have a permanent house in Maewo[lxxix].

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (REMITTANCES)

- In June 2020 Vanuatu joined the global calls to action on remittances during COVID-19. The goal of the call to action, Remittances in Crisis – How to Keep Them Flowing, is, therefore, to remove the obstacles that migrants and their families face when sending and receiving money. Many families rely on remittances to finance basic needs such as housing, education, food and medical care[lxxx].

- The National Bank of Vanuatu has undergone a digital transformation and developed features aimed at helping seasonal workers to send money home. At the end of 2019 Vodafone Vanuatu launched a mobile money wallet offering cheaper domestic remittances. These digital transformation and mobile money projects were supported by the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme, a jointly administered programme from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Questions (about 500 words per question 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d - *please attach paper and documents, as needed)***:**

21. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration	**GCM Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23** 1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies; 3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration; 7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration;

| | 17. **Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration;** |
| | 23. **Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.** |

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.*

MIGRATION POLICYMAKING - (LABOUR)

- Migration policy design and implementation are handled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Ministry includes the Department of Labour, which issues work permits to prospective migrant workers and coordinates participation of Ni-Vanuatu workers in overseas programmes for seasonal workers. It also includes the Department of Immigration which is responsible for the overall policy, administration, issuing of visas and residency permits, as well as the collection of data[lxxxi].

- Vanuatu is a member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Skills Movement Scheme which is governed by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and aims to facilitate the temporary movement of nationals among these countries for the purpose of employment. Vanuatu signed a visa waiver agreement with the EU in 2015 which is more formal than an MOU and allows visa-free travel to the EU for up to 90 days. It is also a member of the New Zealand Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme and the Australian Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP). These allow seasonal workers to work in New Zealand and Australia and are governed by MOUs[lxxxii].

MIGRATION POLICYMAKING - (TIP)

- Vanuatu is a member of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference, which is a forum for immigration agencies in the Pacific to discuss and foster cooperation with a view to strengthening systems throughout the region. It has 23 participating states and meets annually. Vanuatu is also a member of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime[lxxxiii].

- The Transnational Crime Unit has a National Action Plan which targets transnational crime issues in Vanuatu, and where TIP is included. While this is a broad action plan, there is no specific action plan in country or under TCU that address TIP alone. Therefore, the action plan does not address all forms of TIP combined with limited resources under TCU to implement the action plan[lxxxiv].

MIGRATION POLICYMAKING - (CLIMATE CHANGE)

- Between May and June 2020, Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), coordinated a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) humanitarian assessment in response

to the Tropical Cyclone (T.C.) Harold. On June 6, NDMO published its findings articulating the conditions, sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) and the locations of those affected. The data produced by the NDMO's DTM assessment fed into the National Recovery strategy 2020-2023 for COVID-19 and T.C. Harold. The data collected under the DTM assessment provided the NDMO with necessary data to produce an evidence-based national recovery plan which supports the durable solutions to the displaced households[lxxxv].

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.*

MIGRATION POLICYMAKING - (LABOUR)

- Vanuatu has established a South-to-South cooperation agreement with Universities in Australia and Cameroon for skills-transfer and skills-exchange programmes for the education sector. There is a skills transfer programme with Nauru that provides unemployed and retired teachers with opportunities for teaching in Nauru[lxxxvi].

- Additionally, the Pacific Labour Arrangement has been agreed as part of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus between Vanuatu and a number of other pacific countries, Australia and New Zealand. This complements the existing schemes, aims to increase the benefits to the labour-sending countries, and establishes the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM) to discuss further initiatives, such as the upcoming Australian Pacific Labour Scheme[lxxxvii].

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.*

MIGRATION POLICYMAKING - (LABOUR)
- The Pacific Labour Scheme provide training for trainers and for workers. The worker manual that workers are provided with does not include any reference to remittances. The training manual has only one reference to sending money home, with no detail provided.

- The Vanuatu government does not currently provide financial education for the remittance receiving community in Vanuatu prior to the departure of seasonal workers[lxxxviii].

- Vanuatu is yet to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), 1990[lxxxix].

- Vanuatu has not yet developed comprehensive and specific national legislation on migration. In addition, a defined migration strategy is still to be realised, although the new National Labour MObility POlicy has been adopted.

- The National Labour Mobility summit recommended the updating of the "MOU and the Inter-agency Understanding" with Australia and New-Zealand.

- The formal engagement of civil society and the private sector in agenda-setting and implementation of migration policy could be strengthened. There has been participation by these sectors in the past (for example, in the development of the 2010 Immigration Act, and the amendment the Constitution and the Citizenship Act to allow dual citizenship), but there is no current engagement[xc].

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

MIGRATION POLICYMAKING & INTEGRATION

- In line with national development priorities, Vanuatu is working towards equitable development across the country to ensure better access and social development. Implementation of a Decentralisation Policy 2017-2027 aims to bring government closer to the people by providing citizens with greater control over decision-making processes and allowing their direct participation in public service delivery[xci].

- In a cabinet decision of 2017, Government endorsed Gender Responsive Budgeting. Cabinet also recognised that gender and women's empowerment be mainstreamed across ministries. The NGEP identifies reducing domestic and gender-based violence; enhancing women's economic empowerment; promoting women's leadership and equal political participation and building a foundation for gender mainstreaming as its four strategic priorities. This includes a policy of maintaining a quota system for women in municipal councils, ensuring gender balance and providing women leadership opportunities which may roll out into national legislative elections[xcii].

Questions (about 500 words per question 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d - *please attach paper and documents, as needed***):**

5. What steps has the Government taken to integrate the **vision and cross-cutting and interdependent 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 ☐=yes ☐=no	Explanation (please provide explanation on additional paper and attach relevant documentation)
People-centred	☒=yes ☐=no	
International cooperation	☒=yes ☐=no	
National sovereignty	☒=yes ☐=no	
Rule of law and due process	☐=yes ☐=no	
Sustainable development	☐=yes ☐=no	
Human rights	☒=yes ☐=no	
Gender-responsive	☐=yes ☐=no	
Child-sensitive	☐=yes ☐=no	
Whole-of-government approach	☐=yes ☐=no	
Whole-of-society approach	☐=yes ☐=no	

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?

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**.

As a participant to the IOM led Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCM-HS), the Government of Vanuatu has participated in series of national consultations with experts from Government, civil society and faith-based organisations, academia, the private sector, youth representatives and other stakeholders, and is currently an active member of the Regional Policy Dialogues (RPD) with senior minstrel stakeholders from across on the region. During the course of this project the Government of Vanuatu has noted that Objectives 2, 5 and 18 of priority:

Objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.

- The Government of Vanuatu has a strong focus on internal displacement given the country's exposure to sudden-onset hazards. In terms of the Government's positioning on climate change-climate justice, human rights and the issue of loss and damage are important topics. The government of Vanuatu is looking to further integrate migration and displacement into these areas of its work.

- In 2018, the Vanuatu Government launched its National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement which aims to help guide emergency and development planners to work together with the Vanuatu Government to address the needs of all communities affected by displacement, including people at-risk of displacement, displaced people, internal migrants, people living in informal settlements, and host communities.

Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

- In Vanuatu, data and evidence needs to support a clear connection between labour migration and climate change adaptation. Anecdotal evidence indicates that during the displacement from Ambae, families with RSE workers were able to use remittances to buy property in Santo and permanently move away from the risk of future volcanic eruptions.

- However, most of the labour migration from Vanuatu is driven by employment opportunities rather than climate change impacts. There are also sensitivities around viewing labour migration as climate change adaptation. Firstly, migrant workers continue to face difficult working conditions at times amounting to exploitation and abuse which calls for improved working conditions in order for labour migration to support adaptation. Secondly, recent statements highlighted that major emitters in the region potentially viewed labour migration as a means to reduce obligations of climate change action.

- The GoV is looking into option on how link labour migration to climate change adaptation was to include clauses in the contracts of seasonal workers to create an enabling environment for them to spend remittances and other resources on climate change adaptation. Programmes could also be put in place to raise awareness of seasonal workers so that they can channel funding to communities to adapt to climate change.

Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.

- Migration to and from Vanuatu is also attributed to access to education. Vanuatu participates in international schemes with common qualification frameworks. The Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS) was developed with the expectation that if a course is included in the Register it will be recognized across the region. In addition to the PRQS there is the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) which serves as a meta-framework for countries with no qualifications authority. These countries are able to benchmark their national qualifications to the PQF.

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?

- Through the Pacific Climate Change and Human Security Programme (PCCM-HS) led by IOM delivered through a partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and

Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the Government of Vanuatu has participated in series of national and regional policy dialogues. The Government of Vanuatu collaborated with regional countries exploring legal and policy gaps in order to develop an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster related-migration, displacement and planned relocation. To date four national consultations and one regional policy dialogue have taken place. The Government of Vanuatu has echoed its support for this regional cooperation as means towards delivering a regional approach towards setting up a platform for information exchange and learning from other countries and greater south-south capacity opportunities that will enhance the flow of information and fosters regional, including regional interagency, cooperation.

- The Government of Vanuatu has also convened discussions with the Government of Fiji and considered the option of initiating this discussion under the Melanesian Spearhead Group to better tackle the challenges of climate related migration and displacement in the region. The Government of Vanuatu is also looking to establish a litigation task force examining legal instruments for financial compensation in the context of climate change and seeking an advisory opinion from the ICJ to better understand the working modalities for climate justice. The key focal point for this in the Government of Vanuatu is the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Climate Change.

- Vanuatu had planned to host the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in 2020 with the theme "One blue pacific building a climate resilient future". The focus of the meeting will be on climate change, human rights and wellbeing which provides space for discussion on migration and displacement. The PIFS meeting will include three additional days for 'side events', which should provide an opportunity to present the programme outputs till date. The Framework on Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) will also be a focus of the PIFs meeting.

9. What **methodology** was adopted for completing this voluntary GCM review; 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?

Due to COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold which made landfall in Vanuatu on 6 April 2020, it has not been possible to undertake an extensive consultation process, although this is planned for future surveys. The survey was completed following desk-based research and key bilateral consultations with relevant government ministries and international organisations.

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?

- Vanuatu like other countries around the world has experienced the impact of COVID -19. Vanuatu closed it borders to international travel and restricted movement to and from the country. Following the NDMO's 'Instrument of Directions to Government Agencies relating to

COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold (Amendment) Order No. 77 of 2020' dated 23 May 2020 under the Disaster Risk Management Act, individuals approved by NDMO are able to be repatriated or travel to Vanuatu under strict conditions imposed by NDMO and the Ministry of Health. All returning citizens and residents arriving from countries with confirmed cases of COVID-19 were quarantined for 14 days at a government-designated hotel or facility.

- More specifically, the Government Vanuatu announced a USD 32 million stimulus package to support the country's economy (RNZ, 2020). This includes:
    Financial support
    - Department of Finance and Treasury reimbursing employers a part of the wages they pay to their workers;
    - Each employer must pay VT 30,000 for each eligible worker. In addition, employers will also receive another 12 per cent of payment for incentives as well as VNPF contributions;
    - Payments will be made in arrears for the four months from March to June 2020;
    - The Government will carry out a policy review of the stimulus Package at the end of June and any changes to the package will be announced;
    - Students to receive tuition fee exemption of VT 42,000 for 2020 academic year (Vanuatu Daily Post, 2020).

    Support for overseas Ni-Vanuatu

    - Vanuatu has commenced repatriation of its nationals who had been stranded in New Zealand. Fifty eight Vanuatu citizens returned home on 3 June 2020 on a New Zealand Air Force plane delivering supplies after TC Harold. Less than 10 of those who were repatriated on the first phase were RSE Workers;
    - Additionally, on 24 June 2020, over 1,500 citizens and residents were able to return to Vanuatu. Prime Minister Loughman advised Vanuatu's Parliament that over 1,000 of those repatriated were seasonal workers that were based in Australia and New Zealand;
    - All passengers underwent pre-departure screening prior to boarding, physical distancing was strictly enforced on-board and in accordance with government protocols, all passengers went into managed isolation on arrival in Port Vila[xciii].

- Further to this, in April 2020 TC Harold (a Category 5 cyclone) struck Vanuatu as the country was suffering from a steep decline in tourists due to border restrictions imposed by the government in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) concluded an estimated total loss and damages associated with TC Harold and COVID-19 at around US$ 525 million, which corresponds to approximately 54% of Vanuatu's GDP in 2020.
- In response to the combined challenges brought about by TC Harold and COVID-19 the Government of Vanuatu developed and published the 'Vanuatu Recovery Strategy 2020-2023 – T.C. Harold and COVID-19' which articulates the human social and economic impacts of the compound disaster. The Strategy outlines the Government of Vanuatu's recovery strategy in terms of seeking durable solutions for the displaced, restore and strengthen essential social services including travel and repatriation flights for labour migrants, enhance lives and livelihoods and repairs the natural and built environment.

END

Annex.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - Objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration (GA resolution 73/195)

1.	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2.	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3.	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4.	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5.	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6.	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7.	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8.	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9.	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10.	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11.	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12.	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13.	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14.	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15.	Provide access to basic services for migrants
16.	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17.	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18.	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19.	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20.	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21.	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22.	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23.	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

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[i] Rapid Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Labour Mobility in the Pacific Region, 2020.

[ii] https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/countryprofiles.asp

[iii] Rapid Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Labour Mobility in the Pacific Region, 2020.

[iv] Ibid, p.18

[v] Pacific Remittance Research Report (draft), 2020.

[vi] Rapid Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Labour Mobility in the Pacific Region, 2020.

[vii] https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/vanuatu_pdna_cyclone_pam_2015.pdf

[viii] https://migrationdataportal.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/MGI%20Vanuatu%20final.pdf

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