



# National Voluntary Review of the Republic of Mauritius

## Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

August 2021

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## ACRONYMS

API	Advance Passenger Information
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and reintegration
AVSEC	Aviation
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSG	Contribution Sociale Généralisée
EDB	Economic Development Board
EU	European Union
EUDiF	European Union Global Diaspora Facility
FAL	Facilitation of International Air Transport
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HEC	Higher Education Commission
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HRDC	Human Resources Development Council
IBCS	Immigration Border Control System
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy and Development
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISMS	Information Security Management System
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MECLEP	Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy
MiEUX	Migration EU Expertise
MITD	Mauritius Institute of Training and Development
MLHRDT	Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MQA	Mauritius Qualification Authority
MRZ	Machine Readable Zone
MS	Member States
MSC	Migration Steering Committee
NAP	National Action Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NTRS	National Training and Reskilling Scheme
NWGMD	National Working Group on Migration and Development
OAU	Organisation of Africa Unity
PIO	Passport and Immigration Office
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PNR	Passenger Name Record
QA	Quality Assurance
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMWU	Special Migrant Workers' Unit
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
VNR	Voluntary National Review
YEP	Youth Employment Programme

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Prime Minister's Office (Defence and Home Affairs Division), we would like to thank all key stakeholders and Members of the National Working Group on Migration and Development (Migration and Development Steering Committee), including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mauritius, for their support and valuable inputs at different stages of the review.

A special appreciation to the following Ministries/Departments for their valuable contribution to the formulation of the Mauritius National Voluntary Review:

- Ministry for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity;
- Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade;
- Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning and Development;
- Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division);
- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Sustainable Development Division)
- Ministry of Labour, Human Resources Development and Training (Employment Services Division & Labour Division);
- Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare (Planning and Research Unit);
- Passport and Immigration Office;
- Statistics Mauritius;
- Bank of Mauritius; and
- International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 28 September 2018, during the Plenary Meeting at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius supported the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The Republic of Mauritius has always been an island of migration all along its history. Its population is made up of descendants of migrant people from different countries, following different patterns of settlement which resulted in a system where migration, labour market and ethnicity are strongly and deeply intertwined.

Mauritius is considered a successful example of development and multiculturalism. Mauritian identity construction processes depend on complex interactions between global, regional and local contexts to which the increasing flows of migration in contemporary globalized economy may represent a challenge.

Mauritius is considered as both a source and destination country for international migration. Mauritius promotes “Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” and aligns with Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7.: *“facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”*. To this effect, in 2018, the Government of Mauritius developed a Migration and Development Policy for the Republic of Mauritius 2030 to contribute towards its socioeconomic development at the national level.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The National Voluntary Review Report has been formulated using a guiding template questionnaire (**Annex A**), transmitted by United Nations Network on Migration, serving to promote consistency and comparability between reviews across the African region.

As such, with a view to formulating the National Voluntary Review on the implementation of the GCM by Mauritius, the Migration and Development Steering Committee established in 2015, chaired by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has been mandated to assess the current situation (magnitude, nature, impact of migration), identify gaps and pertinent migration issues related to migration and development in Mauritius, critically review current efforts towards managing migration issues within the socio-economic development context of Mauritius and to monitor and ensure coherence in the implementation of the National Migration and Development Policy (NMDP) approved by Government in June 2018.

The Migration and Development Steering Committee adopts a "Whole-of-Government approach" to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of Governmental institutions with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the supportive UN Institution. The intervention of several stakeholders entails an efficient system of coordination and monitoring in order to assure coherence between the interventions of different ministries and governmental agencies as well as civil society organisations.

In view of the multifaceted approach in the implementation of the 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles of the GCM (**Annex B**), members of the Steering Committee were invited to provide an update on the GCM implementation falling under their purview. The main stakeholders composing the Migration and Development Steering Committee are:

- Prime Minister's Office (National focal point on migration issues & Chair of the Committee);
- Ministry for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity;
- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development and Planning;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade;
- Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology;
- Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division);
- Ministry of Labour, Human Resources Development and Training;
- Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare;
- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Sustainable Development Division)
- Passport and Immigration Office;
- Statistics Mauritius;
- Bank of Mauritius;
- Economic Development Board;
- Rodrigues Regional Assembly; and
- International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In order to ensure global coherence in addressing all facets of migration and create favourable conditions for the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Migration Unit, under the Prime Minister's Office, had a supportive role in the overall coordination system amongst key stakeholders of the Migration and Development Steering Committee in the formulation of the National Voluntary Review on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

### 3.0 POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The Migration and Development Policy for the Republic of Mauritius has been developed in June 2018, with technical assistance from the Migration European Union Expertise (MIEUX) Programme which was deputed by the EU Delegation to assist in the preparation of the policy since 2017. The Policy is in alignment with the necessary enabling environment in achieving Target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - “*Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies*”. The National Migration Policy Framework contributes towards the achievement of the Mauritius Vision 2030.

Furthermore, the Policy also responds to this particular commitment addressed in the 23 GCM objectives as stipulated in the Global Compact for Migration and is guided by the SDGs Targets related to migration, namely, on 3.c (retention of the health workforce), 4.b (education), 8.7 (eradication of forced labour and slavery), 8.8 (protection of safe and secure environments for all workers), 10.c (reduction of transaction costs for migrant remittances), 16.9 (legal identity) and 17.18 (data).

The overall goal of the Policy is to maximise the contribution of migration to all-inclusive, sustainable, rights-based socio-economic development in the Republic Mauritius.

The Policy aims to formulate and forge a strategic vision and roadmap in relation to all facets of migration in Mauritius. It analyses and deals with the complexity of migration in a broad perspective with a view to ensuring better sustainable living conditions through measures such as addressing unemployment, boosting investment, innovation and prosperity. Given the multi-dimensional nature of migration and the necessity to tackle these dimensions through targeted measures and options, the report has clustered the Policy into four pillars, namely, Pillar I: Policy and Institutional Coherence; Pillar II: Prosperity; Pillar III: Partnership; and Pillar IV: Protection. Furthermore, three intervention axes have been suggested as follows: Axis I: Facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration, Axis II: Maximising the socio-economic and human development impact of migration and minimising its negative consequences; and Axis III: Strengthening the domestic migration governance framework.

The National Migration and Development Policy:

- 1) helps all stakeholders, that is, Ministries and Departments as well as NGOs to understand the concept of migration and development;
- 2) helps to set up a mechanism in the form of a National Migration and Development Steering Committee to address migration and development issues in a coordinated manner in collaboration with all stakeholders and the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and
- 4) a Whole-of-Government approach has become a reality for the Republic of Mauritius.

#### 3.1 Targeted migrants in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Migrant workers to Mauritius make important contributions to the labour market in both high- and low-skilled occupations. Over the past ten years, migrant workers represented 17% of the increase in the workforce of the country. Currently, there are around 35,205 Migrant workers, including 5,854 female and 29,351 male migrant workers working among others in economic activities, such as Manufacturing (including textile), Construction, Trade, Hotel and Restaurant, and Information and Communication Technology.
- It is worth noting that Migrants working in Mauritius are treated on equal footing as regards to their Mauritian counterparts under the Workers’ Rights Act 2019. They are not discriminated vis-à-vis the local nationals. There is a Special Migrant Workers’ Unit

(SMWU) at the level of the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training which is mandated to provide services to migrant workers, such as the vetting of contracts (Models of Contract of employment) and investigation into companies regarding conditions of work, including inspection at workplaces for migrant workers.

- At the beginning of March 2021, cases of COVID-19 re-emerged in the country, the Government had, thus, announced that vaccines will be accessible to all foreigners domiciled in Mauritius above the age of 18 holding valid permits. Additionally, Rapid Antigen tests were being done along with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests were carried out on migrant workers free of charge in the event of suspected COVID-19 contamination. Employers of migrant workers on the other hand ensured that their lodging areas were fumigated and provided with necessary sanitary equipment. Furthermore, the work permits of the expatriate workers were also extended until December 2021 due to sanitary closure of borders. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT), commended the Government of Mauritius for a systematic national COVID-19 vaccination program.

### ***3.2 Integrating GCM into Sustainable Development Goals implementation***

- During the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly, “Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, Mauritius presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Mauritius is wholly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In keeping with our national priorities, the development of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report of Mauritius 2019 was mainly focused on SDG1: No Poverty, SDG4: Quality Education, SDG13: Climate Action and SDG14: Life Below Water. Mauritius has achieved SDG3: Good Health and Well Being; and SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals. The other SDGs are on track. Particular attention is needed to be able to achieve SDG14: Life Below water.
- The VNR Report 2019, therefore, advocates the establishment of a permanent mechanism to track the SDGs and identify support required for the achievement of the SDGs. The United Nations will remain a key partner for us to move forward concretely and rapidly towards the achievement of the SDGs.



## **4.0 PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 23 GCM OBJECTIVES**

### **4.1 Objective 1 - Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies**

- The Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training collects data on migrants working in Mauritius through the e-work permit system. Data on work permits issued and renewed is disaggregated by sector, nationality and sex. The data is available through the Employment Service Monthly Bulletin posted on the Ministry's website. Data on Occupation Permit and Residence Permit are monitored by the Economic Development Board and the Passport and Immigration Office.
- The Housing and Population Census is expected to start in 2022. However, the exercise of collection of data will depend on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Statistics Mauritius has proposed some questions on migration in the 2022 Census questionnaire.
- After the collection of data from the 2022 Census, Statistics Mauritius will envisage the setting up of a population register aligning with existing data of the Civil Status Division.
- The Government of Mauritius, with the support of IOM, is currently undertaking an "Assessment of Migration Data".

### **4.2 Objective 2 - Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin**

- In Mauritius, the relationship between migration and climate change is of particular importance. The four main environmental and climatic events that migrant and non-migrant households face are: torrential rain, floods, droughts/ water scarcity and cyclones.
- Mauritius has signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. The climate change agenda of Mauritius will be geared towards the implementation of measures listed under our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which is presently under review and is expected to be completed before the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in November 2021.
- The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) project on 24 May 2018. The aim of the MECLEP projects was to increase knowledge and awareness about the nexus between environmental and climate change and populations' mobility to support the formulation of related national and regional policy options. Technical Working Group was convened by the Environment and Sustainable Development Division on 13 January 2021 to look into the implementation of the MECC Policy Recommendations and Action Plan, and stakeholders were requested to submit inputs on the implementation of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Action Plan.
- The Climate Change Act 2020 makes provisions for, *inter-alia*, the formulation of a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan.
- In addressing the issue of unemployment in Mauritius, the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training, the Human Resource Development Council, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development and other relevant stakeholders have implemented different training programme for the training and placement of unemployed jobseekers to increase their employability and facilitate their integration in the labour market. Moreover, the National Training and Reskilling Scheme under the Economic Recovery Programme caters for the skilling and reskilling of 6,000 individuals who have lost their jobs due to the COVID pandemic, as well as those who are unemployed to

provide them with the core skills required by different sectors of the economy. The Employment Service conducts labour market surveys on a yearly basis to determine future skills needs in the labour market and facilitate placement of jobseekers into gainful employment. The Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training encourages jobseekers to accept jobs available locally and training is provided where required. Furthermore, jobseekers reporting at Employment Information Centres are provided with service, such as individual counselling and workshops are organized to equip them with necessary skills to position themselves on the labour market.

#### **4.3 Objective 3 - Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration**

- The Migration and Development Steering Committee under the Prime Minister's Office, ensures that accurate and timely information at all stages of migration is disseminated to all key Ministries/Departments and follows a "Whole-of-Government" approach on migration issues.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade has established open and accessible information points along relevant migration routes, through our Missions abroad and Protocol Directorate in the Ministry.
- The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority also provides key information to people travelling to Mauritius during the COVID-19 period.
- The Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) enforces migration policy and manages border control at ports of arrival, enforces immigration regulations, processes applications and issues work, occupation and residence permits to applicants who wish to work, invest, or live in the Republic of Mauritius. The PIO also manages migration data and relevant information regarding immigration requirements published on its website.

#### **4.4 Objective 4 - Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation**

- The Passport and Immigration Office which manages border control at ports of arrival, complies with the provisions under sections 3 and 16 of the Mauritian Constitution and the Equal Opportunities Act 2012, which provides for the protection against discrimination, *inter-alia*, on ground of race, descent, ethnic or national origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex. The PIO harmonizes travel documents issued by the Government of Mauritius in line with the standards and specifications of the International Civil Aviation Organization.
- In the Passport Regulations, provision has been made to cater for the issuance of Travel Documents to Mauritius Citizens abroad.
- Mauritius, being a party to The Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 abolishing the requirement of legalisation for foreign public documents, has brought about a basic simplification to the formalities of legislation of public documents outside the countries from which they emanate. These formalities of legalisation have been reduced to the delivery of a certificate in a prescribed form entitled "Apostille," through the Prime Minister's Office, which is then countersigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **4.5 Objective 5 - Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration**

- Mauritius promotes safe, orderly and regular migration, in terms of bilateral cooperation, the Republic of Mauritius is actively promoting labour agreements with other countries. The Government has signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement with the Republic of Seychelles (1990), a bilateral Labour Service Cooperation Agreement with People's Republic of China (January 2005), Agreements on the Regulation of Manpower

Employment with the State of Qatar (2014), the Government of the United Arab Emirates (2016) and Nepal (2019).

- In addition, circular labour migration agreements have been signed with France (2008), Italy (2012) and with Canadian employers, universities and cultural associations between 2008 and 2014 to enable Mauritian workers to gain professional experience and training in these countries before returning to the Republic of Mauritius. Furthermore, an MoU was signed in October 2017 with the Republic of Seychelles concerning the recruitment of Mauritian teachers to work in Seychelles. MoUs on labour exchange are currently under process with other countries, namely, Madagascar, India, Bangladesh, Lesotho and New Zealand.
- Furthermore, Mauritius has signed the Addis Convention for the recognition of qualifications on the African continent. Mauritius offers 50 scholarships annually to Member States of the African Union at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The implementation of a recruitment of International Faculty Scheme and of a Nobel laureate Scheme is being provided at the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The Programme Hubert Curien Le Reduit is in place to encourage mobility of researchers between France and Mauritius.

#### **4.6 Objective 6 - Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work**

- Fair and ethical recruitment are facilitated through bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding as well as through recruitment agencies in Mauritius holding a valid Recruitment Licence. The Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training (MLHRDT) issues Recruitment Licences to private recruitment agencies under the Recruitment of Workers Act 1993, allowing them to recruit Non-Citizens for employment in Mauritius.
- The employment of non-citizens in Mauritius is governed under section 3(1) of the Non-Citizens (Employment Restriction) Act, which stipulates that *"a non-citizen shall not engage in any occupation in Mauritius for reward or profit; or be employed in Mauritius, unless there is in force, in relation to him, a valid permit and he engages in the occupation, or is employed, in accordance with any condition which may be specified in the permit."* As a consequence, any person who employs a non-citizen without the appropriate permit is also liable to sanctions.
- Migrant workers are treated on equal footing as would the nationals. Since January 2018, a National Minimum Wage is payable to full time employee and is currently nine thousand three hundred and seventy-five Mauritian Rupees (Rs 9,375) per month for export oriented enterprises and ten thousand and seventy-five Mauritian Rupees per month (Rs 10,075) for non-export oriented enterprises.
- Inspections of Recruitment Agencies are carried out by Officers of the Employment Service under the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training. The Officers are mandated to, *inter-alia*, ensure that Recruitment Agencies (Employers and non-citizens) are complying with the Recruitment of Workers Act: check office facilities and accessibility and whether the office is conducive for the recruitment activities; verify the profile of the agencies and their employees and ensure that quarterly returns are being submitted within the prescribed delay. Work Permit Inspections are also carried out by the Employment Officers to enquire why employers are having recourse to foreign labour.
- The Special Migrant Workers' Unit at the level of the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training, on the other hand, is mandated to provide services to migrant workers such as, the vetting of contracts (Models of Contract of employment) and investigation into companies regarding conditions of work, including inspection at workplaces for migrant workers.

- It is also worth noting that Mauritius has ratified a total of 52 ILO Conventions including the 8 fundamental ones. Mauritius has ratified the following 16 Conventions since year 2000: 87, 88, 100, 111, 137, 150, 154, 155, 156, 159, 182, 183, 187, 189, 190 and MLC 2006 together with its accompanying Amendments 2014, 2016 and 2018. Under section 22 of the ILO Constitution, the Government is required to report on measures taken which have given effect to the provisions advocated by the articles of the Conventions. The last Conventions ratified by Mauritius on 01 July 2021 are "Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190)" and "Violence and harassment Recommendation, 2019 (No.206)."
- The Workers' Rights Act, also provides safeguards regarding terms and conditions of employment and, *inter-alia*, deals with violence at work for which criminal proceedings may be envisaged. On conviction, any person who has committed an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 Mauritian Rupees and to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years.

#### **4.7 Objective 7 - Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration**

- In order to mitigate the risk of migrants being in vulnerable situation in Mauritius, the Government of Mauritius has developed the "Know Your Rights" pamphlet in numerous foreign languages, aiming at sensitizing prospective and current migrant workers of their rights and possible remedial actions in case of violations. In addition, the pamphlet also serves to raise awareness amongst migrant workers in situation where they might be confronted with dangers of Human Trafficking and smuggling.
- The informative pamphlet is complemented by sensitization sessions being organized by Officers of the MLHRDT at work sites/ factories.
- Provision has been made in the Children's Act 2020 to cater for the protection of children at all level, including migrant children.

#### **4.8 Objective 8 - Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants**

- The Government of Mauritius has set up a High-Level Committee co-chaired by the Attorney General and the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development to analyse the multifaceted problem of missing migrant workers. A sub-committee chaired by the Prime Minister's Office has also been set up to examine the issue of missing migrant workers in-depth and make appropriate recommendations.
- Following consultations of the sub-committee, in June 2020, the Government of Mauritius has approved on an action plan on the issue of missing migrants and the action measures recommended for implementation thereof has been addressed in short, medium and long terms. In the same line, the sub-committee on missing migrant workers had also prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with clear timeframe to address the issue of missing migrants.

#### **4.9 Objective 9 - Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants & Objective 10 - Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration**

- In the prevention, combat and eradicate Trafficking in Persons in the context of international migration, it is worth noting that Mauritius has enacted the Combatting Trafficking in Persons Act in 2009 and has, on 24 September 2003, ratified the "Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)" and "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish

- Under the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act of Mauritius, Human Trafficking is referred as the recruitment, sale, supply, procurement, capture, removal, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a person through the use of threat, force, intimidation, fraud or coercion, abduction, deception, abuse of power and abuse of a position of vulnerability, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes sexual exploitation, forced labour, illegal removal of body organs and all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery.
- The Government of Mauritius has also revived the Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Attorney-General ensuring proper coordination of issues/recommendations/actions, in the US Trafficking in Persons Reports.
- A shelter for victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) has been set up at the Police Quarters in Vacoas, Mauritius. An expression of interest would soon be launched to identify a Non-Governmental Organization willing to manage the shelter and provide integrated support to TIP victims. It is to be noted that pursuant to current legislation, the victim is allowed to remain in Mauritius for up to 42 days on a visitor's permit.
- On a technical assistance approach, IOM Mauritius is supporting the Government of Mauritius to improve the identification, referral and protection of victims of trafficking. In this respect, a mapping of key stakeholders has been completed, and standard operating procedures and standardized tools are being designed for the identification and referral of cases of human trafficking. Similarly, consultations are being held with key stakeholders with a view to preparing a National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons. IOM is also supporting the capacity development of representatives of key institutions in the areas of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the maritime context.
- On the other hand, the Migration European Union Expertise (MIEUX+) under the European Union (EU), has also agreed to provide further technical assistance to Mauritius for the:
  - a) development an effective response to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Mauritius and the protection of TIP victims;
  - b) establishment of Standard Operating Procedures for handling cases of TIP; and
  - c) training of selected categories of Officers dealing with TIP.
- Furthermore, under a maritime security project, IOM is supporting the capacity development of representatives of key institutions in the area of Integrated Border Management with a focus of prevention of transnational organized crimes.

#### **4.10 Objective 11 - Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner**

- The Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) is the main operational agency responsible for visa, permit and passport issuance and also for passenger processing at ports of entry in Mauritius. The Passport and Immigration Office, which manages border control at ports of arrival, including other operating agencies, complies with the provisions under sections 3 and 16 of the Mauritian Constitution and the Equal Opportunities Act 2012, which provides for the protection against discrimination, *inter-alia*, on ground of race, descent, ethnic or national origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex.
- The Passport and Immigration Office implements an Immigration Border Control System (IBCS) operational since 2009. The IBCS which is used exclusively by the PIO, captures real time information on passengers in the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ), in line with the ICAO Standards. The Passport and Immigration Office is also certified ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 27001: 2015- Information Security Management System (ISMS). The IBCS, which is used by Immigration Officers as a border management tool, is in alignment with the

provisions of the Data Protection Act of Mauritius while processing data in respect of passengers.

- The Immigration Border Control System deployed in the context of border enforcement and administration compound racial discrimination by, *inter-alia*, ensuring protection against all forms of discrimination for reasons based on race, colour, descent, ethnic or national origin, religion or citizenship. The Passport and Immigration Office also ensures the protection of migrants against any form of discrimination during verification process at the immigration counters, in accordance with the International Human Rights Law, ICAO standards, Aviation Security and Facilitation of International Air Transport Convention in ensuring non-discrimination and transparency at border control with respect to incoming and outgoing passengers.
- The Advance Passengers Information and the Passengers Name Record has become operative as from end of July 2021. This Office is also in the process of digitalizing its Immigration Disembarkation.

#### **4.11 Objective 12 - Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral**

- In order to generate awareness on migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral in Mauritius, the Government has developed the “Know Your Rights” pamphlet in numerous foreign languages, aiming at sensitizing prospective and current migrant workers of their rights and possible remedial actions in case of violations. In addition, the pamphlet also serves as an awareness tool to migrant workers in situation where they might be confronted with dangers of Human Trafficking and smuggling.

#### **4.12 Objective 13 - Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives**

- The Protection of Human Rights Act 1998 provides for the setting up of a National Human Rights Commission for the better protection of human rights, for the better investigation of complaints against members of the Police Force and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- All migrant workers are being considered as a resident for a specific period and they enjoy all the fundamental rights and privileges in accordance with the Constitution of Mauritius to wit the right of the individual to life, liberty, freedom, expression and protection.
  - a) Migrants are detained in Mauritius only if they are involved in serious cases which are punishable by the Mauritius Laws.
  - b) Migrants are arrested by Law Enforcement Officers that is uniformed Police Officer, Criminal Investigation Division, Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit, Passport and Immigration Office. They are kept under supervision in Police Cell or remanded in custody pending completion of enquiry, and court procedure. After their arrest and detention, the relevant Embassy is being informed accordingly.
- When a migrant is arrested, he/she is brought before a Court of Law within a specific period of time so as to legalize his/her detention.
- The standard of treatment for migrants are the same as of any citizen of Mauritius. The Constitutional rights are respected. Prior to arrest, the migrant workers are informed about the reason for their arrest in a language which they understand and their constitutional rights.
- Though no specific legislation governing migrants is in place in Mauritius, various laws are relevant and applicable to this segment. For instance, section 5(1)(a)-(k) of the Constitution provide for instances where a person may be deprived of his personal liberty

as may be authorised by law. Should a migrant commit an offence under a law in force in Mauritius and if it is an arrestable offence, the migrant may be so arrested and detained. There is also the possibility under the Deportation Act for a person to be deported subject to the procedures laid down under sections 5 and 6 of the Deportation Act.

- The Republic of Mauritius is neither party to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, nor to the UN Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees 1967 as well as the Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the OAU Convention on Refugees 1969. Mauritius being a small and densely populated island with stretched limited resources, has not yet adopted laws or policy to grant refugee status to foreigners. Mauritius, however, does attempt to treat applications for refugee status or political asylum, on a humanitarian and case-to-case basis by facilitating their settlement in a friendly country willing to receive them. Mauritius has always been collaborating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the resettlement of non-citizens to whom UNHCR has granted the status of refugee/asylum seekers. However, the UNHCR has the responsibility to meet the cost of stay of non-citizens until such time they leave Mauritius.

#### **4.13 Objective 14 - Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle**

- The mandate of the 19 Mauritian Diplomatic Missions/Consulate and Honorary Consulates overseas is to provide prompt, effective and courteous consular services and assistance to the Mauritian Diaspora and Nationals abroad, ensuring that there are trained and dedicated staff to assist, protecting the privacy of people in accordance with law and maintaining collaborative working relations with other government agencies to facilitate effective consular and crisis-related assistance.
- The services include, *inter-alia*, assistance to Mauritians in distress overseas, assistance in cases of loss of passports and issue of travel documents to Mauritian Nationals, assistance for transfer of mortal remains, coordinate requests for official and civil status documents, certificate of character, driving license among others, legalization of documents, transfer of prisoners, extradition procedures as well as views, advice and assistance on Protocol Matters.
- Mauritians in distress abroad can request for consular assistance from our Diplomatic Missions/Consulate and Honorary Consulates overseas. It includes attending to difficulties faced by Mauritians abroad ranging from problems encountered during studies to assault/robbery cases and loss of passports/personal belongings. To facilitate access to Consular Assistance, an eService application will be made online.

#### **4.14 Objective 15 - Provide access to basic services for migrants**

##### **Civil Rights**

- Article 13 of the Code Civil Mauricien provides for: “*L'étranger jouira à Maurice des mêmes droits civils que ceux qui sont ou seront accordés aux Mauriciens par les traités de la nation à laquelle cet étranger appartiendra.*” However, section 16(4)(b) of the Constitution allows for the passing of laws which may afford a different treatment to persons who are not citizens of Mauritius. A foreigner in Mauritius enjoys the same civil rights as citizens of Mauritius.

##### **Health**

- Migrants working in Mauritius are treated on equal footing as regards to their Mauritian counterparts. Mauritius is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.c in providing “Universal Coverage to All”, that is, Mauritius extends its medical coverage to all,

including migrants mainly due to free health services provided to all in our public hospitals and care centers.

- It is to be noted that migrant workers coming to Mauritius are required to submit a complete medical report to the Ministry of Health and Wellness which provides pre-departure clearance. It is to be noted that according to section 8(b) of the Immigration Act, a person afflicted with any infectious or contagious disease is deemed to be a prohibited immigrant.
- It is to be noted that Mauritius has a welfare system and offers free health coverage including access to migrants in public hospitals. Regarding the re-emerged COVID-19 in the country, quarantine facilities, Antigen tests for SARS COV2 with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing and treatment for COVID-19 within the public health system were all free of charge. Since March 2021, the Government had announced that vaccines will be accessible to all foreigners domiciled in Mauritius above the age of 18 holding necessary permits, free of charge.

### **Education**

- The Constitution of Mauritius stipulates that the State has the responsibility for the provision of education and requires that admission to a school must not to be denied to any pupil on the basis of race, creed or sex. Access to government-funded education and vocational training is the same for all. Children of non-citizens who hold a valid Work and Residence Permit or Occupation Permit have access to primary and secondary education under the same conditions as Mauritian citizens.
- Children of non-citizens who hold a valid Work and Residence Permit have access to tertiary education but not under the same conditions as Mauritian citizen. Tertiary education in public institutions is free for Mauritian citizens only.
- The Republic of Mauritius allows non-citizens access to tertiary education institutions, without any limitation. The Higher Education Commission issues guidelines on applying for student visas and residence permits for trainees. The guidelines specify that there are no additional fees, formal restrictions or quotas in place for international students. Besides the obligation to fulfil student visa requirements, international students have unrestricted access to courses and training programme and benefit from equal educational opportunities.

#### **4.15 Objective 16 - Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion**

- In order to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion in Mauritius, the Government has developed the "Know Your Rights" pamphlet in numerous foreign languages, aiming at sensitizing prospective and current migrant workers of their rights and possible remedial actions in case of violations. In addition, the pamphlet also serves as an awareness tool to migrant workers in case they might be confronted with dangers of Human Trafficking and smuggling.

#### **4.16 Objective 17 - Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration**

- The Republic of Mauritius has, on 30 May 1972, ratified the "International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)", which calls for United Nations Member States to commit themselves to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to promote understanding among all races.
- In order to mitigate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration, the National Migration and Development Policy document



ensures the protection of migrants against all forms of discrimination as well as adheres to the principle of prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination with regard to various groups targeted by the Policy.

- Sections 3 and 16 of the Mauritian Constitution provide for the protection against discrimination, *inter-alia*, on ground of race, descent, ethnic or national origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex.
- The Equal Opportunities Act prohibits any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of status such as age, caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation. The Equal Opportunities Commission, which has been operational since 2012, is mandated to enforce the provisions of the Act.
- Section 64(1)(a) of the Workers' Rights Act provides that an agreement shall not be terminated by an employer by reason of a worker's race, colour, caste, national extraction, social origin, place of his origin, age, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, HIV status, impairment, marital status or family responsibilities.

#### **4.17 Objective 18 - Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences**

- The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in Mauritius is the framework for setting educational standards of academic and vocational qualifications as well as for categorising qualifications by level and stage of education. The NQF is established and maintained by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) under the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.
- In 2018, Mauritius acceded to the Addis Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States.
- On 15 December 2019, Mauritius ratified the Addis Convention which puts in place a framework for the recognition of academic qualifications throughout the continent and global convention, as follows:
  - National Qualifications Frameworks/National Qualifications Systems;
  - Quality Assurance (QA) systems and structures as well as capacity to deliver QA mandates;
  - Recognition/verification of foreign qualifications and associated policies; and
  - Credible, transparent qualifications information infrastructure.
- The Mauritius Qualification Authority has worked on aligning the National Qualification Framework with the SADC Qualification Framework. Mauritius is implementing the SADC Qualifications Framework in all sectors of education in SADC, that is, schooling, higher education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
- Mauritius, being a Member State of the Accelerated Program for Economic Integration (APEI), has developed a Mutual Recognition Agreement on Accounting Services in 2017.

#### **4.18 Objective 19 - Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries**

##### **Mauritius Diaspora Scheme**

- Mauritius has a large, highly skilled diaspora around the world. Many African countries are developing policies and laws to utilise the diaspora as a contributing factor to development.

Attracting high-skilled members of the diaspora is part of the Mauritian Diaspora Scheme implemented by the Mauritius Economic Development Board.

- The Scheme also provides incentives to highly skilled Mauritian migrants living abroad, who, before March 2015, had been living and working outside Mauritius and have the necessary skills, talent and experience to make a positive impact on the socio-economic development of the country. The Government promulgated the Mauritian Diaspora Scheme Regulations in 2015, with the aim to attract the Mauritian Diaspora back to Mauritius and to participate in the economic development of the country, through a package of incentives and benefits.
- The Scheme is being implemented since October 2015 in Mauritius by the Economic Development Board, together with several government agencies such as: the Prime Minister's Office, the Passport and Immigration Office, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Planning, Mauritian Revenue Authority, Mauritian Customs and the Civil Status Division.
- The involvement of so many government agencies is a signal to the seriousness of government intentions to attract talent back into the country. This is because the Mauritian Diaspora is a precious asset that can contribute positively to the economy and development goals of the country.
- The Scheme offers several incentives in order to attract high-skilled Mauritian migrants abroad, such as a 10-year income tax break, the waiver of excise duties on a personal car and the status of a permanent resident, and is available to two groups: professionals and self-employed. Most professional applicants work in the financial, medical, hospitality, real estate and ICT sectors, a signal of the skills needed to match the needs of the economy, which is largely service-based and driven by ICT, and upcoming field such as E-commerce.

### **Diaspora project**

- This initiative followed the endorsement of the National Policy on Migration and Development in June 2018, where the Government recognized the important role of the Diaspora as a partner for development. In line with the adoption of the National Migration and Development Policy and related Action Plan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has, in collaboration with the IOM Mauritius, initiated the "Building the Capacity of the Mauritian Government to Strengthen Linkages with the Mauritian Diaspora" project in November 2018. In this perspective, in February 2021, the Government agreed to the implementation of some of the recommendations of the National Diaspora Engagement Action Plan, following the completion of the pilot mapping and profiling survey of the Mauritian Diaspora in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. IOM Mauritius is currently supporting capacity development on Diaspora engagement and is prepared to provide assistance to the Technical Working Group and Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

### **4.19 Objective 20 - Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants**

- The Bank of Mauritius compiles remittance statistics from banks and foreign exchange dealers to meet the requirements of two different initiatives at the national level, notably, the National Migration and Development Policy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and publishes "remittance statistics" quarterly reports on its website.
- The cost of remittances in Mauritius is well below the target of less than 3 percent in line with Target 10.c for Sustainable Development Goals. The banking environment is already conducive to promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances.

- Measures taken to combat illicit financial flows and money laundering are in line with international rules and regulations in order to safeguard the country as a clean and transparent jurisdiction. These measures in no way impede migrant remittances.
- The network of non-bank service providers is strong across the country and facilitates migrants to a great extent by providing them with competitive costs for transferring their remittances. The current regulatory framework is largely adequate for the remittance market to operate for the benefit of migrants. Migrants have access to all the latest technological solutions available in the country for carrying out their financial transactions in order to derive maximum benefits.
- The information on transfer costs for banks is available on their respective websites as well as on the Bank of Mauritius' website. Some foreign exchange dealers provide information on transfer charges on their websites, though it is not compulsory. Migrants have access to various facilities offered by banks for the transfer of remittances, such as direct deposits by employers in the migrants' bank accounts. Some local banks provide free transfer of fund to their corresponding banks in India. Financial literacy and the right to open bank accounts are accessible to all including migrants.

#### **4.20 - Objective 21 - Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration**

- Section 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius guarantees, *inter-alia*, that no person shall be deprived of his freedom of movement, which includes the right to leave and the right to return to Mauritius, for every citizen of Mauritius.
- Although there is no national law which specifically addresses 'reintegration' of migrants, a person seeking to enter, reside, work and remain in Mauritius would be covered by the applicable legislation. The Government emphasizes its equal minded approach to all Mauritians, whether they are returnees or not - there are no distinctions made and all Mauritian citizens are treated the same. The multitude of welfare services ("we are a welfare state") is available to all Mauritians.
- Many Mauritians return home on their own accord. Mauritians who are deemed vulnerable and in need of support for return and longer-term reintegration can benefit from IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme. IOM has supported the return of 150 returnees to Mauritius between 2013 and 2018. Latest figures show that 17 Mauritians were supported for return in 2017 and 15 in 2018. IOM has also used its global network to facilitate the return of non-citizens in their home countries, in particular since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In the process of generating awareness for integration of migrants in Mauritius, the "Know Your Rights" pamphlet in numerous foreign languages, aiming at sensitizing prospective and current migrant workers of their rights and possible remedial actions in case of violations. In addition, the pamphlet also serves as an awareness tool to migrant workers in situation where they might be confronted with dangers of Human Trafficking and smuggling.

#### **4.21 Objective 22 - Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits**

- Non-citizens in the Republic of Mauritius are eligible to participate in the national social insurance scheme, which entitles them to a disability, retirement or survivor pension. Under the National Pensions Act, both local and foreign workers are eligible to contribute to the national pensions scheme from the first day of employment, with the exception of non-citizens employed in export-oriented companies, who are eligible only after two years of residence in the country.

- Since 01 September 2020, the new Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG) has replaced the prior provisions of the National Pension Fund. In this respect, the Contribution Sociale Généralisée Regulations 2020 was enacted, CSG is payable under the National Pension Act by every participant and every employer of a participant, as applicable. The participants include persons who are employed on a full-time/ part-time basis, persons who are employed on a fixed term/indeterminate contract, a share worker entitled to a share of profits in an enterprise, private household employees, a person performing atypical work, an executive director of a company, a self-employed person, a public sector employee, a non-citizen employee as well as a person aged 65 and above.
- In addition, it is to be noted that participants excluded from CSG are as follows:
  - i. a non-citizen employed by a foreign contractor engaged in the implementation of a project funded at least 50% by a foreign state;
  - ii. a non-citizen employed by an export manufacturing enterprise who has resided in Mauritius for a continuous period of less than 2 years (including absences period of more than 9 weeks); and
  - iii. an individual enrolled under a training scheme set up by the Government or under joint public-private initiative with a view to facilitating the placement of jobseekers in gainful employment (e.g. Youth Employment Program)
- In the establishment of mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits, it is highlighted that with the ratification of the ILO "Migration for Employment, Convention" No. 97 Mauritius engaged to facilitate migration for employment by establishing and maintaining appropriate services, taking measures to protect migrant workers and applying treatment no less favourable than that which applies to their own nationals in respect of a number of matters, including conditions of employment and social security.

#### **4.22 - Objective 23 - Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration**

- Mauritius is considered as both a source and destination country for international migration. Mauritius promotes "Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" and aligns with Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7.: *"facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies"*.
- Mauritius actively engaged in negotiations that led to the adoption of the post-2015 framework, drawing from experience gathered through the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs are viewed as a continuum of the significant progress made in building an inclusive and sustainable Mauritius under the MDGs. Mauritius fared well on the MDGs by meeting the established goals on poverty, education, health, gender and global partnership.
- During the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly, "Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", Mauritius presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Mauritius is wholly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In keeping with our national priorities, the development of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report of Mauritius 2019 was mainly focused on SDG1: No Poverty, SDG4: Quality Education, SDG13: Climate Action and SDG14: Life Below Water. Mauritius has achieved SDG3: Good Health and Well Being and SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals.

The other SDGs are on track. Particular attention is needed to be able to achieve SDG14: Life Below water.

- Mauritius, being a member of several Regional Economic Communities such as SADC, COMESA and IOC, is also active in regional consultative processes/migration dialogues [Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM) and Intra-regional Cooperation & Coordination on Migration Consultative Meeting on the establishment of a Migration Dialogue for Indian Ocean Commission Countries (MiDIOCC)] which aim to make migration safe, regular, orderly and dignified.

#### **4.23 Means of implementation**

- As part of the budgetary process, all the concerned Ministries/Departments are required to make the relevant provisions for implementation of the recommendations of the Global Compact for Migration in their respective budget and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development accommodates those financial costs within their respective budget allocation.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The Republic of Mauritius is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), under the auspices of the United Nations 2030 Agenda to cover all dimensions of migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The Government of Mauritius promotes “Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” and aligns with Sustainable Development Goal Target 10.7.: *"facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies"*.

The Migration and Development Policy 2030 for the Republic of Mauritius, developed in 2018, is in line with the implementation of the 23 objectives and 10 guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration. Mauritius is effectively adopting an inclusive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and reviews all aspects of migration matters through the National Working Group for Migration and Development under the Prime Minister’s Office.

The outcome of the National Voluntary Review Report highlights the efforts of the Government of Mauritius to effectively capturing the implementation of policies on migration issues at national level.

Mauritius is not spared in relation to far reaching economic and social implications worldwide, caused by the unprecedented COVID-19 global health crisis. The impacts of the pandemic in Mauritius are clearly visible on individuals, communities, and the economy, most of which are synonymous with the experiences of other countries globally. The Government of Mauritius has made significant efforts in managing the spread and impacts of the pandemic, by rapidly containing the virus through movement and border restrictions and implementing a lockdown response. This has helped in preventing widespread infection, and an overburdened health system. The Government of Mauritius enacted the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act in May 2020 to landmark changes which are impacting on both domestic and migrant workers.



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



## First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Africa Region

### Guiding template for the review of the implementation of the GCM

This template is in line with the UN Network on Migration proposed framework to assist Member States in conducting reviews of GCM implementation at the national level, in preparation for regional reviews. It is intended to provide an outline and elements that Member States could consider when preparing the national review. The template serves to promote consistency and comparability between reviews across regions. This review is voluntary in nature, and countries have the flexibility to adapt it to their national context and priorities.

#### I. Methodology (*should not exceed 500 words*)

Describe the methodology followed to prepare the national review of the GCM:

- a. Did you establish a mechanism responsible for coordinating the review? Which entities were represented in the coordination mechanism? Does it have a chair?
- b. If you did not establish a specific mechanism, who was responsible for the review?
- c. Which government entities were involved in the review process?
- d. Did you consult with local-level authorities during the review process (such as municipalities or governorates)?
- e. Did you engage with different non-governmental stakeholders (such as the private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, academia, migrant communities, etc.)? if yes, who did you engage with and how?
- f. What data was available to you to conduct the review? What difficulties did you face in obtaining the data?
- g. Were you able to review all of the objectives, or did you choose to focus on specific objectives that you consider a priority in your country? Why are they a priority?
- h. Did you receive any support from the UN country teams, and/or the UN Network on Migration to prepare for the national review?

#### II. Policy and enabling environment (*should not exceed 1500 words*)

- a. Has the government collaborated with different stakeholders in implementing the GCM (such as in developing migration-relevant policies, designing and implementing migration-relevant projects, encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogue, etc.)? If yes, please list the stakeholders involved (e.g recruiting agencies, migrant organizations ...).

- b. Has the government integrated GCM implementation into SDG implementation and other relevant processes? If so, how?
- c. What migration-relevant policies have you developed since the adoption of the GCM in December in 2018? Did you reform existing policies in line with the GCM? Which ones? (please provide title and date of policies) What challenges and barriers did you face in developing or reforming those policies? Did you adopt any specific policies that targeted migrants in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- d. Can you elaborate on any policies and/or provisions in policies you have developed or incorporated in relation to specific category of migrants, such as women migrant workers, child migrants, and undocumented migrants?
- e. Did you have to adopt new policies or measures as a result of regional migration dynamics, policies or measures?
- f. Did you adopt any institutional reforms to respond to the GCM (did you establish new bodies or mechanisms, or restructure existing ones? Did you change working procedures?)
- g. Are there any relevant regional, sub-regional and cross-regional strategies, frameworks, and implementation plans? How have you contributed to implementing them? What are the main gaps and challenges you face in implementing them?

### III. Progress on GCM objectives *(should not exceed 2000 words)*

- a. Did your government develop implementation plans for the GCM? What is the status of implementation of the 23 objectives of the GCM?
- b. What steps has the government taken to integrate the GCM guiding principles into migration governance frameworks and GCM implementation plans?
- c. What success, challenges and gaps do you face in reaching GCM objectives? What potential risks do you foresee? How could they be addressed? Have you taken any mitigation measures? (please highlight any trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, including as impacted by regional dynamics).
- d. What are some promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other countries in the region (or across regions)? Please highlight innovative policies or promising practices related to any of the objectives, especially those targeting categories of migrants who are more vulnerable. Where possible, information should be based on statistical as well as qualitative data.

### IV. Means of implementation *(should not exceed 500 words)*

- a. How are you mobilizing means of implementation to ensure the achievement of the GCM objectives (for example, allocating budgets, building partnerships, collecting data, and building capacities)?
- b. What challenges do you face in mobilizing means of implementation?
- c. What additional resources do you need? Do you have a plan to mobilize them?

### V. Next steps *(should not exceed 500 words)*

- a. Based on the outcomes of this review, what areas do you consider a priority? what steps are you planning to enhance the implementation of the GCM?
- b. How will the results of the review be disseminated? What additional actions will you take in preparation for the first IMRF that will be held in 2022?



## **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

### **A. 23 Objectives:**

- 1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies;
- 2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin;
- 3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration;
- 4) Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation;
- 5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration;
- 6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work;
- 7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration;
- 8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants;
- 9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants;
- 10) Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration;
- 11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner;
- 12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral;
- 13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives;
- 14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle;
- 15) Provide access to basic services for migrants;
- 16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion;
- 17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration;
- 18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences;
- 19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries;
- 20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants;
- 21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration;
- 22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits;
- 23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

### **B. 10 Guiding Principles**

- 1) People-centred;
- 2) International cooperation;
- 3) National sovereignty;
- 4) Rule of law and due process;
- 5) Sustainable development;
- 6) Human rights;
- 7) Gender-responsive;
- 8) Child-sensitive;
- 9) Whole-of-government approach; and
- 10) Whole-of-society approach.