National Voluntary Review Report on implementation of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's road to IMRF 2022

Updated on April 2022

Abbreviations	
API	Advanced Passenger Information
BP	British Petroleum
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CSO	Civil Society Organization
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
EU	European Union
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
M-MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PU	Public Union
PC	Public Council
PGA	President of General Assembly
PRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
PNR	Passenger Name Records
RA	Republic of Azerbaijan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMS	State Migration Service
UN	United Nations
UN CT	UN Country Team
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission of Europe
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNNM	United Nations Network on Migration
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Content

1. **Introduction…….....4-5**

2. **Methodology for preparing the voluntary GCM Review…….....6**

3. **Policy and enabling environment…….....6**

4. **Progress on GCM objectives……7-18**

5. **The impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on governance of migration in Azerbaijan…….19-22**

6. **Azerbaijan's road to IMRF 2022…….....22-24**

7. **Means of implementation and next steps……...25-26**

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Azerbaijan is located on the crossroad of Europe and Asia with ancient historical background and multi-ethnic demographic structure of its population. Due to that particular factor Azerbaijan gets affected from political, economic and social dimensions and mobility of population in the region. The migration routes in the region mainly passes through Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is the member of United Nations (UN) since 1992 and marks 30th anniversary of its cooperation with UN in 2022. The membership in UN opened floor for Azerbaijan to engage in different specialized agencies of UN which are mandated to support different angles of governance, at the same time Azerbaijan gained possibility to join different global documents guiding different policy and regulation methods.

IOM's presence in Azerbaijan dates back to 1996 with the establishment of the IOM Baku office in January. In August 2006, IOM's sub-office in the country was opened in Mingachevir. The sub-office in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic operated from 1998 to 2011. On 8 December 1999, the Agreement establishing the legal basis for further cooperation between IOM and the Republic of Azerbaijan in handling migration issues was signed. Following the Agreement's ratification by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 8 February 2000, the Council of IOM, at its 81st Session in Geneva, accepted Azerbaijan as an IOM Member State on 7 June 2001.[1]

With the changing human mobility dimension – both internal and external, the Government of Azerbaijan has framed its migration policy with adoption of "State Migration Policy Conception" of 2004[2]; and building on this, the Government launched for the first time a specific "State Migration Program of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2006-2008)" and adopted it in 2006 to address the multifaceted aspects of international migration.

The necessity of improvement of migration management caused in establishment of unified Government Agency, State Migration Service in 2007 to manage, regulate and control migration processes in Azerbaijan. During 15 years of migration governance experience the SMS prioritized the improvement of legislative baseline through adoption and improvement of Migration Code, [3]application of innovative methods in regulation of migration processes and compliance with international instruments and standards.

The outcome of the cooperation of IOM Mission in Azerbaijan with the State Migration Service in the framework of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in recent years has resulted in development of substantial policy and legislative reforms on migration, Azerbaijan's integration into UN structures engaged in migration management, as well as fostering capacity-building activities. Consequently, Azerbaijan, with extensive expert support from IOM Mission,

[1] https://azerbaijan.iom.int/
[2] http://www.e-qanun.az/framework/6306
[3] http://e-qanun.az/framework/46959

launched the process of development of a first ever Migration Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan which outlines for the next five years the major strategic visions on migration governance in the country in compliance with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and relevant international legal frameworks. Despite the delay caused by the 44-day Patriotic War in 2020, and liberation of Azerbaijani lands from occupation of Armenia, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, at the beginning of 2022 the draft Strategy entered its final stage of preparation and is awaiting final confirmation.

Azerbaijan has received support and guidance from the UN Network on Migration (UNNM), which was established in May 2018 to ensure effective, coordinated system-wide support to the implementation of GCM, during the preparation of Regional Review Report on implementation of GCM in 2020 and current Review Report on the eve of the first International Migration Review Forum 2022.

In December 2019, United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Azerbaijan decided to establish United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM) to support and contribute to effective migration management and protection of human rights of migrants in Azerbaijan. The UNNM for Azerbaijan was established in July 2020 in cooperation with relevant governmental, international, civil, private, and other entities engaged in migration. The UNNM for Azerbaijan aims to foster implementation of objectives set forth in GCM and advocate the further progress with draft Migration Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Methodology for preparing the voluntary GCM Review

The current report has been drafted based on Regional Review Report prepared and submitted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2020. Azerbaijan has followed the guidance and used the template recommended by UNNM Secretariat during the Regional review and voluntarily submitted the review results. The report has been appraised by GCM Team as it was reflecting the developments on each GCM objective which was useful in terms of observing the progress over 23 GCM objectives separately. During the global review Azerbaijan followed the same template and added information on application of ten guiding principles of GCM as well.

The feeding information has been consolidated from the sources and records of State Migration Service and other related state agencies involved in migration issues, as well as informal interview notes from Public Council under SMS, some other civil society organizations which are indirectly involved in migration related issues and finally, one representative from academia and migrant community.

Therefore, Azerbaijani Government is persuaded that any effort towards, promotion and upholding of GCM objectives and principles should be evaluated as successful progress towards its implementation. The adaption of the document in local policy framework will in maximum level lead to its proper realization.

Policy and enabling environment

Azerbaijan is among the first countries in the world that has undertaken such a comprehensive and inclusive process, demonstrating a deep understanding of the relevance of migration in the 21st century.

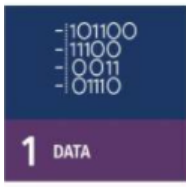
Azerbaijan has developed its progressive model on migration management over the last 30 years. With this vast experience and commitment to development of national migration management, the Government of Azerbaijan continues to engage in global migration governance. The migration policy framework in Azerbaijan was already prioritized since the establishment of unified Government agency and Migration Code which solidified the legislative baseline.

Even during the national consultations conducted in 2017 for supporting the GCM development the agenda was attractive to all stakeholders. They were actively involved in discussions and came up with consolidated inputs which at the end were reflected in final GCM document.

Azerbaijan highly sees the GCM implementation as adjunct process for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and recognizes the interlinkages between them. With the SDGs, migration has for the first time been inserted into mainstream development policy.

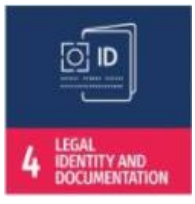
Progress on GCM objectives

Since the last submission of the review in 2020, Azerbaijan's priority has been the alignment of national migration policy and practices with the key principles and objectives of the GCM. The draft Migration Strategy developed by the State Migration Service with the support of IOM Azerbaijan, is envisaged to serve as a road map in effective management of migration in the country, establishing and improving relevant policies providing protection of migrants' human rights, as well as implementation of the 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles laid down in the GCM. The document covers a number of strategic priorities including but not limited to simplification of legal migration procedures, prevention of irregular migration, development of protection systems for vulnerable group, use of development perspectives of migration, institutional development in the field of migration, migration management in crisis situations. Concurrently, these visions have been developed in adherence to existing international legal and policy frameworks, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



In alignment with the GCM Objective on collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data for developing evidence-based policies all relevant data on foreigners and stateless persons temporary staying, working and residing in Azerbaijan is stored in the **Unified Migration Information System (UMIS)** established by SMS. To comply with the Guiding Principle set forward in the GCM regarding the enhancement of collaboration across all sectors and levels of government responsible for migration data, SMS regularly and closely cooperates with the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan.

The Migration Profile with comprehensive data analysis is being developed since the end of 2021 covering the 2013-2021 (the first ten months) which is believed to provide broader picture on the processes of immigration, emigration, return and internal migration, as well as the relationship between migration and human development (economic and social development, employment, health), and will feed the next stages of policy formulations and foster any positive adjustments. Work on the preparation of the National Migration Profile of the Republic of Azerbaijan is nearing completion.



Relevant measures are underway for successful implementation of the pledges made by Azerbaijan during High-Level Segment on Statelessness. In this regard, necessary measures such as public awareness campaigns, on-spot documentation through mobile service have been taken to detect and engage stateless persons registered in the country to the process of naturalization. In result the issue of 442 of 838 stateless persons residing in Azerbaijan was resolved. In order to achieve full result in eliminating statelessness the awareness activities are continued with remaining 396 persons. Moreover, in order to reduce and prevent statelessness in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as to raise awareness in this direction, a "Working Group on Statelessness" was established with participation of different stakeholders and is coordinated by the State Migration Service. Meetings of the Working Group were held on September 22, 2020 and July 16, 2021 in order to identify stateless persons in the country, register and document them, as well as raise awareness about the issue.

Furthermore, a large-scale information campaign is being carried out by SMS to legalize the residence of foreigners and stateless persons living in the country without relevant permits. Taking into account the requirements of the special quarantine regime applied in Azerbaijan, the application of administrative expulsion to foreigners violating the requirements of migration legislation, without documents giving the right to long-term stay or residence permit, was halted. In this regard, the State Migration Service intends to continue to take appropriate measures to encourage foreigners living in the country without relevant permits to apply to the regional migration departments to legalize their residence.

Regarding the whole-of-society approach, promoting close participation of relevant stakeholders in migration management in Azerbaijan the **Public Council** has been established under SMS currently consisting of 9 non-governmental organizations. A number of innovative proposals made by the Public Council with the purpose of protection of rights of foreigners and stateless persons in the country, better protection of their legal interests, regulation and enhancement of migration processes in terms of significance of regular improvement of the normative legal acts in line with the development of society were taken into consideration by SMS. Furthermore, Azerbaijani language courses for refugees and asylum seekers were organized, as well as humanitarian and medical aid was delivered to refugee families through the Public Council under SMS. The Public Council regularly holds meetings with the migrants, conducts their receptions, receives their suggestions, listens to their problems and solves their complaints in collaboration with SMS. The Public Council supports the activity of SMS towards

raising awareness of foreigners and stateless persons about the existing legislative acts in the field of migration, its requirements and amendments to the legislation, as well. At the same time, the Public Council contributed to the development of the current periodical report, as well.

On June 28, 2019 the "Migration Volunteer" Public Union was established for involving youth to migration management and awareness-raising of migrants. In 2021 the new members of the Public Council were elected and "Migration volunteers" Public Union which is represented by youth received membership on the Council.

During 2018-2021 the Public Council organized language courses for 187 migrants from Afghanistan, supported documentation of 100 migrant children and directed to education premises in order to be engaged in proper education. In that timeframe 715 migrant families (2502 migrants) from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Moldova and Turkmenistan have received humanitarian aid from the Council.[4] Integration support also included legal counselling (for more than 800 during the period), psychological support (65 migrants and children of migrant families) as well as, cultural integration programs which engaged around 600 migrants.

Similarly, the **Advisory Board** under SMS operates to bring together representatives of private sector

to assess the impact of migration policy on this sector. These structures aim to enhance engagement of various segments of society in migration governance, consequently, to ensure their positive impact in the management of migration processes. The Board aims to increase awareness about recruitment of migrants, key regulations and requirements of labor migration including entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan and protect migrants from falling in irregular status. The Board also creates discussion space on facilitation of regulations for migrants in engagement in labor and economic market.

On October 4 and 5, 2021, within the framework of the 33rd session of the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the third periodic report of the Republic of Azerbaijan on implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was reviewed. During the event, information was provided on the steps taken in the development of the regulatory framework and organizational mechanism in connection with the implementation of the issues provided for in the Convention in our country over the past period.

The Covid-19 pandemic increased the concerns on how to ease the access of migrants to healthcare and social services. The Working Group on the organization of medical care for migrants of the Public Council was established to exchange ideas and look for solutions on provision of Healthcare and social services for migrants. In 2021 awareness among migrants for improved migrants' satisfaction on access and quality

[4] Interview with Mr. Azer Allahveranov. The chair of Public Council under SMS. Question: What kind of assistance does Public Council provide for migrants?

of health care services in Azerbaijan was increased [5].

Within the framework of projects implemented by SMS in partnership with IOM the setup of Language laboratory and development of software to improve migration management and services are main areas of contribution by the European Union (EU), BP and its partners, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of USA, the United States Agency for International Development, etc.

Furthermore, all three pledges voiced by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the first Global Refugee Forum held on December 17-18, 2019 have been fully implemented. Thus, according to the legislation, persons who have received refugee status or applied for refugee status can engage in labour activity in the country without a work permit. Persons under the auspices of the UNHCR were provided with access to personal identification numbers, employment contracts were concluded with them, and thus the right to work was granted to them. Also, by amending the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Medical Insurance, foreigners and stateless persons who have received refugee status in the Republic of Azerbaijan and are under the protection of the UNHCR Representation in the Republic of Azerbaijan are considered insured and included in the compulsory health insurance system. The Ministry of Education covered the expenses of two students studying at higher education institutions and registered with the State Migration Service as refugees.

Furthermore, implementation of social projects such as the Migration School, the IT and PR school, the Migration Volunteers, Winners' Camp[6] and the Youth Development Forum contributes to raising awareness in this area, as well as supporting human development. Within the framework of the "Migration School"[7] project, participants get an excellent opportunity to gain professional knowledge in the field of migration, get information about current migration trends and undergo an internship in the relevant structural units of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan. GCM recognizes that young people are at the Center of migration management, as their involvement in this process is one of the guarantees for effective coordination of migration issues, increasing transparency and inclusiveness, promoting cultural diversity, social cohesion, mutual understanding, and the use of innovative methods in migration management. Awareness of youth on migration will serve as an innovative source to better understanding of migration phenomenon and reduce the development of misconceptions in society about migration. And as a result, migrants also benefit from this activity.

Moreover, the tree planting campaign organized together with IOM Mission in Azerbaijan, State Migration Service and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is noteworthy for raising awareness and increasing public attention on environment and climate change issues, as well as

[5] Interview with Zenfira Mustafayeva, the chair of "Women aid social initiatives" Public Union. Question: What is needed in order to increase the easy access and satisfaction of migrants to healthcare and social services in Azerbaijan: The coordinated work among involved agencies and institutions, as well as strong awareness raising among migrants are essential.

[6] https://migration.gov.az/en/news_detail/14665

[7] https://migrationnetwork.un.org/practice/organization-migration-school-projects-raise-awareness-and-strengthen-capacity-building

supporting initiatives of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on green zones and environment. This initiative is aligning with the Objective 2 of GCM on Minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, particularly the section regarding the Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation.

In the light of IMRF State Migration Service continues to raise information about the Forum and GCM, as well as share insights that the migrants are in the centre of migration policy of Azerbaijan. One of the important aspects of the country's migration policy is creating favourable conditions to ensure the full social integration of migrants living in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan into society, application of whole-of-society approach in order to address all aspects of migration issues, as well as promotion of the involvement of migrants themselves in this process.

Another important initiative to ensure whole-of-society approach was establishment of the Migrant Council under the State Migration Service. The purpose of the initiative is to contribute to the above-mentioned goals, at the same time to ensure more active participation of migrants residing in the country in the migration management of Azerbaijan, to improve the effectiveness of the protection of their human rights and freedoms, the quality of services provided to foreigners and stateless persons and to ensure transparency, as well as to assess the impact of the decisions taken in the sphere of migration on daily life of foreigners. The establishment of Migrant Council has received great interest among migrant communities. Migrants believe that they may contribute a lot to further strengthening of migration management in Azerbaijan.[8]

Regarding policy and legislative reforms on eradication of trafficking, the adoption of "National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2020-2024" in July 2020 is one of the achievements of the Azerbaijani Government. The implementation of the National Action Plan with concerted efforts of the relevant state agencies, including the SMS considers the following activities:

- Improvement of legal and regulatory framework and institutional measures on combating trafficking in human beings
- Preventive work related to trafficking in persons; Criminal prosecution for human trafficking offenses
- Social rehabilitation and protection of victims of human trafficking
- Development of cooperation in the field of combating human trafficking
- Trainings (specialized occupational training) for authorized representatives in combating human trafficking
- Awareness raising on combating human trafficking

[8] Interview with Ms. Mesume Shukrzade, the citizen of Iran Islamic Republic residing in Azerbaijan more than 10 years.

As a support to the capacity building component highlighted in the Action Plan, SMS with support of IOM organized a pilot training on "Countering Human Trafficking" at the end of 2021 in the Regional Training Centre on Migration (RTCM) which is targeted to be fully operationalized in near future. It was positive practice and focused on identification of victims and referral, interagency coordination and prosecution which will lead to upgrading Azerbaijan's results in globally recognized reports.

Trafficking in human beings has been criminalized under the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan as a Crime against individual dignity[9]. Foreign citizens or stateless persons who have become human trafficking victims are provided with the same protection and support as citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan. According to the amendments made to the Migration Code, grounds have been established to grant foreigners and stateless persons who have been considered victims of human trafficking with permits for temporary residence in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In addition, according to the Migration Code, foreigners and stateless persons who are considered victims of human trafficking or assisting criminal prosecution are issued a temporary residence permit. The amount of benefits provided to victims of trafficking during the reintegration period has been increased.

Therefore, the key implementing agency of the Action Plan, Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (of MIA) has put bigger emphasis on rehabilitation of victims as well as assessment of vulnerabilities which pertains the heavy social work. In particular, for this social work the Department has continued close cooperation with civil society organizations and their social support to the victims and vulnerable population was highly appreciated by the head of Main Department during the meeting organized in September 2021[10]. Furthermore, MIA is regularly informed by SMS about the labor migrants who are considered as a potential victim of human trafficking. Dozens of officials of relevant state authorities and representatives of NGOs took part in national and foreign conferences, seminars, trainings, round tables, working groups, expert meetings and training courses on the relevant topics, as well as attended as trainers in order to increase effectiveness of combating human trafficking, study the best international practices in this sphere, and to develop professionalism in the field of identification of victims of forced labor and provide support to them. It needs to be mentioned that the shelter for victims of trafficking which is financed by the Government is fully operated by CSO and it gets extra support from other shelters which are run by NGOs. In 2021 "Clean world" Women Aid Public Union and "TAMAS" Regional Development Public Union have provided legal, psychological and social assistance to 44 victims of trafficking. [11] In accordance with the GCM Objectives on ensuring accurate and timely information for migrants at all stages of migration process and enabling them to access

[9] https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/8304/file/Azerbaijan_CC_am2018_en.pdf
[10] https://www.insanalveri.gov.az/?/az/news/view/240/
[11] Interview with Ms. Sudaba Mammadova- co-chair of "TAMAS" Public Union. What are the key challenges that foreign victims of trafficking face and you got challenged in order to provide timely assistance and rehabilitation services? The documentation of foreign citizens appears as one of key challenges, as well as language barrier and some elements of culture may create challenge for us during service, therefore close relations with diplomatic missions and consulates of those countries are extremely important.

basic services, including in emergency situations, as well as promptly addressing relevant applications and enquiries the "Call Center" of SMS was switched to **24/7 operation** and **"MigAz"** mobile application of SMS was launched respectively. The enquiries can be directly responded and processed through the application that functions in Azerbaijani, English, and Russian languages. This also supports implementation of GCM Objective on strengthening certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.

In addition to the official web page of the Service that provides comprehensive information on various aspects of the governance and implementation of migration process a new website (**www.migrationto.az)** was developed with the support of EU and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The new website serves as a centralized and publicly accessible virtual source for obtaining information on pathways for regular migration, visa requirements, application procedures, fees, requirements for work permit, and regarding professional qualification. The website is currently functioning in 3 languages (Azerbaijani, English and Russian).

A number of events on raising awareness of the public in the field of migration are jointly organized by the SMS, district and city executive authorities, as well as higher educational institutions with the participation of the local municipalities, employers, media representatives, foreigners and stateless persons. During the series of events detailed information on all aspects of the migration legislation, as well as the requirements of the existing legislation with regard to the labor migrants are provided to the public. The development and broadcasting of videos indicating regulation procedures of the existing relations in the field of migration are ensured. "Open door day" – civil forums, mobile services with the participation of foreigners and stateless persons, citizens, representatives of relevant state entities, public organizations, employers, entrepreneurs were organized, as well as publication of wide range of articles in periodic and electronic media and broadcasting of reportages in TV channels are ensured. During 2018-2021 SMS organized large-scale awareness raising campaign among migrants. General awareness raising via videos and delivering information in an addressed order were implemented within the framework of the campaign, and 40000 flyers and 1200 posters were distributed within a month. 31 mobile services have been rendered and in total 49 information sessions have been organized in rural regions. Moreover, large-scale awareness raising works are carried out at the border crossings points by using specially designed printing materials. The Public Council under SMS and "Migration Volunteer" Public Union supports the activity of SMS towards raising awareness of foreigners and stateless persons about the existing legislative acts in the field of migration, its requirements and amendments to the legislation, as well.

In addition, currently the platform on emigration is being developed with the aim of protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens of Azerbaijan temporarily or permanently residing outside the country, informing them about the migration legislation of the country of residence, as well as diaspora organizations, relevant state bodies and other useful activities. With the help of this platform, citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan living abroad will receive more reliable information through the electronic emigration registration system, and will also be aware of useful and practical information. Through the platform,

it will be possible to contact Azerbaijanis living abroad, to find answers to questions of interest.

Another substantial project on the application of API (Advanced Passenger Information) and PNR (Passenger Name Record) systems in Azerbaijan, as well as the harmonization of relevant mechanisms with ICAO standards for integrated, secure and connected border management has completed its first phase and in its upcoming second phase the project aims to support the creation of right conditions to set up Passenger Information Units (PIU) in Azerbaijan.

In 2020 the Republic of Azerbaijan put an end to the occupation of its territories by Armenia which continued for almost 30 years. By liberating its occupied territories Azerbaijan fulfilled requirements of international law and UN Security Council resolutions. The end of the occupation created new realities and opportunities for peace and prosperity in the region, as well as ensuring the rights of IDPs to return to their homeland. It created an opportunity also to strictly control irregular migration channels and strengthen mechanisms for regulating the people's movements. Furthermore, reintegration of liberated territories to the general economy of the country and return of IDPs to territories liberated from the occupation will intensify migration processes not only in the Republic of Azerbaijan, but also in the whole region.

With the support provided by IOM Mission in Azerbaijan and European Union a comprehensive report named "Mapping the Azerbaijani Diaspora: Insights from Big Data" [12]was prepared. In line with the whole-of-society approach specified in the GCM the publication provides IOM and the Government with insights into the skills and demographic profiles of Azerbaijani diaspora communities to develop engagement strategy and identify potential partnerships. The report focuses on top sectors of employment in the selected host countries, gathers opinions regarding quality of education and work environments in Azerbaijan and gauges interest in skills transfer initiatives. The report is notable for the comprehensive research methodology applied in collecting and analysing the data which aims to further expand upon the existing scholarship and statistics with an exercise into big data analysis to map the Azerbaijani Diaspora. Based on the findings the report presents key recommendations for: Social and Economic Development, Messaging and Outreach Strategies, and Direction of Future Research. Diaspora Committee has been actively involved in work of UNNM since its establishment, and contributed to the review of Progress Plan of UNNM Azerbaijan by suggesting activities related to "brain gain" among diaspora communities, with the purpose of increasing education level and achieving sustainable development.

[12] "Mapping the Azerbaijani Diaspora: Insights from Big Data" drafted by LUCIA SAVCHICK, IOM Publication, Baku, 2018 Email: iombaku@iom.int Website: www.iom.az

To further enhance the civil participation in migration management "Open Door Day" citizen forums, awareness raising events, mobile services, as well as conferences at national level were organized by SMS in the regions of the country. The events were conducted with participation of migrants and stateless persons, as well as, local citizens, representatives of relevant state entities, public organizations, employers, and entrepreneurs aiming to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discussion to form migration-related perceptions. Such perceptions empower societies and migrants for full inclusion and social cohesion as per specified in the GCM. For the purpose of supporting integration of migrants into the Azerbaijani society, the Training Center of SMS organizes free courses for foreigners and stateless persons on Azerbaijani language, history, culture, legislation on rights and obligations of foreigners and stateless persons since October, 2016. Thus, in 2016-2021, more than five thousand foreigners and stateless persons participated in the courses. Moreover, the "Socio-cultural integration of foreigners residing in Azerbaijan and persons granted with refugee status to Azerbaijani society" project was implemented in 2019. The awareness raising campaign is conducted in 2 directions – general awareness by video clips and informing the targeted foreigners. 40.000 flyers were published in Azerbaijani, Russian and English languages within the campaign. These flyers were presented to foreigners in airport, sea ports, railways, restaurants network, etc. During 2020, 9 mobile services, 20 awareness-raising events, and during 2021, 22 mobile services, 29 awareness-raising events were held and information booklets on migration rules and e-services were prepared.

Furthermore, a new project is planned to be implemented jointly with the International Center for Migration Policy Development under the EU Migration Practice Assistance Tool (MIEUX+) to develop a strategic document and build capacity for effective integration of migrants. The project will conduct activities to strengthen the skills and knowledge of relevant stakeholders in terms of the implementation of the strategic document on the integration of migrants and its action plan. The Public Council also actively implements two different projects on integration of migrants, targeting Baku and all other regions of Azerbaijan and focusing on psychological adaptation and social integration to community.[13]

Foreigners living in Azerbaijan can be vaccinated against COVID-19 on an equal basis with citizens of Azerbaijan. At the same time, in line with international obligations, in order to ensure that irregular migrants can benefit from vaccination activities, conditions have been created for them to apply for vaccination without administrative removal from the country, and migrants are encouraged to apply for vaccination.

For facilitation of safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration of migrants, agreements on readmission of persons residing without authorization signed between Azerbaijan and the European Union, as well as Norway, Switzerland and Montenegro are successfully implemented. Currently, similar agreements and protocols on readmission with 25 more countries are in the process of conclusion.

[13] Interview with Mr. Azer Allahveranov. The chair of Public Council under SMS.

Additionally, in cooperation with the international organizations, particularly IOM and ICMPD various projects were implemented (for example, “Strengthening readmission management in Azerbaijan” project by IOM, “Reintegration Support to Azerbaijani Returnees (RESTART)” project by ICMPD (completed in 2021) and etc.). The readmission, return and reintegration programs targeted the facilitation of sustainable reintegration of returned migrants, promotion of dignified return and ensuring due process, individual assessment, and effective remedy. Development of reintegration guidelines, improving capacities on providing reintegration support to vulnerable categories of returnees in cooperation with the civil society organizations, as well as providing reintegration support to citizens of Azerbaijan returned from EU Member States and other regions of the world were envisaged within the framework of described projects. A Working Group, established in 2016 and consisting of representatives of the relevant central executive authorities is actively involved in developing flexible solution of reintegration (accommodation, health care, employment, social security, and education) of readmitted persons into the society in cooperation with relevant state authorities.

Moreover, the “Strengthening readmission management in Azerbaijan” project of IOM aims to enhance readmission management in Azerbaijan particularly through introduction and operationalization of an Electronic Readmission Case Management System (ERCMS) in order to strengthen institutional links between consulates and other officials of countries of origin and destination and ensure certainty, security and dignity upon return and readmission. The project also targets achieving capacity building and preparation of statistical reports on readmitted Azerbaijani citizens. At current stage the Project succeeded to develop Blueprint Document for the Model Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) customization and the testing of Front-End Segment of the System has been conducted. The project continues capacity building Trainings on system use.

Azerbaijan in close partnership with IOM Mission in Azerbaijan has launched project to facilitate digitalization of remittance transfers and identification of modalities for more efficient and cost-effective remittance flows, as well as improved interlinkages to greater financial inclusion of migrants leading to larger and more sustainable socioeconomic impact. The project will study the legal, social, economic and gender related gaps regarding the growth of digital remittances and will update the data to inform the policies and planning related to remittances.

State Migration Service has been actively involved in the work of UNNM which includes all UN Agencies operating in Azerbaijan. It creates opportunity for Azerbaijan to highlight migration related targets within sustainable development Agenda. Government is providing close support in review and development of Progress Plan of UNNM which will define and prioritize the joint activities with UNNM member Agencies through interlinkages determined between GCM objectives and UNSDCF (2021-2025). Another good practice in Azerbaijan is that the UNNM has observer participants from other related government institutions, such as Diaspora

Committee, Human Rights Commissioner Office, civil society, academia and private sector[14].

The UNNM works closely with the State Migration Service (SMS), and relevant governmental entities, as well as International Organizations (IOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), Academia, Private Sector, donors and other entities dealing with migration issues in Azerbaijan, to promote effective migration management and governance, while supporting mechanisms to advance the protection of the rights and well-being of migrants and communities in a coherent, holistic manner, in line with the GCM and in accordance with the draft Migration Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as other bi-and-multilateral frameworks.

As a follow up of the project on "Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan (MOBILAZE)", the MOBILAZE-2 project is currently being implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in Azerbaijan. The main purpose of the project is to contribute to the development and implementation of evidence-based migration and border management policy agenda in Azerbaijan. The project includes activities on developing a study on the best practices in migration and border management, improving research and analytical skills, strengthening institutional capacity to provide integration services for migrants, including refugees, increasing training capacity on migration and border management, as well as raising awareness on migration. The overall objective of the project is to promote regular migration through effective implementation of the Mobility Partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan with a specific focus on strengthening the capacity of the government to develop and implement its national migration policy.

Another important and clear manifestation of Azerbaijan's commitment to fostering cooperation and promoting orderly migration through capacity building is the planned establishment of a Regional Training Center on Migration (RTCM) with launched[15] early stage with the support of the IOM Development Fund. RTCM will contribute to capacity building of migration agencies in the countries of the region and beyond, as well as become a platform for training representatives of stakeholders in the field of migration, strengthen cooperation through the establishment of a pool of specialists and raise awareness related with various aspects of migration. RTCM is planned to be a training institution and knowledge hub for different stakeholders, which will prepare highly qualified specialists in the field of migration based on a modern training methods and modules.

The Center can contribute to the promotion of orderly and regular migration within the region and its use as an element of development through the sharing of best practices, as well as the promotion of cooperation in various formats. In parallel it will support the promotion of migration and development and facilitation of mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences. RTCM is expected to

[14] Interview with Mr. Azer Allahveranov. The chair of Public Council under SMS. Question: What UNNM Azerbaijan may contribute to migration management in Azerbaijan? – The UNNM in Azerbaijan should use the advantage of including almost all sectors (with observer status) which will create opportunity to raise more inclusive discussions it may in future create baseline for intersectoral dialogue on specific migration related issues.

[15] www.rtcm.az

serve countries of Central Asia, Middle East, Eastern Partnership, and beyond.

The efforts of Azerbaijan on upholding the capacity building on migration is related with the understanding that "education and study of migration is interlinked to both social and political studies and it is a necessity to include it into curricula of higher education".[16]

Considering the achievements of the country in the field of migration management at both national and regional levels, in April 2020 Azerbaijan has been elected as a member of the **Steering Group of the Global Forum on Migration and Development**, which is an indicator of Azerbaijan's commitment to development of regional partnerships on migration.

To foster international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration, agreements for cooperation on migration was signed with the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Belgium. Currently, signing of relevant documents on cooperation with 13 other countries is underway. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs are one of key facilitators of ongoing negotiations.

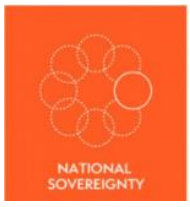
On May 7, 2020, with the initiative and coordination of Azerbaijan a video-conference meeting of the heads of migration agencies and relevant authorities of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (now Organization of Turkic States) was held to learn, discuss and find ways out of the situation of migrants staying and residing in their territories who are in a difficult situation due to the COVİD-19 pandemic. During the meeting, the measures taken by the member and observer states to prevent pandemics were discussed and a number of decisions were made to ensure that migrants have access to basic services, find solutions to the difficulties they face.[17]Azerbaijan continues its engagement in the Almaty Process, a regional consultative process on refugee protection and international migration to, from and within Central Asia,[18] Prague Process which was launched in order to trigger cooperation among EU countries, Schengen countries, Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan states, Central Asian countries, Russia and Turkey in migration sphere, and Budapest Process bringing together more than 50 governments and 10 international organizations, acting in direction of establishing system of constant regulation of migration.[19]In addition, the State Migration Service participated in a number of events organized by international organizations (including the 112th meeting of the IOM Council, the Vienna Migration Conference).

[16] Interview with Ms. Aytan Gurbanova, PHD candidate of Baku State University specialized n migration studies. Question: How the education and study on migration develop in Azerbaijan what are needs? "There is great gap in specialization on migration, because it is enough broader phenomenon it has interlinkage with key political and social science therefore, we need to include migration studies in the curricula of law, international Relation, economics, social studies."

[17] https://migrationnetwork.un.org/practice/migration-coordination-conference-cooperation-council-turkic-speaking-states-immediate

[18] https://www.unhcr.org/centralasia/en/about-almaty-process#:~:text=The%20Almaty%20Process%20is%20a,and%20coordination%20on%20mixed%20migration.

[19] https://migration.gov.az/international/international.



On December 2021, right after Azerbaijan's admission to GCM Champion Countries Initiative the State Migration Services of Azerbaijan and Ukraine has signed "Memorandum of Understanding between the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Migration Service of Ukraine on cooperation in the field of migration" which will pave the way for expanding the existing mutually beneficial cooperation and will open up new opportunities for building stronger relationships at regional level."

Also, in order to establish a representative office of the International Center for Migration Policy Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan to determine the status, privileges and immunities of its staff, on March 17, 2021 Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development on the status of the organization in Azerbaijan was signed and entered into force. Also, work is underway to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on expanding cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.

The impact of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on governance of migration in Azerbaijan

It has been already three years that the whole world is struggling with **COVID-19**, as well as its multifaceted consequences. As a result of the restrictions on cross-border movement, the international migration and migrants are going through one of the most challenging times ever. Along with all the people on the move, **vulnerable migrants, in particular, are more affected by the adverse impacts of the pandemic which increases gravity of the case**.

During this period the most common policy reactions in terms of migration were **suspension of visa issuance, travel restrictions and closure of borders which challenged human mobility and migration managemen**t across the whole world. **In light of these limitations and restrictions the key challenge faced by the states was to overcome these difficulties with a minimum negative impact on migrants.**

Following the first incident of COVID-19 infection case at the end of February 2020 Azerbaijan also felt necessity to close state borders, suspend transportation of passengers from other countries, and internal mobility of people were also restricted to prevent further spread of the disease.

In mid-June 2020, Azerbaijan together with 103 Member and Observer States of the United Nations released a **Joint Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants**[20]. The Statement mentions the devastating global effects of the spread of the disease worldwide and calls for the international cooperation to prioritize the protection of human rights and address the needs of migrants during the pandemic.

The impact of COVID-19, lessons learned, as well as measures taken regarding pandemic should be highlighted and the experience of Azerbaijan can be referred among best practices, as they were in

[20] https://www.un.int/philippines/statements_speeches/joint-statement-impact-covid-19-migrants#:~:text=Excellency%2C&text=The%20statement%20welcomes%20your%20report,economies%20heavily%20dependent%20on%20remittances.

line with the international requirements. Since the start of the pandemic mitigating and minimizing its impact has been at the forefront of migration management policy in Azerbaijan. **Azerbaijan built its migration policy on maximum convenience of migrants, reducing administrative procedures to the possible extent and promoting digitalization**.

The governance of migration in Azerbaijan during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is significant to mention, as the State Migration Service optimized application process and simplified the permission procedures for migrants. In this regard, the period for the temporary stay of international migrants in the country was automatically extended with no administrative procedure or documentation required; thus, no foreign citizen was forced to leave the country, including those who were refused refugee status prior to COVID-19 pandemic. While no migrant was placed in detention facility during this period, the status of irregular migrants was legalized based on their applications. Azerbaijan successfully managed to handle all applications and inquiries from the migrants through online sources and services, based on zero paper and zero contact principle. This was possible through e-services on the official web-site of SMS, mobile application of the Service (MigAz), the Call Center operating 7/24, and via social network accounts of the SMS. Meanwhile, various awareness raising tools, video instructions were developed for persons facing difficulties in using e-services. In future SMS together with IOM and UNNM will contribute to the socio-economic impact assessment and restriction on Human Mobility due to COVID-19 and provide recommendation on addressing migrants and migrant families' issues.
To promote digitalization, the State Migration Service has increased the number of e-services to 18 to ensure the convenience of migrants and target groups who use its services.

Moreover, a number of social assistance projects have been implemented for vulnerable groups. Azerbaijan has demonstrated a swift COVID-19 response by including migrants, as well as refugees in national vaccination plans. Wide range of public awareness campaigns targeting specific migrant groups was carried out in the country.

Azerbaijan has not ceased receiving applications for obtaining the refugee status during the pandemic. The processing of asylum seekers' applications was postponed for one month only and the period of relevant permits for their residence in the country was extended. Those who were refused to grant refugee status prior to COVID-19 were not required to leave the country or were not forcibly placed in detention centres.

During this period, effective cooperation was exercised guided with a whole of society and whole of government approach, as well as inclusiveness. In this process the Republic of Azerbaijan also enjoyed the support of international partners. The cooperation of the Government of Azerbaijan with IOM country office resulted in numerous targeted activities on provision of immediate COVID – 19 response by assisting migrants in a difficult economic situation, as well as voluntary return. At the same time Azerbaijan benefited from cooperation with UN Network on Migration, which is an effective platform that enabled coordinating resources of all the interested stakeholders.

Throughout the unforeseen and challenging pandemic period State Migration Service further enhanced its collaboration with international partners on exchange of information and guidance,

particularly, International Organization for Migration (IOM) shared with SMS important policy documents, information and guideline ("Cross-Border Human Mobility Amid and After COVID 19") and initiated further activities during the COVID-19 period. Meanwhile, under the overall outcome of promoting migrant-inclusive response to COVID-19 and assisting migrants in vulnerable situations, an emergency response project by IOM providing humanitarian assistance to stranded, vulnerable migrants (foreign nationals) in Azerbaijan was conducted. The activity corresponded to four pillars of the IOM's Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan[21] and the associated IOM South Caucasus Appeal[22]Tracking Mobility Impacts of COVID-19, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management, and Protection.

The smooth and non-delayed return of Azerbaijanis from other states to homeland and departure of foreigners from Azerbaijan to their countries of origin was possible through the successful and prompt coordination with diplomatic representations, as well as relevant authorities of foreign countries. Charter flights and cargo transportations were operated to address the urgent cases and needs.

Considering the social and economic challenges refugees and asylum seekers face during this period, the State Migration Service carried out social assistance projects with "Migration Volunteers", civil society institutions and other stakeholders and these activities continue at present. In addition, medical care is provided free of charge for refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan. In case of any other needs of asylum seekers during the pandemic, the State Migration Service will coordinate these issues with other relevant government agencies.

Furthermore, due to the former occupation of Azerbaijan's Karabakh region and surrounding areas by Armenia, there are more than 700,000 IDPs in Azerbaijan today. During the past period, the government, has taken all necessary measures to ensure that IDPs along with other citizens of Azerbaijan have access to all services.

As mentioned above, during the pandemic, forced returns were suspended in the country and no irregular migrant was forcibly placed in detention centres. In general, very few foreigners remain in detention centres upon their decision to stay due to financial difficulties.
It is worth to mention again that no administrative sanction was imposed on any foreigner in the form of deportation, and every irregular migrant was legalized based on application. During this period, no COVID-19 infection case was found in any foreigner remaining in detention centres on their own request. There were no difficulties/delays in the detention centres regarding access of migrants to health services, food security and disinfection.

The work permits for migrants are issued by SMS in Azerbaijan and due to the pandemic, 8% decrease was observed in obtaining work permits in 2020, compared to 2019 and the number increased in 2021. Considering the circumstances of temporary closure of many businesses as well as borders this

[21] https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/iom-global-strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-coronavirus-disease-2019
[22] IOM South Caucasus COVID-19 Appeal

number can be considered satisfying.

In addition, no migrant worker and their family members were deported or received irregular status even if their employment contracts had not been extended and residence permits had expired. The notable action by the Azerbaijani government regarding the migrants who were found to be engaged in illegal labour was the decision of not expelling these people, but allowing residing and their status in the country was legalized.

Azerbaijan's road to IMRF 2022

Azerbaijan is **among the first countries in the region** to establish **UN Network on Migration** at national level**, as well as** among the first countries in the **world to support and join the "Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration"** and has contributed with a comprehensive report for voluntary review of GCM.

From the early establishment, the UNNM Azerbaijan has claimed to play a tangible role in support on implementation of GCM beyond dialogue and consultations. The active partnership between the UN Resident Coordinator Office and the State Migration Service has become an indicator of the tangible role of the Network.

The establishment and operationalization of UNNM Azerbaijan coincided with the Common Country Analysis (CCA) which was concluded in development and adoption of new Cooperation Framework for achievement of SDGs. The Government and UN has signed UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework(UNSDCF) in early 2021 and UNNM Azerbaijan has discussed and described the interlinkages between GCM and newly adopted UNSDCF in order to encourage joint programming by UN Country Team to escape from duplication in some efforts and combine the expertise which will lead to successful implementation of both documents. The document has been perceived as "Progress Plan" and understood as "live" document and being modified based on changing priorities and discussions among UNNM members and partners without losing its major focus and purpose. It is treated as a tool for fundraising to address necessary objectives in migration agenda in Azerbaijan.

At the same stage, IOM and other UNNM member agencies were observing and highlighting Azerbaijan's compliance with its opportunities taken through signing of GCM document in Morocco. UNNM Azerbaijan is convinced that the Government of Azerbaijan in representation of State Migration Service gives attention to key and decisive elements through pursued migration policy and may play a role of GCM Champion Country in neighbouring region. On November 2021, Azerbaijan has received an official letter signed by Director General of IOM, Mr. Antonio Vitorino on admission of Azerbaijan to GCM "Champion country" initiative.

GCM Championship has remarkably affected the active engagement of Azerbaijan in activities dedicated to International Migration Review Forum 2022. In response to the call by the President of

the General Assembly (PGA), as well as the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, Mr. António Vitorino, and the Principals of the Network's Executive Committee to make a tangible commitment to advancing the implementation of the GCM through a pledge, the governments of Azerbaijan, Luxembourg and Portugal, in their capacity as GCM Champion countries, convened a virtual event for the 56 Member States of the UNECE on 1 February 2022. The event involved stakeholders in inclusive IMRF preparations, this in turn responding to a process-oriented commitment called for by the pledging initiative.

The event, brought together 169 representatives from Member States and other stakeholders and was crucial to gain momentum on the preparations to the IMRF, which is the first and only intergovernmental platform for United Nations Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The briefing represented an essential occasion to ensure all parties are duly informed on the process the IMRF entails, and therefore guarantee that mentioned governments support the GCM's a 360-degree approach as per its 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles. Although the meeting was of preparatory nature which aimed to provide information on road to IMRF, it was also an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas on actions to be taken results of which can already be discussed during the Forum.

Following the joint pledge Azerbaijan has organized series of events to celebrate the Migration week (14-18 February 2022) to contribute to the globally supported occasions and promote the Migration Agenda. The special section in order to raise awareness on IMRF, GCM and "Champion countries" initiative was created in its official webpage[23], as well as wide-reaching social media campaign dedicated to promotion of importance of GCM and upcoming migration event was organized among staff of the relevant state authorities and international organizations, civil society, private sector, academia, youth and volunteers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the top of its contributions Azerbaijan has conducted 2-day regional training on International Migration Law in the Regional Training Center on Migration (RTCM)[24] devoted to Migration Week and IMRF 2022 with participation of representatives from 10 region countries where the information on GCM and IMRF has been presented to participants. Furthermore, taking into consideration that the Republic of Azerbaijan is the "Champion country" on GCM and in order to encourage the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches, State Migration Service with support of the Representation of IOM in the Republic of Azerbaijan will organize the consultations for various stakeholders. The multi-stakeholder consultations will be composed of three discussions focusing on cross-societal and cross-government collaboration for more effective implementation of GCM, as well as raising awareness on the International Migration Review Forum and "Champion countries" initiative.
Several inputs have been already submitted to the Repository of Practices to contribute to the Migration Network Hub. Thus, Azerbaijan as a Champion country will play a prominent role in all areas of the Forum, which will provide an opportunity to formulate its statements and contribute to the process at a high level. In addition, on the eve of IMRF, Azerbaijan has already joined the "Make a

[23] https://www.migration.gov.az/en
[24] https://rtcm.az/blog/?entryid=11

pledge" initiative towards the implementation of GCM. Furthermore, Azerbaijan will co-chair the 4th roundtable of the Forum, which will offer space for discussion covering Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23 of GCM.

Currently, in accordance with paragraph 53 of the Global Compact on Migration, Azerbaijan is working on the creation of a national action plan to support the implementation of the GCM, focusing on relevant objectives, taking into account the national context.

Means of implementation and next steps

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as international legal norms, the international documents (treaties, conventions) are implemented via two means: first, its adoption as document and norm above the national documents (excluding Constitution) or second, the transformation of national legislation based on international ones. The first mean gives more advanced legal force to international norms, however the second makes the international norms more practical and eases the review and reporting.

The implementation of GCM in Azerbaijan has been followed via ongoing policies and was reflected in reports in order to strengthen the role and impact of conducted activities, while the transformation of GCM into National legislation is continuing. The non-binding legal status of GCM may allow omitting the remarkable transformation.
However, Azerbaijan is committed to give the GCM norms and principles in domestic and binding documents through adoption of the draft national Migration Strategy, which will contain clear notes on GCM implementation. This fact in itself promises that in the next period the GCM objectives may get transformed into domestic legislative norms.

Referring to the activities conducted in line with the GCM objectives and Guiding principles through 2019-2022 on implementation and next steps of the governance of international migration:

1.	**In line with the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches, as well as Objectives 2 (c), 12 (b), 12 (c) and 17 (c) of the Global Compact on Migration, promoting the implementation of GCM by raising awareness among all stakeholders, enhancing joint action and strengthening cooperation on its better implementation.**
2.	**In accordance with the paragraph 15 (j), as well as Objective 16 of GCM, ensuring the participation of migrants in migration management, as well as improving their integration and social inclusion by developing a comprehensive policy document for the integration of migrants.**
3.	**In accordance with paragraph 53 of GCM, mainstreaming GCM in the country's national migration policy and developing a national action plan to support the implementation of GCM.**

4.	**In line with Objective 1 of GCM, promoting planned and evidence-based migration policies.**
5.	**In line with Objective 4 of GCM, raising awareness and promoting legalization of residence of foreigners and stateless persons without the right to stay or reside in the country.**
6.	**In accordance with Objective 23 of GCM, strengthening international cooperation in migration management by building the capacity of various stakeholders at different levels.**
7.	**Enhancing mechanism, strengthen cooperation and solidarity on migration management in crisis situations and emergencies.**
8.	**Ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccination for all migrants, regardless of migration status.**

Meanwhile, the State Migration Service will continue conducting regular analysis in various areas of migration to make evidence based and timely decisions in accordance with the current situation, contemplating the experience of other countries and international recommendations. Focusing on securing the public health under current shortcomings relevant coordinated measures will be taken and migrants residing in the country, will be included as a part of this process, and ensured to enjoy their rights and freedoms.

Deriving from the previous experience through its Migration Volunteers project during and before the pandemic, the Service plans to foster mobilization of the youth through volunteering in migration management process in the country. The Service, in collaboration with all the relevant government and society stakeholders, will continue awareness-raising activities focusing on making these activities more accessible and using a more simple and fluent language comprehensible by migrants, particularly vulnerable groups.