

UN Network on Migration in Türkiye

Terms of Reference

Background

In the December 2017 report, “Making Migration Work for All”, the UN Secretary General outlined a vision to strengthen UN systemwide coordination on migration. The goal was to address an incipient global migration crisis by making the UN a source of ideas and policy guidance as well as convener for the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the subsequent Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) adopted in 2018.

On 10-11 December 2018, recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and determined to enhance cooperation on international migration, Member States endorsed the GCM. The Global Compact sets out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions.

Para 4 of the GCM: “Refugees and migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected, and fulfilled at all times. However, migrants and refugees are distinct groups governed by separate legal frameworks. Only refugees are entitled to the specific international protection defined by international refugee law. This Global Compact refers to migrants and presents a cooperative framework addressing migration in all its dimensions.”

In the GCM, Member States “welcome the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a UN Network on Migration to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support to implementation, including the capacity-building mechanism, as well as follow-up and review of the Global Compact, in response to the needs of the Member States.” (para 44-45 GCM) The GCM further notes that:

- a) the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will serve as the coordinator and secretariat of the Network;
- b) the Network will fully draw from the technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the UN system; and,
- c) the work of the Network will be fully aligned with existing coordination mechanisms and the reform of the UN Development System.

The United Nations Network on Migration in Türkiye is established by the Government of Türkiye and the UN Country Team (UNCT) to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Türkiye as they implement the GCM and other relevant policies. In carrying out its mandate, the Network will prioritize the rights and wellbeing of migrants and their communities of origin, transit and destination. Further on, “is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles”, outlined in paragraph 15: People-centred, International cooperation, National sovereignty, Rule of law and due process, Sustainable development, Human rights, Gender-responsive, Child-sensitive, Whole-of-government approach, and Whole-of-society approach. The Network recognizes “the unique responsibility of the United Nations to set the standard for preventing, responding to, and eradicating sexual exploitation and abuse within the United Nations system, address its impact effectively and

humanely, and safeguard and empower victims”.¹ The Network will emphasize issues where a systemwide UN and Government of Türkiye approach adds value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged. The UN Migration Network will foster a better understanding of migration dynamics through information exchanges, will contribute to the improved coordination between the UN system and the Government of Türkiye to strengthened national ownership over the GCM implementation and the protection of the human rights of migrants in Türkiye in a coherent and holistic manner.

UN Network on Migration in Türkiye

The Migration Network will align itself, in its structure and working methods, with the composition and terms of reference of the global UN Network on Migration. The network aims to support the Government of Türkiye, as a member of the UNNM, to implement GCM national short-mid and long-term objectives as identified by the GCM Türkiye Needs Assessment and avoid overlapping with the Global Compact on Refugees. In all its actions, the Migration Network will be guided, inter alia, by the UN Charter, international law, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in addition to the GCM.

Objectives:

1. Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN country team-wide cooperation with the Government of Türkiye in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, for the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of origin, transit and destination.
2. Ensure effective, open and ongoing engagement with external partners, migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, employers’ and workers’ organizations, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Commission, human rights-based organizations, trade union/employers’ association, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders at national and local levels to feed into national, regional and global processes for GCM.
3. Together with the Government of Türkiye, act as a source of ideas, tools, reliable data and information, analysis, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanism established in the GCM.
4. With the Presidency of Migration Management identify activities and studies facilitating cooperation and support to Türkiye’s efforts in the implementation of national GCM thematic areas (See Annex I) and support the preparation periodic GCM National Assessments.
5. Promote a comprehensive and coordinated approach to mobilize resources to address a country- or region-specific situation in matters concerning national GCM thematic areas.
6. Facilitate access to and exchange of reliable data, information, tools, research, good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanisms

¹ Collective Statement of the Members of the Secretary-General’s Circle of Leadership on the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in United Nations Operations, 2018:
<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-09-27/note-correspondents-collective-statement-members-secretary>

established in the GCM (e.g. Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF)/Start-up Fund; Global Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub).

7. Ensure Network actions promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants, including gender responsive and child sensitive approaches, and engagement with UN human rights mechanisms relating to migration.²
8. Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the UNCT, including by speaking with one voice as appropriate, in accordance with the UN Charter, international/national laws, and mandates/technical expertise of relevant UNCT entities.
9. Support and facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, up-to-date and gender – age – disability disaggregated migration related data and knowledge on migration in Türkiye.
10. Support any exchange and collaboration with other UN Networks on Migration in the region as needed and relevant, including through Regional Consultative Processes.
11. Coordinate with development partners and donors in Türkiye who are active in migration and migration related issues as relevant to the implementation of GCM Objectives prioritized by the Government of Türkiye.
12. In carrying out these objectives, the Network and its thematic Technical Working Groups (TWG) will ensure close collaboration with other existing UNCT coordination mechanisms (including ones on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)) addressing migration-related issues, actively seeking out synergies and avoiding duplication.
13. Regularly update the UN Network on Migration at the global level, liaise with relevant Government of Türkiye authorities and the UNCT on GCM affairs.

Coordinator and Secretariat: In line with ToRs of the global UNNM, IOM serves as the Coordinator and Secretariat of all constituent parts of the Network.

Members: Government of Türkiye, UN RCO, UNHCR, ILO, UNFPA, UNDP, IOM, UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNICEF, UNOHCHR and other interested UN agencies.

Participation Level:

- Government of Turkey designated officials.
- Deputies/Senior PMs under the overall guidance of Heads of Agencies.

Meetings: The UN Migration Network will meet once every quarter, or upon request by its members, whenever possible in conjunction with UN Country Team meetings. All information exchanged within the Network meetings is meant for internal use only, unless explicitly stated and agreed otherwise.

² e.g. the UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers, the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteurs on Migrants, on Trafficking, and other special procedures, and the Universal Periodic Review.

Decisions relevant to the work of the Network will be made by consensus based on consultations with all Network Members, and with the relevant Government of Türkiye authorities. Each member shall be represented at meetings of the Network.

All decisions will be taken in full respect of the mandates of Network members.

Technical Working Groups

The thematic Technical Working Groups (TWGs), established during the first meeting³ of the network will support the objectives of the UN Network. TWGs can be established on a permanent or ad-hoc basis, to focus on specific national GCM thematic areas, depending on needs and opportunities as they arise. The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members other relevant partners as requested or required, including donors.

TWG Objectives:

1. Identify priority areas for joint programming including joint research, advocacy, programmes, etc., to support implementation of GCM and advance migration/mobility related initiatives/discourses;
2. Support gender sensitive and child friendly approaches to the implementation of GCM in Turkey
3. Ensure operational coordination and synergies on key national GCM Thematic areas.
4. Periodically share updates about MPTF Joint Program delivery and identify impediments for the Network to address;
5. Provide thematic technical support to the Migration Network as required on specific national GCM Thematic areas.
6. Establish synergies with district/local level forums to encourage GCM mainstreaming at local level.
7. Develop a visibility plan for the GCM implementation and activities of UNMN Türkiye.

(Co)Chair(s): Rotating annually (TBD) and selected based on consensus.

Members: UN and Government of Türkiye.

Participation Level: Programme Managers (operational and technical).

Meeting Frequency: once every quarter of the year

³ The first meeting was held on 18 February 2021