

The first regional review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab World

First- Methodology - the answer should not exceed (500 words)

Description of the methodology followed for the establishment of the Global Compact's National Review:

(a) Did you put in place a mechanism in order to coordinate the review? Which entities are represented in the review coordination? Does a specific entity preside over this mechanism?

The Inter-Ministerial Committee in charge of the monitoring and the study of migration issues chaired by the Ministry of Interior, local authorities and urban development, is the mechanism dedicated to monitoring the progress of this process in coordination with all relevant ministerial sectors, agencies and national institutions, including local authorities such as Wilayas.

(b) If you had not put in place a specific mechanism, then who was the responsible for the review?

(c) Which government's entities participated in the review operation?

All members of the inter-ministerial commission responsible for monitoring and studying the migration issue and the relevant national bodies and institutions have participated in the event.

(d) Have you consulted with local authorities in the review process (such as municipalities and districts)?

Coordination and consultation about all migration issues is conducted in coordination with local authorities (Wilayas and districts) including local Commissions, considered to be the extension of the Central Committee in charge of migration issues.

(e) Have you worked with various intergovernmental stakeholders (such as the private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, academia, migrant communities, and so on)? If the answer is Yes, who did you work with, and how?

The migration file is carefully protected by the public authorities at various central and local levels with the contribution of social partners including the Algerian Red Crescent.

(f) Which data were available for the review procedure? and what were the difficulties you faced in accessing these data?

Our country has operational mechanisms that allows the exchange of information between different sectors involved in the management of migration issues, including statistics on legal migrants. As for illegal migrants, our country is facing difficulties in the provision of data on migrants who do not have official documents confirming their identity.

(g) Have you been able to review all the objectives, or have you chosen to focus on specific objectives that you consider to be a priority in your country? and why is it a priority?

As part of our country's full commitment to its reservations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including the non-discrimination between illegal and legal migrants, the objectives of the Global Migration Compact, which corresponds to Algeria's priorities, internal context and capacity to implement the Pact, have been reviewed.

(h) Have you received the support of the United Nations country teams and/or the UN migration network in preparation of the international review of the Global Compact?

This support consisted in the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, being the point of contact, to the Capacity Building workshop to enhance the capacity and support member states in the preparation of national review reports on their implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab World, which took place from the remote visual conference mechanism on 13 August 2020.

Secondly- General policy and favorable environment - the answer should not exceed (1500 words)

(a) Has the government cooperated with the various stakeholders in implementing the Global Compact (e.g. the development of migration-related policies, or the design and implementation of migration-related projects, or the encouragement of dialogue among the many stakeholders, and so on)? If the answer is Yes, it is requested to specify the participating stakeholders (such as recruitment agencies and migrant organizations...)?

At the global level, Algeria's foreign policy is based on the conclusion of bilateral agreements and the creation of bilateral border commissions for managing migration issues, particularly with regard to the displacement of persons, their residences, their reintegration, the confirmation of identity and the application of legal procedures.

Algeria was the first through its various institutions to raise awareness and support partners at the regional level, particularly neighboring countries, to unite efforts and coordination in the fight against illegal migration and transnational border crimes in all its forms.

And with the International Organization for Migration, Algeria has developed a set of good practices, notably to support the voluntary repatriation program of illegal migrants by air to their countries of origin, and to facilitate the organization of field visits.

Algeria is also seeking in-depth solutions to the phenomenon of illegal migration in full respect of human rights while introducing legal procedures, in accordance with international laws, as well as maintaining stability, security and border protection. Our country is also taking action through a comprehensive approach aimed at addressing the root causes of this phenomenon (conflicts, crises, poverty, etc.).

(b) Has the government integrated the implementation of the global pact into the implementation of the sustainable development operation goals and other related operations? if so, how?

Algeria is working to achieve the sustainable development goals that are consistent with the Global Compact objectives, in particular those relating to the elimination of forms of under-development, poverty, negative factors and structural issues that drive people to leave their countries of origin.

This work focuses on helping countries of origin and transit countries for illegal migrants by setting up development programs and cooperating with several countries, especially in the Sahel region, for the sake of achieving structured and sustainable projects and investments aiming at strengthening economic growth and creating job opportunities, such as opening border crossings , the Trans-Saharan Highway, the Gas Pipeline, the Fiber-optic Line between Algeria and Nigeria, as well as the promotion of environmental trade through the validation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Convention in December 2019, water resources, agriculture and human subsidies.

(c) What are the migration-related policies that have been put in place since the adoption of the global pact in December 2018? Have you reformed the existing policies in line with

the global pact? Please indicate the titles and dates of these policies. And what are the difficulties and obstacles you encountered during the process of setting up or reforming them? Have you adopted specific policies targeting migrants under the Covid-19 pandemic?

Despite its reservations to the Global Compact, Algeria is making considerable efforts to improve the entry, residence, displacement and exit mechanisms of migrants legally residing in the country, within the framework of compliance with the legislations and regulations in force in this area. In line with national and international developments, through the granting of multiple facilitations for foreign nationals wishing to enter, reside or move within the country legally, including:

- Putting in place an appropriate regulatory framework in 2019, that enables foreigners who present themselves at border crossings without a consular visa from benefiting of a 'Regularization visa', especially for foreigners coming from countries that do not have Algerian diplomatic or consular representatives, in humanitarian situations ... (For more information, please visit the official electronic website of the Ministry of Interior and Local Government and Urban Development).
- The establishment of a regulatory framework in 2019 that sets out the conditions and modalities of the extension of the visa or residence on the national territory for the benefit of foreigners for humanitarian and family reasons, or urgent and unexpected professional reasons, especially in cases of force majeure.
- The possibility of benefiting the foreigner who wishes to confirm his actual, usual and permanent residence on the resident card, valid for a period of two years (2).
- The possibility of benefiting the foreigner who has resided in Algeria permanently and legally for seven (7) years of a resident card valid for ten (10) years.
- The movement of a foreigner residing in the country in a regulatory manner freely within the framework of respecting the laws of the republic.

Algeria has taken exceptional and humanitarian measures for foreign nationals and migrants following the decision to suspend all air and marine travels and the closure of land borders. As a regulatory framework has been put in place for these foreigners to benefit, regardless of their identity, from the extension of their visa or residence or the automatic extension of their own foreign resident cards with the exemption from paying fees on this procedure and to consider them in a legal residency status until the situation goes back to normal. Furthermore, working foreign nationals have also benefited - as well as Algerian citizens - from paid

exceptional leave (about 50% of users) while favoring pregnant women who are in charge of raising their children, besides people with chronic diseases and those suffering from health vulnerability. As well as enabling migrants from having access to free treatment in Algerian health institutions. Algeria has also provided opportunities to transfer foreign nationals who are stranded in Algeria to their country of origin. In addition to the programming of three voluntary repatriation operations of illegal migrants in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration.

(d) Can you provide more information on policies and/or provisions that you have put in place or incorporated into a specific category of migrants such as migrant workers, migrant children, and migrants who have not obtained identification papers?

Children, women, and migrants receive great attention from the public authorities, as health and social care is provided from multidisciplinary teams. Furthermore, free health services are provided for all migrants without the need to request a document proving their identity or legal status. As more than one hundred thousand (100,000) illegal migrants have benefited so far from public health services; moreover, vaccination campaigns were also carried out for their children

(e) Did you have to adopt new policies or provisions as a result of migration dynamics or the relevant policies or provisions at the regional level?

Algeria has taken into account a number of measures relating to the flow of illegal migrants, including coordination and consultation with the neighboring countries to control the flow of migrants, the opening of border crossings to organize the movement of migrants, goods and merchandise, in addition to monitoring and updating applicable laws on this matter.

(f) Have you adopted any institutional reforms in response to the Global Compact (Have you created new institutions or mechanisms, or restructured the already existing institutions or mechanisms? and have you made any changes in work procedures?

Algeria is working on adapting the structure of current institutions and mechanisms in line with the migration issue, including the creation of the National Office of Migration, which will oversee the preparation of migration studies.

(g) Are there any related strategies, frameworks and implementation plans at the regional, sub-regional and inter-regional level? How did you contribute to their implementation? and what are the gaps and key challenges you have faced during the process of implementation?

It was agreed at the joint committees with the neighboring countries on the organization of periodic meetings between the Algerian “Walis” of the border provinces with their counterparts in Niger and Mali.

This neighborhood mechanism will help assess bilateral decisions and actions on issues and matters of mutual interest to both countries, including the issue of illegal immigration.

Third: Progress in achieving the Global Compact objectives (the answer should not exceed 2000 words).

a) Did your government set a plan for the implementation of the Global Compact? And what is the state of the implementation of the Global Compact's 23 goals?

In addition to Algeria's reservations, our country's policies are consistent with some of the objectives of this charter, including international cooperation against migrant smuggling networks, as well as the creation of a national committee to prevent and fight human trafficking.

Meetings were held as part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee action, responsible for the study and monitoring of the immigration file, with the aim of studying the Global Charter objectives.

b) What are the steps that have been taken by the government to integrate the Global Compact guiding principles into the framework of the immigration government and in the Global Compact implementation plans?

Algeria seeks to promote sustainable development with the neighboring countries in order to stabilize migrants in their countries of origin. The government has also designated a special development program for Algerian border regions to facilitate trade with neighboring countries.

c) What are the successes, challenges and gaps you face in achieving the Global Compact's goals? What are the potential risks you expect? And how can they be handled? Have you taken any measures to mitigate their impacts?

Please highlight trends, successes, challenges and emerging issues, including the extent of vulnerability to regional dynamics).

Our country faces various challenges including: organized cross-border crime, terrorism, human trafficking, drugs, illegal gold mining, population growth in neighboring countries, climate change and contagious diseases, especially under the influx of large numbers of migrants that would threaten safety and public health, as

well as converting Algeria into a destination country for illegal migrants instead of a transit region.

(illegible): and especially those addressed to migrants that are most at risk. The information should be based on statistical and qualitative data where appropriate.

Algeria mobilizes significant human, financial and material resources with the aim of sponsoring illegal migrants by providing them with free health and social services (More than one hundred thousand illegal migrant (100.000) have benefited from public health services. As vaccination operations have been carried out for their children).

Bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Niger has also provided assistance to more than forty thousand (40,000) suffering Nigerian migrants, including many women and children who have been sent back to their countries of origin with Algeria's own means, in conditions that preserve their human dignity.

Fourth-Means of Implementation (Answer should not exceed 500 words)

(a) How do you mobilize the means of implementation to ensure the achievement of the Global Compact's goals (such as allocating budgets, build partnerships, data collection and capacity building)?

An estimated annual budget of 1 billion Algerian dinars has been allocated to the Ministry of the Interior, local authorities and urban development budget to take care of migrants (residence, catering...)

(b) What difficulties did you encounter in mobilizing the means of implementation?

In view of the current global health and economic circumstances, Algeria, like the rest of the world, is experiencing difficulties in mobilizing the resources needed to deal with the migration problem, especially as a result of the worsening phenomenon of illegal migration in our country.

(c) What are the additional resources you need? and do you have a plan to mobilize them?

The resources currently available consist of the funding under the state budget to take care of illegal migrants. The International Organization for Migration also supports the voluntary repatriation of illegal migrants, in the hope of continuing this support in the future.

Fifth – Next steps (Answer should not exceed 500 words)

(a) Taking into account the results of this event, what areas do you consider to be a priority? and what steps do you intend to take to strengthen the Global Compact's implementation?

Algeria considers achieving sustainable development in countries of origin among the key priorities to reduce forms of illegal migration and eliminate criminal networks. As well as enhancing international cooperation upon enquiry and information exchange in the illegal migration combating field, stifling migrant trafficking networks and establishing effective mechanisms to help countries considered to be a source of migration, especially the poorest of them who are experiencing security conflicts in respect of each country's national sovereignty.

(b) How will the results of the review be published? And what are the additional measures that will be taken in the preparation of the first forum for the review of international migration in 2020?

Disclosure of the review's results to agencies and participation in the first safe, orderly and regular migration review forum.
