

Terms of Reference for the Continental United Nations Network on Migration for Africa

Mission Statement

The Regional Consultative Platform for Africa (RCP-Africa) establishes a Continental United Nations Network on Migration for Africa (Continental Network) which will facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN systemwide support to the African Union Commission (AUC) on the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) where a common continental UN system approach would add value.

The Continental Network will act as an entry point for GCM-related requests from the RCP-Africa and will work in close collaboration with the regional Network for East and Southern Africa (ESA), the regional Network for West and Central Africa (WCA) and the regional Network for the Arab Region (AR)¹.

The Continental Network endeavours to promote migration policy that supports the well-being of migrants and societies in a coherent, holistic and balanced manner, including policies and their implementation that are aligned with the SDGs, the African Union 2063 Agenda, the African Union Migration Policy Framework, and other continental initiatives while progressing the GCM's 23 objectives and guiding principles.

In all its actions, the Continental Network will be guided, inter alia, by the United Nations Charter, international law, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable Development, and the GCM. In addition, it will align itself, in its working methods, with the terms of reference of the global UN Network on Migration.

In line with global efforts, the Continental Network aims to foster a better understanding of current and emerging issues on migration and to enhance coordination and collaboration within the UN system and with other stakeholders at the continental level.

Objectives of the Network

To implement its mission, the Continental Network commits to taking concrete actions, as follows:

- Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to the AUC in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM at the continental level, in coordination with the ESA, WCA and AR regional Networks, the UN Network Executive Committee and its secretariat;
- Share regular updates on relevant AUC migration policy developments with members of the ESA, WCA and AR Regional Networks; and share relevant data, documents, studies and practical information;
- Ensure close collaboration with other existing UN system coordination mechanisms addressing migration-related issues, actively seeking out synergies and avoiding duplication;

¹ The regional Network for the Arab region covers the Maghreb countries and will ensure coordination and reporting to the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform on relevant activities, as appropriate.

Membership and Composition

The Continental Network will comprise all UN agencies based in Addis Ababa with liaison functions to the AUC and also that are part of the RCP-Africa.

Members of the Continental Network will contribute to the design and implementation of the Continental Network's objectives, promote coherence on migration within the UN system, and provide input and advice to the Executive Committee on strategic priorities.

The ESA, the WCA, and AR regional Networks will actively contribute to the work of the Continental Network, including through their work with the African Regional Economic Communities.

Organizational arrangements

Co-chairs

The Continental Network will be co-chaired by the Director of the IOM Special Liaison Office to the AUC and the Director for the UNECA Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division.

The co-chairs of the Regional Network will:

- Convene and chair meetings to ensure the smooth functioning of the Continental Network;
- Coordinate continental activities with the ESA, WCA and AR regional Networks, the UN Network on Migration Executive Committee and its secretariat;
- Facilitate coordination with AUC on the GCM regional reviews and other agreed issues and processes, as appropriate;
- Facilitate engagement on migration-related issues agreed on with relevant external stakeholders as the need arises (with representatives from NGOS, the private sector, academia, and all relevant stakeholders);
- Keep a contact list of all members regularly updated and shared with its members.

Executive Committee and Secretariat

In line with the structure established by the UN Secretary-General, an Executive Committee within the Network will be established and comprised of those entities with clear mandates, technical expertise and capacity in migration-related fields, including ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, World Bank and WHO.

The Executive Committee will provide overall guidance to the work of the Continental Network.

Secretariat duties of the Continental Network will be undertaken by IOM.

Meetings

The Continental Network will meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and/or virtually.

The Continental Network will meet as needed and as a general rule every three months.

Decision-making

Decisions by the Network will be made by consensus of the Executive Committee after consultations with all Network members.

Working Groups

Small Working Groups can be established by the Executive Committee of the Continental Network, as appropriate, to focus on specific issues and building on the work of the Network at the global and/or regional level as appropriate.

Working Groups, including their focus, composition and chair, will be developed over time as needs and opportunities emerge.

The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members and other partners, as relevant; chairing or co-chairing will be open to all working group members.

The Working Groups will be reviewed periodically in consultation with Network members.

Biannual Review

There will be, at least once every two years, a meeting of the full membership of the Continental Network, bringing together the ESA, WCA and AR Regional Network members and external partners in order to review Network progress; explore ways to further enhance collaboration; and identify emerging challenges and opportunities.

Reporting

The Continental Network will report to the RCP- Africa and the UN Network on Migration secretariat on its activities and the progress made at the regional level in implementing the GCM. The secretariat will ensure this is circulated to the Network Executive Committee at the global level.