

## Terms of Reference of The United Nations Network for Migration in Belize

### CONTEXT

Determined to make an important contribution to enhancing cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, recalling the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), UN Member States adopted the [Global Compact for Safe Migration, Ordered and Regular](#) (GCM). To ensure the effectiveness and coherence of UN system-wide support for the implementation of the Global Compact, the United Nations established a Network on Migration to ensure effective, timely, and coordinated system-wide support to the Member States.

In conducting its mandate, the Network will prioritize the rights and well-being 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 all its actions the Network 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. According to the [UNMN2 Work Plan](#), one of the central priorities of the Network is to contribute to the national and regional strengthening of United Nations coordination mechanisms on migration and to support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration at the national level through more effective integration of migration issues in the design and implementation of the Cooperation Framework for the United Nations Sustainable Development, as well as supporting the development of national implementation plans.

Likewise, given that the 2030 Development Agenda includes migration as an integral part of actions to reduce inequalities and eradicate poverty, there is complementarity between the implementation at the national level of the objectives of the [United Nations Migration Network \(UNMN\)](#), with national development plans. In this sense, in Belize, the United Nations Multi-Country Cooperation Framework 2022 – 2026 will also constitute a means to promote economic and social development, offering options to reorient policies and practices around sustainable development in order to achieve inclusive, diversified and employment-focused economic growth, that promotes human rights, the gender approach, the well-being of citizens and environmental protection. The collective promise to leave no one behind, seeks at all times, translation into tangible measures, especially with the most vulnerable populations.

To facilitate its implementation, a national work plan will be established around five thematic areas that group the [23 objectives of the GCM](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) in order to promote the collaboration of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to ensure a coherent approach.

The five areas are:

1. Promoting discourses, policies and migration planning based on evidence and empirical data.

2. Protect the human rights, safety and well-being of migrants, including by addressing the causes of migration and mitigating situations of vulnerability.
3. Address irregular migration according to human rights standards, including through border management and the fight against transnational crime.
4. Facilitating regular migration, decent work and enhancing the positive effects of mobility on sustainable development.
5. Improving the social inclusion and integration of migrants.

In Belize, the UNCT establishes a National Network for Migration to ensure the coordinated support of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes to the Government of Belize in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and other relevant migration policies. Although adapted to local needs and priorities, the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the United Nations Migration Network in Belize (hereinafter 'The Network') are fully aligned with the Work Plan of the Global Network.

## PRINCIPLES OF WORK

1. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** The Network and its members have the responsibility to implement their decisions as agreed and will be accountable to the Secretary-General who, in turn, is accountable to the General Assembly, all through biennial reporting as requested by the Migration Network, and other follow-up mechanisms of the UNMN.
2. **HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED, GENDER-SENSITIVE APPROACH, ETHNIC AND AGE-SENSITIVE DIVERSITY AND CHILDREN:** The Network shall defend and promote the application of laws and principles to respect, protect and enforce the human and labour rights of all migrants and their communities, especially those in vulnerable situations, leaving no one behind.
3. **COHERENCE:** The Network will draw on the mandate, expertise and experience of relevant entities of the United Nations System to support the implementation, promotion and overall coherence in the work of the United Nations on migration.
4. **UNITY OF PURPOSE:** All members of the Network will be committed to its success, emphasizing the added value of coordinated work and collaboration to achieve common goals.
5. **EFFICIENCY:** The Network will be aligned with existing coordination mechanisms in the United Nations and will adopt an integrated and efficient approach in all its activities.
6. **INCLUSION:** The Network, in its own working methods and with the participation of others, will operate in an inclusive, systematic, predictable and transparent manner.
7. **RESULTS ORIENTATION:** The Network will focus on supporting Belize's progress towards the implementation of the GCM.
8. **AGILITY:** The Network will periodically review and, where necessary, recalibrate its methods and approach to its work to ensure that its positive impact is as maximum as possible.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure effective, prompt and coordinated support to the Government of Belize in its implementation, monitoring, and review of the GCM for the sake of the rights and well-being of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit.
2. Coordinate the actions of the Network in Belize considering the realities, capacities, and levels of development of the country and its national policies and priorities in line with the objectives of the GCM.
3. Support the coherent action of the Network in Belize with regional and global initiatives in support of the implementation, monitoring, and review of the GCM.
4. Function as a source of ideas, tools, data and reliable information, analysis, and technical assistance on migration issues, including through the institutional strengthening mechanism established in the GCM.
5. Ensure that the Actions of the Network promote the application of international and regional norms and standards related to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants and participation in United Nations human rights mechanisms related to migration.
6. Provide leadership to mobilize coordinated and collaborative action on migration by the Network, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international/national laws and the mandates/technical expertise of entities relevant to the Network.
7. Ensure close collaboration with other coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system existing both in Belize and in other countries of the region, which address issues related to migration, actively seeking synergies, and avoiding duplication.
8. Collaborate with external partners, including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, authorities and communities, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media, the Ombudsman's Office, and other relevant stakeholders.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Regularly update the United Nations Migration Network at the global level and the relevant authorities of the Government of Belize and the United Nations Country Team on migration.
2. Prepare an annual work plan in line with the priorities of the Government of Belize to support the implementation of the GCM and other migration-related development agendas.
3. Identify synergies between existing programmes and develop joint proposals and search for cooperators in support of the priorities identified by the Government of Belize for the implementation of the objectives of the GCM, including the [Multi-Donor Trust Fund on Migration \(Migration MPTF\)](#).
4. Ensure close collaboration with other existing coordination mechanisms within the United Nations Country Team and Regional Team that address migration-related issues, actively seeking synergies and avoiding duplication.

5. As per the capacity building mechanism (CBM) called for in the [GCM \(OP43\)](#), the UNMN will serve to contribute, on a voluntary basis, technical, financial and human resources in order to strengthen capacities and foster multi-partner cooperation in pursuit of GCM implementation.

## MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

1. The Network will be made up of the agencies, funds and programmes of the UNCT in Belize, and those whose mandates, migration is a relevant issue.
2. Each agency, fund and programme member of the Network will designate a focal point, who will oversee carrying out the technical work while decision-making will be done by the Executive Committee.

## COORDINATOR AND SECRETARIAT

IOM will serve as Coordinator and Secretariat of all parts of the Network. The functions of the coordination and secretariat of the Network shall include:

1. Promote collaboration and consensus among the members of the Network in all aspects of its operation and work, ensuring effective collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms and other actors.
2. Work with Network members to identify priorities and opportunities for action, focusing on the added value of coordinated work
3. Facilitate regular interaction among members of the Network's Executive Committee.
4. Inform the authorities of the Government of Belize and other interested parties of the activities of the Network.
5. Support collaboration among all parts of the Network and among the members of the Network and with other coordination mechanisms of the United Nations System, as well as external actors.
6. Identify funding opportunities for the Network's operations, with the support of the Executive Committee.
7. Coordinate the preparation of an annual work plan of the Network, in line with the contributions of the members of the Network.
8. Disseminate punctually the minutes of the meetings, the decisions taken and follow up on the implementation of these.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. An Executive Committee will be formed, which will make the decisions of the Network in a consensual manner.
2. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Belize is lead of the Executive Committee of the Network.
3. The Executive Committee will provide general guidance for the Work of the Network, setting strategic priorities and ensuring effective collaboration between existing actors and coordination mechanisms.



4. The members of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the Network achieves its objectives, fulfils its responsibilities and adheres to the principles of operation.
5. The Executive Committee, in consultation with all members of the decision-making body, will review the functioning of that body on an bi-annual basis.

## **FINANCING**

In line with clause [43.b\) of the GCM](#), the proposals prepared by the Technical Team of the Network, will be approved by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the RC, for submission to the Migration MPTF and other external funds. The RCO will promote the formulation of proposals and the establishment of synergies with other programmes and projects, including those funded by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the SDGs (SDG MPTF) and other UN inter-agency funds.

## **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly or on such occasions as specific decision-making is necessary. Technical meeting dates will be determined by the Secretariat and Coordination of the Network and the focal points designated by the agencies, funds and programmes but should convene on a monthly basis to ensure effective implementation and oversight.



## **ANNEX**

### **Network membership**

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

#### *Network’s Executive Committee*

- United Nations Resident Coordinator
- International Organization for Migration
- United Nations Children’s Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees