

Introduction / General Remarks

Germany is a dedicated member of the GCM, which we see as true “multilateralism in action”.

Migration is an important and complex issue that contains great potential but also numerous challenges. International migrants contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination. Due to its transnational nature and complexity, it cannot be addressed by individual UN member states alone, but requires our joint efforts and cooperation both of member states and other stakeholders.

If migration is shaped in a safe, orderly and regular manner – as the GCM aspires – then all those involved will take advantage from it: migrants in all their diversity, their countries of origin, transit and destination. As a result, the risks and dangers often associated with irregular migration can be avoided.

Based on the guiding principles of the GCM, there are two key priorities of Germany’s migration policy that we have worked to push forward: first, making migration policy and migration-related responses more gender-responsive. Second, recognizing the link between climate change and migration. The key objective is to ensure freedom of choice of the people affected by negative consequences of climate change. This includes supporting communities to secure their livelihoods and to adapt to climate change, thereby preventing forced displacement. It also includes supporting people, who are already on the move and ensuring that migration is a safe option for those deciding to move. This is based on Germany’s recognition of safe, orderly and regular migration as part of an adaptation strategy.

Multilateral instruments are key to addressing migration-related challenges. Germany has thus contributed and will continue to contribute to the Multi-Partner-Trust-Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. And we hope that efforts are successful to encourage further contributions and to broaden the donor-base for the Fund in order to make it more representative and successful. In April 2023, Germany contributed 4.5 million Euros to the MMPTF. This contribution was made as a joint announcement with the contribution made by Morocco to further diversify the donor landscape of the MMPTF. Since 2019 Germany has thus contributed 17.25 million Euros to the MMPTF and remains its largest donor.

Germany applauds the timely convening of this regional review and is pleased to use this opportunity to highlight our national record in implementation of pledges since the IMRF in 2022.

Session 1: Drivers and regular pathways (Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12, 18)

Germany remains committed to minimise the adverse drivers of migration, to facilitate migration through regular pathways and to ensure access to ethical recruitment and decent work.

In March 2023, Germany took over the chairmanship of the EU migration dialogue with the countries of the Horn of Africa, countries of North Africa and the African Union for one year. As part of our Climate Foreign Policy, the German Presidency focuses on human mobility in the context of climate change as well as internal displacement with special consideration of gender aspects as a cross-cutting issue.

In 2019, Germany and France initiated the "Humanitarian Call for Action" with the aim of strengthening respect for international humanitarian law and protecting the humanitarian space. The appeal has so far been supported by 53 signatories.

In line with its commitments under the Grand Bargain, Germany has significantly increased flexible funding for humanitarian assistance from 147.6 million Euros in 2016 to over 1.8 billion Euros in 2023, which corresponds to 56.1 per cent of total humanitarian funding.

With 48.1 million Euros, Germany was the second-largest bilateral donor in face of the crisis in Venezuela. Germany is also substantially involved in the EU's humanitarian assistance with around 25 per cent and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund with around 19 per cent. At the same time, Germany has relentlessly worked to broaden the donor base.

Germany remains a major donor of IOM and has funded a broad range of projects. Between 2022 and 2024, Germany provided funds totalling 19.5 million Euros for IOM's "Humanitarian Programme for Africa". In 2023, Germany also provided 54,5 Mio. Euros for a global IOM emergency response programme which facilitated services for vulnerable migrants and internally displaced persons in contexts such as Ukraine, Lebanon, Panama and Bangladesh. In the context of development cooperation, Germany finances numerous projects through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Deutsche Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). All ongoing projects have a total volume of 343,1 Mio. Euros.

Moreover, Germany continues to offer and further develop pre-departure measures. The Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration who serves as the Federal Government Commissioner for Anti-Racism as well funds a project implemented by IOM that offers pre-departure measures for people taking part in humanitarian settlement programs.

In 2023, pre-departure measures were enshrined in the revised Skilled Immigration Act in Germany. Accordingly, pre-departure measures can be offered in selected third countries as of 2026. Pre-departure measures include advisory services on legal migration to Germany, language courses, courses about cultural orientation as well as services that accompany skilled workers from the countries of origin to municipal advisory services in Germany.

The pre-departure measures shall be offered in cooperation with the advisory services on legal migration at the “Centres for Migration and Development” that have been implemented since 2023 by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in nine partner countries. The centres offer advice to returnees as well as people interested in migrating to Europe or within their own region for work or training purposes. In addition to advice, they refer interested persons to concrete training programmes that either prepare them for regular migration or support their socioeconomic reintegration, as well as to psychosocial support. The centres also provide information on the risks of irregular migration. There is a specific focus on supporting women and disadvantaged groups. To increase the long-term viability of the centres and their work, they are closely linked to government structures in the partner countries, such as national employment agencies and migration ministries. The centres’ mandate also includes strengthening the capacities of partner governments, local authorities and civil society.

Since November 2023, Germany and the European Commission have been jointly financing the second phase of the project “Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa” (THAMM Plus), which is active in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The focus of the German project component is on improving the training and employability of people interested in migration, establishing networks and contacts between the German demand side and institutions in the countries of origin, and supporting the introduction of standard procedures for regular labour migration at the responsible authorities and ministries in the partner countries. In addition, the project will continue placing skilled workers and trainees with companies in Germany on a pilot basis.

Since 2017, Germany has been funding a Global Programme on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change. Through the programme Germany works together with partner countries on a sustainable approach when dealing with displacement and migration in the context of climate change. I.a., this includes data analysis and scenario planning for a better understanding of migration patterns, training of border officials for dealing with disaster-related displacement as well as development of policy instruments to ensure planned relocation is human rights based and inclusive. A second phase is currently being initiated to ensure the continuation of this successful programme.

Session 2: Border governance, saving lives and sustainable reintegration (Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21)

Germany remains committed to implement human rights-based and action-oriented approaches, whose priority is to save lives, combat smuggling of migrants, eradicate human trafficking, guarantee access to documentation, promote alternatives to immigration detention, manage borders in an integrated manner and facilitate the voluntary return and reintegration of migrants.

By passing the "Act to Improve Repatriation", Germany will not detain children and young people pending return or repatriation in the future. This decision stipulates that minors and families with minors will - in principle - not be taken into custody pending return / repatriation nor custody to secure departure.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, IOM has prepared and published a study on gendered reintegration experiences. The aim was to identify gender-specific dynamics in the return and reintegration process in Guinea, Tunisia, Ghana, the Gambia and Serbia and to document existing gender-sensitive, responsive and transformative approaches and best practices. Recommendations for development policy and development cooperation projects were drawn up in order to strengthen gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches to reintegration assistance.

Germany is a major donor for projects to facilitate GCM implementation. The "Centres for Migration and Development" project strengthens partners to work with specific target groups in the areas of regular labour and training migration, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration as well as regional mobility. The research project "The role of returnee networks

in reintegration: opportunities and limitations" has generated knowledge about returnee networks and their role in the reintegration of returning migrants.

As part of a project with the OECD in Morocco, Tunisia and Ukraine, three country workshops have been held to develop recommendations for a development policy for return from and to OECD countries, including on better linking reintegration and development actors and on the localization of reintegration efforts.

Session 3: Inclusion of migrants (Objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22)

Germany remains committed to reduce migrants' vulnerability and enhance their contribution to the sustainable development of their communities of origin, transit, and destination.

Sound preparation is important to increase the chances that people will integrate more easily and want to stay in the country of destination. Germany is therefore linking the migration advice of its Centres for Migration and Development with pre-departure measures offered by the Goethe-Institut and other providers. Personal experience and recommendations are often crucial for people who dare to start in a new country. Germany thus plans to promote exchanges of experience with diaspora actors on regular labour migration to Germany to complement the advice provided by the Centres. Such formats have already been successfully tested in Nigeria, Morocco and Serbia.

Germany is committed to promoting greater visibility of the diaspora's engagement for development at the international level as proven by enabling the participation of two diaspora representatives in the Global Forum on Migration and Development in January 2024 and of another diaspora representative in this forum as part of the German delegation.

Strengthening political participation of young people with immigration backgrounds in Germany is one of the main areas of work of the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration and the Federal Government Commissioner for Anti-Racism. Since November 2022, the Commissioner has supported a project that encourages, inspires, and activates young people with immigration backgrounds to engage in politics. To do so, the project aims at identifying and removing obstacles that prevent young people with immigration backgrounds from participating in politics. At the same time, it wants to encourage young

people to engage in politics and to improve their possibilities to do so. The project also offers workshops and trainings that support the participants to deal with and become resilient against hatred and racism, which is especially spread online. An academic study will cover opportunities and challenges for young people with immigration backgrounds to engage in German politics.

Germany is involved in various projects to promote digital and innovative solutions in the field of remittances. By providing an e-learning product, Germany helps senders and recipients of remittances to acquire basic knowledge about sustainable investments and personal financial planning.

In 2022 and 2024, the global project "Shaping Development-Oriented Migration" financed a self-organised diaspora summit on the topic of "Diaspora Engagement for Local and Global Transformation". Germany has been working to strengthen diaspora engagement for many years, for example by supporting diaspora organisations to cooperate with local partner organisations, or by assisting diaspora members to establish businesses that contribute to sustainable development in their countries of origin. This support is to continue in order to ensure the visibility of the expertise and engagement of diasporas.

Session 4: Data, information and evidence-based policy making (Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17, 23)

Germany remains committed to strengthening evidence-based policymaking for informed public discourse and enhancing international cooperation to reduce vulnerabilities and promote safe, orderly, and regular migration.

In 2023, Germany spent 131 million Euros for anticipatory action throughout the humanitarian system, thus exceeding the 100 million Euros pledge by a wide margin. Since 2022, Germany has also been heavily involved in the conceptual development of the instrument and its anchoring in the international humanitarian system. During Germany's G7 presidency in 2022, it also succeeded in adopting its own G7 Foreign Ministers' Declaration on strengthening forward-looking humanitarian assistance.

Germany is committed to ending gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts and to this end has taken over the chairmanship of the "Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies" for the

years 2023-2024. For the Global Refugee Forum 2023, Germany, in its role as Call to Action Chair, has presented a multi-stakeholder pledge on gender equality and protection from gender-based violence in cooperation with UNHCR.

The German Federal Foreign Office will soon publish its strategy on gender in humanitarian assistance. This will make the German gender approach visible in the global gender debate and integrate it into political action. The aim of the Federal Foreign Office is to ensure that German humanitarian assistance is at least 100 per cent gender-sensitive and, wherever possible, gender-targeted.

Germany continues its bilateral migration dialogues with EU states. Since 2023, the Special Representative for Migration Agreements with Third Countries has also been based at Federal Ministry of the Interior, where talks with various countries are already underway.

Germany also continues to actively promote the issue of climate- and disaster-related displacement and supported the central work of the Platform for Disaster Displacement. Further funding of 1.6 million Euros has been agreed for the PDD Secretariat for the period 2023-2025.

Germany supports the activities of the Global Data Institute of the International Organisation for Migration in Berlin, which was founded in 2022 and officially launched in 2023. One example is the German funded 2 million Euros project on gender-disaggregated migration data. The project aims to improve the availability and use of gender-disaggregated migration data. Germany also strengthens the rights, participation and access to resources of migrant women with the "Making Migration Safe for Women" programme, implemented by UN Women. Building on the first phase in Niger, the project aims to protect the rights and improve access to resources of women migrants in Ethiopia, while promoting gender-responsive legal frameworks and safe and orderly migration for women migrants at a global level.

In addition, Germany financed projects with IDMC (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre) as well as with UNDP and JIPS (Joint IDP Profiling Service) to enhance data quality and knowledge sharing on internal displacement.

Germany recognises the key role of local and regional governments and values their participation in global migration governance processes. Therefore, Germany through the funding of the GFMD Mayors Mechanism

supported, amongst others, the preparation and participation of 34 representatives from 17 cities at the IMRF.

Germany underlines its strong belief in the importance of international cooperation improving the collection and use of disaggregated migration data, providing accurate, timely, accessible and transparent information and fighting misleading narratives that generate negative perceptions of migrants. Inclusive and evidence-based policy making processes require meaningful cooperation between governments at all levels, civil society, international organisations, the private sector, and also diaspora, and migrants themselves.