

## Informal Cross-Regional Dialogue of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Champions: Peer Exchange, Implementation and Follow Up

28-30 November 2023 - Accra, Ghana

### Summary of Recommendations and Best Practices

#### English

##### **Data collection: Promoting actionable steps for enhanced cross-regional information sharing to accelerate GCM implementation**

- Enhance cooperation with different regional partners to improve data collection capacities to manage national data.
  - Establish inter-agency working groups or task forces that can share data, exchange best practices, and coordinate efforts to collect and analyze migration data to promote cohesive and conclusive data collection process among different government agencies involved in migration.
  - Encourage regional data sharing platforms that facilitate the exchange of migration data among countries within the region. These platforms can serve as a forum for member states to share best practices, harmonize data collection methodologies, and collaborate on joint research projects related to migration.
  - Promote data transparency and accessibility to relevant stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, civil society organizations, and the general public. This can be done by publishing regular migration reports, establishing open data platforms or portals, and providing user-friendly tools for data visualization and analysis.
- Develop standardized data collection protocols to be followed at the national level. These protocols should outline the types of data to be collected, the methodologies to be used, and the standards for data quality and privacy to ensure consistency and comparability of migration data across different regions within the country.

##### **Ensuring migrant protection through cross-regional collaboration – Strengthening responses to migrant smuggling, coordinating efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and preventing loss of life & promote Regular Pathways**

- Strengthen identification and protection mechanisms for victims of smuggling and trafficking. This includes: training law enforcement and immigration officials on victim identification and referral procedures, establishing specialized units or task forces to handle cases of smuggling and trafficking, and providing comprehensive support services to victims, including shelter, healthcare, legal assistance, and psychosocial support.
- Invest in improving reception centers for migrants to ensure they are in a safe and dignified conditions. This includes: enhancing infrastructure, access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, and providing adequate support and assistance to vulnerable groups, such as women, elderly, children, and victims of trafficking.
- Invest in awareness-raising and prevention campaigns aimed at candidates for irregular migration on the risks of smuggling and trafficking and to empower them with knowledge and tools to protect themselves. These campaigns can be conducted through various channels, such as social media, community outreach programs, and collaboration with civil society organizations.

- Invest in comprehensive and easily accessible information campaigns to inform migrants about safe migration options and procedures. This can include: creating multilingual websites, hotlines, or mobile applications, opinion leaders, traditional authorities that provide accurate and up-to-date information on legal migration channels, requirements, and available support services.
- Simplify and streamline regular pathways: enhance the conditions and requirements for regular pathways, such as visas or work permits, to make them more accessible for migrants. This can include: reducing unnecessary paperwork, lowering financial barriers, and ensuring transparent and efficient application processes.
- Member states within regional blocs should work towards harmonizing their legislation and policies related to TiP and victim protection. This can involve aligning definitions, penalties, and victim support measures to ensure consistency and effectiveness in combating TiP and providing assistance to victims across borders. Regional Economic Communities may support such initiatives.
- Enhance cross regional data sharing to operate coordinated search and rescue operations between states to save lives.
- Create national focal points to facilitate transnational cooperation on the search for missing migrants. This initiative aims to foster bilateral collaboration among key countries of origin and disappearance. It ensures that families and concerned individuals can register cases and provide information in a secure, accessible, and confidential manner.
- Develop comprehensive assistance and support programs tailored to address the multifaceted needs of families of missing migrants (including psycho-social, economic, legal, stigma, ambiguous loss, consuming search, fear to interact with authorities, etc.).

**Fostering cross-regional collaboration for advancing the protection of the rights of migrants, in particular the application of anti-discrimination dimensions and in migration and detention**

- Member states and civil society organizations are encouraged to conduct joint needs assessments to identify gaps and challenges in existing immigration detention systems and explore the potential for community-based alternatives. This can involve gathering data, conducting interviews or surveys with migrants, and consulting relevant stakeholders to understand the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different migrant populations.
- Encourage Member States to utilize UN agencies and CSOs' resources and the know-how to enhance the implementation of humanitarian-based assistance.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of laws, policies, and practices that allow for the immigration detention of children. This review should aim to eliminate the detention of children for migration-related reasons and ensure that alternative, community-based solutions are implemented.
- Strengthen systems and processes to promote the integration of migrants into the community. This can include implementing effective screening and assessment mechanisms to identify the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and provide appropriate support and services for integration including access to language training, education, employment opportunities, healthcare, and social services, enabling migrants to contribute positively to their host communities.
- Utilize media and communication to help build a positive narrative on migration.
- Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort, after all alternatives have been reviewed and found to be inappropriate in the individual case. Detention should be for the shortest possible period and subject to regular judicial review.
- Support the voluntary return of migrants in line with international law, ensuring that migrants have access to information, assistance, and protection throughout the return process which can help prevent the unnecessary detention of migrants and promote their rights and dignity.
- Make use of data on immigration detention, death and disappearances as well as data on promising alternatives implemented, through the National Coordination Mechanisms, or other mechanisms to raise awareness on the rights of migrants.
- Establish independent review bodies to assess the humanitarian impact of migratory policies and practices. These bodies should scrutinize existing laws, policies, and practices for their potential harm and recommend necessary changes.

**Human mobility in the context of climate change and mobility nexus**

- Governments should develop and prioritize investments in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies by implementing early warning systems, improving infrastructure resilience, and promoting sustainable environment management practices. Such measures can help reduce the impacts of climate change-induced disasters and minimize the need for people to migrate as a result.
- Youth should be seen as partners, not as beneficiaries, when it comes to their participation in the fight against climate change and mobility.
- Prioritize the development and implementation of durable solutions for climate-impacted migrants and aim at addressing the long-term needs of affected communities, reducing their vulnerability to future climate impacts and minimizing the need for further displacement.
- Prioritize transitioning to a carbon-neutral economy to create new income opportunities.
- Strengthen the resettlement pillar in the National Adaptation Strategy (NAPs) through including climate change migrants and improved coherence in the narrative on human mobility.
- Encourage Member States to increase its investments in development approaches that integrate health, education, livelihoods, and community-based protection mechanisms to allow for successful integration of mobile population impacted by climate change and environment.
- Incorporation by State parties, the AU, the UN, and other stakeholders of the transitional justice tools as provided in the AU Transitional Justice Policy to address climate change and human mobility in order to realize safe, regular and orderly migration. The tools of transitional justice can ensure the consideration and engagement of meaningful dialogues between the receiving and migrating communities, and also consider the trauma experienced during the journey of the migrant.
- Highlight the need for urgent action to adapt and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change which may compel people to leave their countries of origin as well as to adequately address loss and damages, through the operationalization of the funding arrangement agreed during COP27.

#### **Accelerating national GCM implementation**

- Develop the National Action Plan (NAP) for GCM implementation through an evolving process, considering the specific context and priorities of each country. A holistic approach should be adopted, addressing all areas of the GCM and ensuring that all stakeholders are involved in the process. This approach helps create a comprehensive and inclusive NAP that reflects the needs and aspirations of the country and its migrants.
- Establish clear indicators to measure the implementation of the GCM National Implementation Plan and regularly monitor and evaluate.
- Implement the GCM through a coordinated, open and inclusive process. The whole- of-government and whole-of-society approach ensures that all perspectives and expertise are considered, and actions are comprehensive.

#### **Group Discussions on Regional and Cross Regional and sub-regional progress in the implementation of the GCM.**

- Organize whole-of-government and whole-of-society consultations ahead of the Regional Reviews.
- Facilitate, where possible, cross- and intra-regional exchanges between champion countries as part of the preparatory process for the Regional Reviews.
- Explore the possibility of developing a GCM pledge by Champion countries in advancing on the implementation of GCM objectives that require immediate action.