



## Draft of actionable recommendations on missing migrants

### Background

Based on consultations over the past 12 months and building on existing bodies of recommendations<sup>1</sup>, the workstream has developed draft recommendations on missing migrants under each of the key thematic areas of (1) the prevention of migrant deaths and disappearances, (2) the search for and identification of migrants who have died and/or gone missing, and (3) support to families of missing migrants.

### Prevention

1. Create independent review bodies to assess the (direct or indirect) impact of migration related laws, policies and practices on the risk of migrants dying or going missing.
2. Provide migrants and their families the means to establish, restore and maintain contact throughout their migratory journeys, including in places of detention and at border crossings, either directly or through allowing their safe access to the services of humanitarian actors without discrimination.

### Search and identification

#### National level

3. Develop and strengthen systems for the collection, management centralization and systematization of data on all unidentified human remains on a state territory, including publication of anonymized data in line with GCM reporting frameworks.
4. Systematize Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) responses to mass casualty events involving migrants.
5. Set up processes and mechanisms for families and others to register cases and provide information in an accessible, safe and confidential manner in countries of migrant origin, transit and destination, in line with data protection rules and standards. In particular, ensure that information provided is used for humanitarian purposes only, unless otherwise agreed by those providing it.
6. Follow a standardized approach to registration of cases involving missing migrants as laid out in ICRC's core data set to harmonize data collection for the search for missing migrants.

#### Transnational cooperation

7. Appoint national focal point for transnational cooperation who can ensure that requests are received and that the right institutions are consulted.
8. Increase bilateral cooperation between key countries of origin and disappearance, as a steppingstone towards route-based coordination and cooperation mechanisms on

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<sup>1</sup> ICRC and IOM have developed a number of guidance documents and policy recommendations based on global consultative and evidence-based processes.



missing migrants. This should include, inter alia, access to biometric databases for identification purposes.

9. Regional and sub-regional bodies and institutions should facilitate cooperation among States and other actors along migratory routes, including through the adoption and alignment of relevant normative frameworks, policies and standards and the establishment of information sharing arrangements and even institutionalized structures to support efforts.

### Families

10. Provide access to critical legal documentation such certificates of absence/presumed death certificates, and other documents which can help address challenges such as marital status, control of property, guardianship of children and related topics.
11. Make all efforts to repatriate the remains of deceased migrants when identified, respecting the wishes of grieving families.
12. Acknowledge and support the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations as important intermediaries between families and States that can facilitate the registration of cases, provide information for search purposes, and support access for affected families to rights and services.