Working Group on Migration in the United Arab Emirates Terms of Reference

Background

On 10-11 December 2018, recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and determined to make an important contribution to enhanced cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, UN Member States adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). In this Declaration, Member States committed to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations that culminated in the adoption of the GCM by 165 UN Member States and formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly on the 19th of December 2018.[1]

The GCM is intended to set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. The GCM rests on international law, respects the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and is rooted in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To this end, the United Nations established a UN Network on Migration at the global level to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States. In carrying out its mandate, the Network will prioritize the rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit. It will place emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the UN will establish a Working Group on Migration as an internal coordination mechanism, designed to coordinate UN system-wide support to the Government of the UAE and relevant non-governmental stakeholders in the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM. The Working Group on Migration will seek to tailor its support to the Government of the UAE towards contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) vision in light of the decision of UAE at the UN General Assembly in December 2018 to vote in favour of the GCM.

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[1] A total of 152 UN Member States voted in favor of the GCM, five (5) voted against and 12 abstained through a vote.

Working Group on Migration in the UAE

The Working Group on Migration in the UAE will be launched in June 2020, and will work to coordinate UN agencies, both resident and non-resident. Other entities including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), and a range of other interested stakeholders such as the private sector, academia, employers and workers organizations in supporting the Government in implementing effectively the GCM in the UAE may be invited at a later stage depending on their relevance to the issues being discussed. Whilst being tailored to local needs and priorities, the terms of reference (ToRs) of the Working Group on Migration in the UAE are fully aligned with the global UN Network on Migration ToRs.

Objectives:

1. Identify priority areas for joint programming (delivering as one UN), including but not limited to joint research and capacity building programming to support implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, advance migration -related initiatives/discourses;

2. Ensure operational coordination and synergies on key issues, such as, *inter alia*, counter-trafficking in human beings, migration and development, labour migration of migrant workers including domestic workers and their protection, health of migrant workers including reproductive health and rights, policy and legislation on admission and treatment of migrant workers, etc.;

3. Periodically share updates about programme delivery and identify impediments for the UNCT to address with the relevant ministries of the Government of the UAE;

4. Provide technical support to the UN Network on Migration at the global and regional levels by developing policy briefs, policy papers, action plans, etc.;

5. Explore possibilities of coordination with relevant stakeholders for joint advocacy and effective service delivery;

6. Mobilize funds and resources to enable joint programming and synergies between the members of the group.

7. Foster the civil society engagement in the areas related to migration under the established Working Group on Migration in the spirit of whole-of-society approach.

Chair, Membership & Frequency of Meetings

Co-Chairs:

The Co-Chairs for the UN Interagency Working Group will be discussed and endorsed by the UN Core UNCT members. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for coordinating the work and key administrative and operational functions of the group. The network will fully draw from the technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the United Nations system.

Coordinator and Secretariat: In line with the global ToRs of the UN Network on Migration, IOM will serve as one of the Co-Chairs and the overall Coordinator and Secretariat of all constituent parts of the IAWG work that aligns to objectives of the Network. Any decision taken by the IAWG will need to receive full consensus from all members.

Members:

Membership to the IAWG will be determined upon agency nominations from membership of the agencies of the UN Country Team.

All UN agencies that are interested may participate in the working group meetings of the Working Group on Migration in the UAE. They are invited by the RC Office to appoint a focal point and an alternate to attend these working group meetings. Government officials from relevant ministries are invited to participate as guest speakers on a periodic basis to ensure the alignment of the Working Group on Migration with the Government priorities and to support the exchange of information. International development partners such academia, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media can participate upon invitation and consultation with IAWG members.

Participation Level: Representatives/Deputies/Senior Programme Managers/Focal Points and/or Specialists.

Meeting Frequency: bi-monthly and as needed. **Work Plan & Reporting**

The IAWG will prepare an annual workplan establishing specific deliverables to be shared with the UNCT.

The IAWG will report on its progress and activities to the Resident Coordinator as well as to Heads of Agencies through the Chair bi-annually.

The IAWG will provide contributions for the UNCT Annual Coordination Framework report as requested by RCO.

Validity and Amendments

These Terms of Reference are effective as soon as approved and remain operational until terminated by agreement of the UNCT. They will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

This Terms of Reference may be amended or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the Inter-Agency Working Group members and submission to the UNCT for review and endorsement. UNCT.