



UN Network for Migration in Mongolia Terms of Reference

Background

Before the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent travel restrictions, Mongolia was experiencing high rates of both international and internal migration with significant flows of labor migrants leaving Mongolia and considerable number of people in intra-rural and rural-to-urban migration. Currently, an estimated 190,000 Mongolians live abroad, major countries of destination being the Republic of Korea, the United States, Czech Republic, China, Japan and the Russian Federation. Many of the Mongolians abroad find themselves in an irregular situation. Besides international migration, internal migration is an equally or even a more important phenomenon that has an overwhelming impact on socio-economic development of the country and now also on its recovery from the impact of COVID-19 and related restrictions. When rural dwellers, under the pressure of slow onset effects of climate change like dzud, economic hardship, low access to services choose to leave their traditional way of life to seek better opportunities in urban centers, their moving in an unmanaged and not orderly manner creates a wide spectrum of challenges for themselves and for the society they live in. These include: overpopulation of the capital city of Ulaanbaatar (40% of the country's population, with associated problems like lack of public service infrastructure, air pollution, traffic congestions), rising rural-urban inequalities, imbalanced social development, lack of adequate structures to protect migrant rights, increased incidence of trafficking in human beings (including internal) and limited access to social services for internal migrants. Although the government of Mongolia has deployed institutions, assigned personnel and allocated budget to respond to these challenges, more needs to be done in order to effectively mainstream internal migration into development and by that transform internal and international mobility from a big problem into a net contributor to the development of the country.

On 19 December 2018, 152 United Nations Member States endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) at the General Assembly (General Assembly resolution 73/195). The adoption and endorsement of the Global Compact marks the first time that Member States have committed, within the auspices of the United Nations, to a comprehensive, 360-degree vision of international migration, grounded on international law, that turns their international commitments, through its 23 objectives, into concrete action to enhance international cooperation on all aspects of international migration. Mongolia is one of the 163 countries that endorsed the GCM and thus committed to its implementation.

As a follow-up to the adoption of the GCM, at the global level the United Nations established the United Nations Network on Migration to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States on migration as they respond to the GCM. According to para. 45 of the GCM:

- a) 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
- c) the work of the network will be fully aligned with existing coordination mechanisms and the repositioning of the UN Development System



To support the UN's initiatives at the national level, the UN Network for Migration in Mongolia is being established with the overall objective of fostering a mutual understanding of migration dynamics in Mongolia through information exchange, contributing to the improved coordination within the UN system and the Government of Mongolia on migration-related issues, and strengthening national ownership of the GCM implementation and the protection of the human rights of migrants in Mongolia.

Principal functions

1. Promote the application of relevant international norms and standards related to migration and the protection of the human rights of migrants and advocate for streamlining the issue of migration in relevant development policy documents and the legal framework.
2. Share regular updates on key, emerging migration issues, research and activities with the Network members, including data, documents, studies and practical information in order to foster a holistic understanding of the evolving migration dynamics in Mongolia.
3. Promote a comprehensive and coordinated approach in mobilizing resources to address and manage migration, including the issues of irregular migration and trafficking in people.
4. Cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on informing the activities of the UN system in this regard, as well as the functioning of the institutional arrangements, and support the reporting of the implementation of the GCM in Mongolia.
5. Promote cooperation with relevant stakeholders, primarily the National Statistical Office, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and other governmental bodies, NGOs and relevant stakeholders, like migrants, diaspora organizations, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, trade unions, National Human Rights Institutions, academia and media
6. Facilitates access to and exchange of reliable data, information, tools, innovative research, good practices, and policy guidance on migration issues, including through the capacity-building mechanisms established in the GCM (e.g. Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF))
7. Support and facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, up-to-date and disaggregated migration related data and knowledge on migration in the country.
8. Provide support to the national capacity building mechanism, as outlined in the GCM.

Composition and Membership

- Coordinator and Secretariat: IOM Mission in Mongolia (in line with the designation of IOM by the UN Secretary General as Coordinator of the global UN Network on Migration)
- Members: UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO, ILO, UNESCO and other interested UN Agencies.

Participation Level: Deputies/Senior PMs.

Meeting Frequency: Quarterly and as needed.

Working Groups can be established on a permanent or ad-hoc basis, to focus on specific issues, depending on the needs and opportunities. The composition of Working Groups will be drawn from Network members and may include external partners, including civil society or other state agencies.