

TERMS OF REFERENCE

United Nations Network on Migration for Trinidad and Tobago (UNNM-TT)

Background

According to the World Migration Report 2022,¹ international migrants represent 3.6% of the world's population, reflecting a gradual increase over the last two decades. Owing to a multitude of push and pull factors which may be unique to regional and national contexts, governments, international organizations, civil society and other actors worldwide have recognized that migration is a feature of a globalised world. Migration can be a powerful driver of sustainable development for countries in countries of origin, transit and destination through remittances, the transfer of knowledge and skills, a strengthened labour force, innovation, cultural diversity, among others. However, as much as migration has an impact on development, migration is also affected by development or the lack thereof.

By nature, international migration is transnational and thus requires bilateral, regional, and global efforts to fortify data collection, analysis, and knowledge of migration to strengthen policies, frameworks, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted on 19 December 2018 by the General Assembly, recognising that no entity or state can solely address migration and that it requires effective dialogue and cooperation. Critically, the core principle underpinning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “leave no one behind,” which is indicative of the concept of inclusiveness for all. At least 10 of the SDGs² contain targets relevant to migration, with SDG goal 10.7 (Reduced inequalities)³ addressing migration governance.

With the adoption of the GCM, the United Nations established a Network on Migration (UNNM) with IOM as the Secretariat and Coordinator to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in the implementation, review and follow-up of the GCM.

¹ McAuliffe, M. and A. Triandafyllidou (eds.), 2021. *World Migration Report 2022*. IOM, Geneva. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022>. Accessed July 07, 2022.

² IOM. 2022. *Migration Data Portal*. Available at : <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/sdgs?node=0>

³ Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Migration in Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) situated in the Southern Caribbean and is positioned within 11 kilometres of the South American mainland. Trinidad and Tobago is considered to have strong ‘pull factors’ for migrants owing to its socio-economic and political stability, as well as its strategic geographical location. The multi-cultural country is categorised as having a high human development, with a value of 0.796 in 2019⁴ and is classed as a high-income country, largely owing to a historically robust oil and gas economy, with a current Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP) of over USD 28,000.⁵ In 2020, the estimated stock of international migrants within Trinidad and Tobago stood at 78,800.⁶ In particular, Trinidad and Tobago has witnessed an unprecedented influx of migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela since 2016, owing to the economic and political climate in that country, with significant concerns of exploitation of Venezuelans. Data also indicated that one-third of intra-Caribbean migrants resided in Trinidad and Tobago.⁷ The country is experiencing an aging population as well as emigration of skilled workers.⁸

The country is party to several legal instruments related to international migration, including the 2000 Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols; the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol regarding the Status of Refugees; and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Migration for Employment Convention, which were ratified in 2007, 2000 and 1962 respectively. Trinidad and Tobago also signed on to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) in 2001. Additionally, there was participation by the country at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in December 2018.

Trinidad and Tobago is guided by the Vision 2030 National Development Strategy⁹ which is in alignment with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Social and population matters are captured within the ambit of the National Development Strategy, with recognition of the importance of demographic drivers such as migration, to the determination of national policies especially related to health care, education, housing, labour, pensions, diaspora and social security. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has expressed concern about irregular migration through its borders and population pressures in relation to trafficking, resource scarcity and environmental degradation.

⁶ IOM. 2022. *Migration Data Portal*. Available at: https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?i=stock_abs &t=2020. Accessed July 07, 2022.

⁷ IOM. 2022. *Trinidad and Tobago*. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/countries/trinidad-and-tobago#:~:text=The%20%E2%80%9Cpull%E2%80%9D%20factor%20is%20therefore,to%20North%20America%20and%20Europe>. Accessed July 08, 2022.

⁸ Government of Trinidad and Tobago. 2016. *National Development Strategy (2016 – 2030): Vision 2030*. Available at: <https://www.planning.gov.tt/content/vision-2030>. Accessed July 07, 2022.

⁹ [National Development Strategy: Vision 2030 | Trinidad and Tobago Government News](#)

Given the national context and understanding of the need for international cooperation, dialogue and robust migration-relation policies, a United Nations Network on Migration for Trinidad and Tobago (UNNM-TT) is established. The UNNM-TT is grounded in a Terms of Reference (ToR) in order to support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in consideration of the implementation of the GCM while simultaneously achieving the broader objectives of its National Development Strategy and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Working Principles

Implementation of Network activities will be guided by the following working principles:

- **Accountability:** The Network and its members have the responsibility to implement their decisions as agreed and will be accountable to the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), and UNCT;
- **Human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach:** The Network will uphold and advocate the laws and principles for the respect, protection, and fulfilment of the human and labour rights of all migrants. In particular the Network will aim for gender responsive and child-sensitive approaches to mitigate the impact of exploitative practices that put women and children in vulnerable situations in their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination countries;
- **Rights-based approach to labour migration:** The Network will promote migrant workers' right to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity
- **Coherence:** The Network will draw from the mandate, technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the UNCT in supporting GCM implementation and promoting the overall coherence of the UN's work on migration;
- **Environmental sustainability, climate change awareness and mitigation against natural hazards and disasters:** The Network will support and advocate for environmental sustainability and climate change awareness and measures to mitigate against the impact of natural hazards and disasters;
- **Unity of purpose:** All members of the Network will be jointly committed to its success, placing emphasis on the added value of their coordinated work and of collaborating to achieve common goals;
- **Efficiency:** The Network will be fully aligned with existing UN System coordination mechanisms and will adopt a streamlined and efficient approach in all its activities;
- **Inclusivity:** The Network, in its own working methods and in engaging others, will operate in an inclusive, systematic, predictable, and transparent manner;
- **Results-oriented:** The Network, through its annual workplan, will focus on supporting the progress of Trinidad and Tobago towards achieving implementation of the GCM;

- **Agility:** The Network will regularly review – both formally and informally – and where necessary recalibrate its methods and the focus of its work to ensure its impact is maximized; and
- **Confidentiality and data protection:** The Network will uphold the principles of confidentiality and data protection in its interventions.

UNNM-TT - Objectives

The UNNM-TT will be established to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, to implement the objectives of the GCM. The UNNM-TT seeks to ensure effective coordination between the UNNM-TT members in implementing the GCM, United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) and national migration-related priorities. Whereas the TOR on the UNNM-TT is adapted to local needs and priorities, there will be alignment with the Work Plan of the Global Network.

Overall objective:

- Ensure effective, timely and coordinated support by the United Nations to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in its implementation, monitoring, and review of the GCM.

Specific objectives:

1. Support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the implementation of the relevant GCM objectives and the national migration framework in alignment with the UNMSDCF and the Sustainable Development Agenda:
 - Hold national consultations with State actors in Trinidad and Tobago on migration-related issues to identify priorities, limitations, and opportunities for well-managed migration;
 - Hold consultations with civil society and other non-state actors to identify areas of collaboration and cooperation;
 - Promote the application of international and regional standards relating to migration and the protection of human rights of migrants;
 - Facilitate joint interventions and collaboration among the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other identified stakeholders in the implementation of migration-related work in achieving the SDGs and in alignment with the UNMSDCF;
 - Support coherent action by the UN Country Team (UNCT), including coordination and linkage with regional and global initiatives in support of GCM implementation as well as preparation towards a GCM National Implementation Plan subsequent to the Government's endorsement;
2. Implement capacity-building activities that support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the UNCT, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders in strengthening the approach to migration within the country:

- Assist with the identification, analysis and mitigation of weaknesses and gaps in organizations which conduct migration-related work in the country as well as building upon identified strengths;
 - Organise and implement capacity-building training and workshops in relation to migration-related work and national implementation plans;
 - Enhance migration data collection, analysis and dissemination through capacity building and other identified means.
3. Ensure a comprehensive understanding of the evolving migration dynamics and provide leadership for a coordinated and collaborative approach to action on migration in Trinidad and Tobago:
- Share data, information and updates on key trends, emerging migration issues and relevant work plans and activities among the UNNM-TT and any other relevant stakeholders;
 - Speak with one voice, when necessary, in accordance with the mandates of the UN system entities;
 - Enhance coordination with other activities of the UN (led by other UN agencies) that are working with migration issues.
 - Ensure collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms, including but not limited to the R4V Platform, and results groups within the United Nations Country Team that address migration-related issues, actively seeking synergies and avoiding duplication.
 - Facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills related to migration among the UNNM-TT members through developed mechanisms.

UNNM-TT Composition and membership

- Chair: Resident Coordinator
- Deputy Chair, Coordinator and Secretariat: IOM Trinidad and Tobago Mission (in line with the designation of IOM by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the global UN Network on Migration).
- Members: UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), FAO, IOM, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNECLAC, UN WOMEN, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC, WFP, PAHO/WHO and other interested UN Agencies. Each agency should designate a representative to attend the meetings and/or oversee the conduct of any associated technical work.
- Civil society, including migrants, religious organizations, public institutions, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, academia, the media, local and municipal governments, and other stakeholders will also be invited to meetings to promote the exchange of information and ensure there is a whole-of-society approach.

UNNM-TT – Coordination and Organizational Arrangements

The Network will be chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, with IOM Trinidad and Tobago serving as the deputy chair. As Deputy Chair, Coordinator and Secretariat, IOM TT, will be responsible for servicing the work of the UNNM TT, in close coordination with the UNCT members, regarding the following:

- Coordinate meetings and draft and disseminate the relevant meeting minutes
- Promote collaboration and consensus among the members of the Network in all aspects of its operation and work, ensuring effective collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms.
- Prepare an annual work plan in line with the priorities of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to support the implementation of the GCM.
- Work with Network members to identify priorities and opportunities for action.
- Identify synergies between existing programmes and develop joint proposals and search for co-operators in support of the priorities identified by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the implementation of the objectives of the GCM.

Working modality

- The UNNM-TT would be guided by the GCM, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the UNMSDCF and in consideration of national context and priorities.
- The UNNM-TT would endeavour to meet quarterly, or as convened by the Network members and as often as necessary to fulfil its responsibilities.
- The UNNM-TT would meet as needed with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and other stakeholders.
- Members of the UNNM-TT would contribute to the design and implementation of its activities, provide advice on strategic direction, and share knowledge about their migration-related work. The members of the Network would also promote cooperation and cohesiveness on migration-related activities with the UNCT.
- The UNNM-TT would take all decisions by quorum of five (5) agencies and in full respect of the mandates of the UNNM-TT members. The ToR of the UNNM-TT are to be reviewed and revised on an annual basis by the UNNM-TT members.

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