



STATE MIGRATION SERVICE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



АЛМАТИНСКИЙ ПРОЦЕСС
ALMATY PROCESS

**GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION (GCM)
TALK ON**

**CAPITALISING ON HUMAN MOBILITY FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND
THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETIES**

FOLLOWING THE 8TH SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (SOM) OF THE ALMATY PROCESS

**12 October 2023
4:15 PM (GMT +04:00)
Baku, Azerbaijan**

HYBRID

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CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

Migration is a complex phenomenon and a global reality, which involves all countries alike. There are an estimated 281 million international migrants worldwide, and the majority of these migrants move between countries in a safe, orderly, and regular manner, in search of labour, education or development opportunities.

Human mobility trends are increasingly complex, driven and impacted by major global transformations. Time and again, around the world people on the move have revitalised and brought development gains to sectors and areas that policy sometimes struggles to reach. Managed well, mobility can be a cornerstone of sustainable development, prosperity, and progress; it can benefit communities of origin and destination, as migration is linked to innovation and entrepreneurship, investment and other mechanisms for progress. Labour migration continues to be a crucial component of human mobility.

In 2021 migrant workers accounted for 169 million migrants and for an estimated 5 per cent of the global workforce, and mobility is expected to continue growing in the foreseeable future. Demographic changes, as well as increased outflows of skilled migrants, will continue to have an impact on the importance of promoting labour migration to fill skill gaps and prevent the stagnation of economic growth in domestic and regional labour markets. For countries of origin labour migration reduces the stress of national unemployment or underemployment, and contributes to development through remittances, transfer of skills, and the creation of business and trade networks. These impacts are realised through different mechanisms, for example as migrants transfer knowledge, skills, or money – in 2022, estimated remittances sent to low and middle-income countries were USD 647 billion. For countries of destination, labour migration helps address critical labour shortages, especially within the context of ageing populations and changing labour demographics. For example, studies show that every additional 1% of immigration could boost GDP growth in destination countries by 2%, and eliminating mobility restrictions could increase world GDP by 11.5-12.5%. Finally, migrants stand to benefit themselves, as mobility provides opportunities to raise income levels, gain skills and competencies, and improve living conditions for their families and communities.

Globally, only 30% of 144 Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on migration include social security provisions. Due to different restrictions, many migrants have no access to social protection, and even if migrants are entitled to social protection or health coverage, in practice take-up can be low given practical, administrative or other barriers. Adjusting social protection to serve migrants can help reduce poverty, improve health and education outcomes, boost integration and is linked to greater social inclusion and cohesion.

The adoption of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#), the most comprehensive framework for cooperation on international migration, Member States expressed their commitment to enhancing regular pathways and ensuring the full integration of migrants through GCM objectives 5¹ and 16².

At the [GCM Regional Reviews in 2020](#), Member States stressed the need for more inclusive labour markets and full participation of migrant workers in the formal economy as

¹ Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

² Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.



ensured through access to decent work and employment for which they are most qualified, in accordance with national labour market demands and skills supply.³ Further, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to boosting qualification recognition, and post-arrival programmes to facilitate integration and enable both labour market inclusion and broader social integration, empowering migrants, employers, and civil society to actively contribute to more inclusive and cohesive societies.

Member States reaffirmed and strengthened their commitment to GCM objective 5 through the [Progress Declaration](#), adopted at the [International Migration Review Forum in May 2022](#), including by working coherently across relevant multilateral forums, concluding labour mobility agreements, optimizing education opportunities, and facilitating family reunification procedures.⁴

Rooted in SDGs 4⁵, 8⁶ and 10⁷ and expressly called for in GCM objective 18⁸, [skills mobility partnerships](#) offer a tool that is centred around worker's skills formation and development, while placing special emphasis on multi-stakeholder collaboration. As part of a prospective approach, cooperation mechanisms such as Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMP) and Bilateral Labour Mobility Agreements (BLMA) can support Member States to address both current and future labour market needs, increasing cooperation between governments and other stakeholders, and contributing to better labour market and development outcomes in both countries of origin and destination. When included as part of labour migration pathways, these partnerships provide effective skills-matching mechanisms, skills classification and recognition procedures, long- and mid-term planning mechanisms, cost reduction and other benefits to governments, employers, and workers, including but not limited to safe and ethical recruitment practices and contribute to country of origins' development through remittances. Ensuring the integration of labour migrants in their country of destination, as well as ensuring their reintegration upon return, is paramount for their contribution to societies.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in its capacity of GCM Champion country with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its capacity as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, will host a hybrid ["GCM Talk"](#) back-to-back with the AP SOM. The Talk will be attended in person by Member and Observer States of the Almaty Process, and open to join online for all Member States of the United Nations as well as relevant non-governmental stakeholders and Country UN Networks on Migration to discuss and exchange good practices on enhancing cooperation around labour migration, and how capitalising and managing the phenomenon well has the potential to increase regional and global cooperation.

[CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE OF THE DISCUSSION:](#)

In line with the priorities set by the Azerbaijani Chairmanship of the Almaty Process for 2023-2024, which, inter alia, sets out to maximize the potential of migration for regional development policies, and with the objective to inform the work of the UN Network on Migration's [workstream titled "Enhancing pathways for regular migration through BLMA"](#), the goals of the subsequent GCM Talk are to:

³ [Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Report, 12-13 November 2020.](#)

⁴ [Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, 7 June 2022.](#)

⁵ Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

⁶ Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

⁷ Reduce inequality within and among countries.

⁸ Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.



- Engage in a cross-regional consultations and peer-learning exchange on how best to implement specific aspects of the GCM pertaining to options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, as well how to enhance labour migrants' sustainable integration and reintegration;
- Bring and promote new perspectives to cooperation on migration;
- Create a platform for dialogue with relevant national partners, stakeholders and national Networks on Migration for peer learning, sharing experience, and bringing new perspectives to international cooperation on migration;
- Discuss and explore ways to strengthen whole-of-government, whole-of-society and whole-of-UN approaches to the benefit of migrants and their family members with the 360-degree vision of the GCM and its objectives and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Create opportunities for peer learning exchange; initiating [pledges](#) and identifying practices for inclusion on the [Migration Network Hub](#) and formulation of recommendations.

OUTCOMES:


For what concerns the GCM Talk, a summary report will be issued to inform and support Member States and other stakeholders in their GCM implementation efforts. Practices presented during the event can be considered for inclusion on the [Migration Network Hub](#). Furthermore, these discussions will inform the work of United Nations Network on Migration's [workstream titled "Enhancing pathways for regular migration through BLMA"](#). At the regional level, this discussion will support the preparations for the GCM Regional Reviews planned in 2024.

PARTICIPATION:

The GCM Talk will be attended by representatives of the Almaty Process Member, Observer and invited States in person, and with extended participation of partners and senior representatives from non-governmental stakeholders who will also be invited to participate online in a hybrid manner. An outcome report will be issued after the GCM Talk to inform and support Member States and stakeholders in their implementation efforts.



AGENDA

09:00 – 16:00	8th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Almaty Process
GCM TALK: CAPITALISING ON HUMAN MOBILITY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SOCIETIES	
<p style="text-align: center;">Join Zoom Meeting REGISTER HERE or scan the following QR code</p> 	
16:15- 16:30	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head, State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vusal HUSEYNOV (TBC) • Deputy Head, UN Network on Migration Secretariat, Amy Emel MUEDIN • Chief of Mission, IOM Azerbaijan, Amr TAHA
16:30 – 16:50	<p>UN Migration Network Support Tools, guidance and initiatives to support governments and stakeholders in GCM implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head, IOM International Migration Law Unit, Vassiliy YUZHANIN
16:50 – 17:00	<p>Setting the scene for the interactive panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Regional Labour Mobility & Social Inclusion Specialist, Jason THEEDE
17:00 – 18:00	<p>Short presentations and exchanges by participating governments on good examples and challenges in the improvement of cooperation around human mobility and labour mobility, including how ensuring the successful integration of migrants contributes to filling skills gaps and maintaining economic growth.</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Tajikistan • Republic of Türkiye <p>Observers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islamic Republic of Iran • Italy



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan • Turkmenistan • Organization of Turkic States • Uzbekistan* <p>As well as online interventions from the floor from all Member States of the United Nations as well as relevant non-governmental stakeholders and Country UN Networks on Migration.</p> <p>Moderator: Senior Regional Labour Mobility & Social Inclusion Specialist, Jason THEEDE</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the current labour market dynamics in your countries, unemployment and how do Gov/Business consider demographics and labour market realities so skills identified and integrated into key sectors? Do you have the needed skills, workforce to allow for economic growth and productivity across the sectors of the economy? 2. Do you consider labour migration as an effective tool to assist with sourcing skills or as a tool to counter unemployment or have other perspectives? 3. What successful and or effective labour mobility schemes are utilized by Countries of Origin/ Countries of Destination? Who is involved in the process? Gov sectors at varying levels, private sector/employer orgs, trade unions, academia, multilateral partners, others? Do you take a whole of Gov/Society approach? 4. Have you established any BLMA? Do you see value in such cooperation mechanisms at bilateral or sub-regional level? 5. What is your perspective of diaspora engagement and how this is contributory to labour mobility and another dimension in supporting socioeconomic development in your country?
18:00 – 18:10	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head, State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vusal HUSEYNOV (TBC)