Background

On 10-11 December 2018, recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and determined to make an important contribution to enhanced cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, Member States adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). In this Declaration, Member States committed to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations that culminated in the adoption of the GCM by 165 UN Member States at an intergovernmental conference in Marrakech and formal endorsement by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the 19th of December 2018.¹

The Global Compact for Migration sets out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions. The GCM rests on international law, respects the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To this end, the United Nations Secretary General established a Network on Migration to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM. In carrying out its mandate, the Network will prioritize the human rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit. It will place emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

In Libya, the UN will establish a UN Network on Migration to ensure coordinated UN system-wide support to the Government of Libya in the implementation of effective migration strategies that promote the wellbeing and protection of migrants while also contributing to Libya’s stability, development and economic growth. In all its actions the UN Network on Migration in Libya will respect the principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. Due regard, too, will be given to the importance of the Secretary-General’s prevention agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) vision.

¹ At the UNGA, a total of 152 UN Member States voted in favor of the GCM, while five (5) voted against and 12 abstained. Libya is among the States that abstained from the UNGA vote, however, the country was among those that endorsed the GCM at the Marrakech intergovernmental conference and has participated in the GCM regional review process as well as the preparation towards the global GCM review, the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which took place in May 2022. Libya’s official position on the GCM is available here: https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/libya_gcm_report_eng.pdf
UN Network on Migration in Libya

The UN Network on Migration in Libya will be launched in 2022, and will work to foster effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support among UN entities, both resident and non-resident, to the Government of Libya in the implementation of well managed migration policies which also contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. Whilst being tailored to local needs and priorities, the terms of reference (ToRs) of the UN Migration Network in Libya are fully aligned with the global Network ToRs.

Objectives:

As part of the Programme Management Team (PMT) structure, the UN Network on Migration in Libya will:

1. Identify priority areas for joint programming (delivering as one), including joint research, advocacy, capacity building programmes, to advance migration/mobility-related initiatives/discourses to improve migrant’s protection and well-being that are gender responsive;

2. Ensure operational coordination and synergies on key issues, such as, inter alia, counter-trafficking in human beings, labour migration ensuring access to decent work and upholding fair and ethical recruitment principles, migration and development, human rights including alignment with the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), migration governance, including policy and legislation on admission, protection and return of migrants; promoting alternatives to migration detention; Preventing Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) including in detention centres, improving migrants’ access to services; health of migrant workers; as well as the impact of COVID-19 and integration of migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery;

3. Periodically share updates about GCM implementation and identify impediments for the UNCT to address with the relevant ministries of the Libyan Authorities;

4. Regularly organize information sessions for the international community, including donors and international NGOs, to share insights on the situation of migrants in Libya, highlighting new trends, patterns and challenges;

5. Provide technical inputs to the UN Network on Migration at the global and regional levels by developing policy briefs, policy papers, action plans to highlight the good practice as well as gaps and challenges in Libya;

6. Establish synergies with district/local level forums for joint advocacy and effective service delivery;

7. Mobilize funds and resources to enable joint programming and synergies between the members of the group;

8. Engage with the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and other relevant Ministries, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Labour (MoL), the Ministry of Local Planning, for information exchange and coordination when needed;

9. Foster stakeholders’ engagement in the areas related to migration under the established UN Network on Migration in the spirit of whole-of-society approach.

Coordinator and Secretariat: IOM under the auspices of the UNRC, with the possibility of other UN agencies (co-)chairing on a rotational basis in the future. Highlighted meetings with GoL will be co-chaired by MoFA and UNRC. The Coordinator will ensure close cooperation and coordination with the Migrant and Refugee Platform (co-chaired by IOM, UNCHR and IRC), the sectors and the work of UNHCR on the Global Compact for Refugees to ensure coherence and complimentarity.

Membership:

UN Agencies to start with. The Government of Libya will be invited to highlighted meetings. Other stakeholders (NGO, CSO, private sector, international organizations, workers’ and employers’ organizations, academia, etc.)
will be invited on a needs basis and the participation modalities will be further discussed at a later stage. Decision-making will be based on consensus of the Network Members.

**Participation Level:** The IOM Chief of Mission/Deputy Chief of Mission will Chair the meetings on behalf of the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration. Agencies will determine their own level of participation in the Network as appropriate.

**Meeting Frequency:** Every two months. Additional meetings can be convened according to needs.