
Reference Guide/Manual for GCM reporting for the Government of Albania

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Acknowledgments

This Reference Guide/Manual for Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) reporting for the Government of Albania was prepared by Ilir Ciko, national consultant for the International Organization for Migration, Mission in Albania, in cooperation with the relevant institutions under the framework of MiRAC (Migration Resource Allocation Committee) project - Operationalizing the UNMN in the SEECA Region, with the purpose of further strengthening government capacities to plan for and participate actively in the 2022 Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration global review process (International Migration Review Forum), especially in the context of the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration (2019-2022) and Action Plan. In this context, the guide reveals a mapping of the National Strategy on Migration (2019-2022) and Action Plan with the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU accession priorities, with the aim to facilitate alignment of the migration governance policy with the GCM, SDGs and EU accession priorities and support prioritization. The guide facilitates Albania's commitment to report, during 2022, the progress with the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration.

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Acronyms

AP	Action Plan
ASPA	Albanian School of Public Administration
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
ERF	Electronic Register of Foreigners
EU	European Union
GCM	Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration
IBM	Integrated Border Management
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPMG	Integrated Policy Management Group
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
MC	Migration Counter
MEFA	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
MiGoF	Migration Governance Framework
MiRAC	Migration Resource Allocation Committee
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NDA	National Diaspora Agency
NES	National Employment Service
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NSM	National Strategy on Migration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

SEEECA	South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
SII	Social Insurance Institute
USC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UN	United Nations
UNNM	United Nations Network on Migration
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VoT	Victim of Trafficking

1. Introduction

In December 2018 Albania signed the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)¹, a UN General Assembly mandated framework². The GCM addresses migration in all its dimensions through 10 guiding principles, 23 objectives and suggested courses of action feeding in for the successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The GCM encourages approaches to migration that maximize the benefits and minimize the challenges for communities in countries of origin, transit, and destination as well as for migrants. Its implementation³ requires commitment to improving cooperation on international migration and concerted efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels, including a coherent UN system.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes for the first time the contribution of migration to sustainable development. Migration is a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda, relevant to all of the SDG's while specific SDG targets (i.e. SDG 10.7) are designed specifically for migration issues. Furthermore, the SDG's motto to "leave no one behind" is a call for sustainable development to be inclusive, including for migrants. The inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda presents countries with a series of migration policy and implementation challenges and reporting requirements, as well as an opportunity to improve migration data.

The GCM addresses migration in all its dimensions through 10 cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles:

(a) *People-centred*. The Global Compact carries a strong human dimension, inherent to the migration experience itself. It promotes the well-being of migrants and the members of communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. As a result, the Global Compact places individuals at its core.

¹ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/global-compact-migration-follow-and-review>

²

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf

³

https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/default/files/docs/gcm_implementation_guide_finalized_revised_15_october.pdf

(b) *International cooperation.* The Global Compact is a non-legally binding cooperative framework that recognizes that no State can address migration on its own because of the inherently transnational nature of the phenomenon. It requires international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue. Its authority rests on its consensual nature, credibility, collective ownership, joint implementation, follow-up and review.

(c) *National sovereignty.* The Global Compact reaffirms the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law. Within their sovereign jurisdiction, States may distinguish between regular and irregular migration status, including as they determine their legislative and policy measures for the implementation of the Global Compact, taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work, in accordance with international law.

(d) *Rule of law and due process.* The Global Compact recognizes that respect for the rule of law, due process and access to justice are fundamental to all aspects of migration governance. This means that the State, public and private institutions and entities, as well as persons themselves, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and are consistent with international law.

(e) *Sustainable development.* The Global Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and builds upon its recognition that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. Migration contributes to positive development outcomes and to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially when it is properly managed. The Global Compact aims to leverage the potential of migration for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impact this achievement will have on migration in the future.

(f) *Human rights.* The Global Compact is based on international human rights law and upholds the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. By implementing the Global Compact, we ensure effective respect for and protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, across all stages of the migration cycle. We also reaffirm the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance, against migrants and their families.

(g) *Gender-responsive*. The Global Compact ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, that their specific needs are properly understood and addressed and that they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective and promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.

(h) *Child-sensitive*. The Global Compact promotes existing international legal obligations in relation to the rights of the child, and upholds the principle of the best interests of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in all situations concerning children in the context of international migration, including unaccompanied and separated children (USC).

(i) *Whole-of-government approach*. The Global Compact considers that migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone. To develop and implement effective migration policies and practices, a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government.

(j) *Whole-of-society approach*. The Global Compact promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance.

The cooperative framework of GCM comprises 23 objectives listed below, implementation, as well as follow-up and review. Each objective contains a commitment, followed by a range of actions considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices. To implement the objectives, actions will be followed in order to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration along the migration cycle.

Objectives for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:

- (1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
- (2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- (3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
- (4) Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
- (5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
- (6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
- (7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
- (8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
- (9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
- (10) Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
- (11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
- (12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
- (13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
- (14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
- (15) Provide access to basic services for migrants
- (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
- (17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
- (18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
- (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
- (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
- (21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
- (22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
- (23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

2. Overview of the strategic framework on migration in Albania

The National Strategy for Development and Integration 2016-2020 (NSDI II), is Albania's main strategic document that combines the EU integration agenda with the country's sustainable

economic and social development. The NSDI II 2016-2020 was adopted in 2016 and outlines the strategic priorities in the key policy areas of Albania as follows:

- EU membership, with objectives related to public administration reform, a modern, professional and depoliticized civil service, more independent and accountable judicial institutions, addressing corruption, and protecting human rights
- Consolidating good governance, democracy and the rule of law with strong, effective and democratic institutions and a fully functional and open judicial system
- Ensuring growth through macroeconomic and fiscal stability
- Ensuring growth through increased competitiveness and innovation
- Investing in people and social cohesion with objectives related to a modern educational system, a universal and quality health care system, expanded employment opportunities, a stronger social protection system, gender equality and social inclusion; and
- Ensuring growth through connectivity and the sustainable use of resources and territorial development.

Migration policy is outlined under Pillar 3 of the NSDI II: Investing in people and social cohesion, with a stated vision “Establishing an effective system of migration governance in Albania” and 5 strategic objectives related to migration policy and challenges⁴:

- Promoting safe and regular channels for migration in Albania to prevent irregular migration, towards channelling 70% of the out migration from Albania through official bilateral agreements (existing and new agreements with EU and EU- countries)
- Enhancing the development impact of migration by creating favourable legal and institutional mechanisms
- Enhancing sustainability of return migration through the support of reintegration of returning migrants
- Advancing implementation of immigration policies, in order to ensure the equal treatment of citizens of other countries and their integration in Albania, in compliance with international standards.

⁴ NSDI II, Pg 143-144

- Consolidation of migration policy, legal framework, management structures and coordination, in order to ensure better response to migration challenges.

While the strategic framework cycle of NSDI II has been completed, preparatory work is currently in place for the formulation of the NSDI III 2021-2030.

The **National Strategy on Migration (NSM) and Action Plan (AP) 2019 – 2022** represents the core strategic document on migration policy in Albania. It has been adopted with the Council of Minister's decision No. 400 dated 19.6.2019 and it defines the migration governance as a fundamental issue and as an obligation deriving from the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2016-2020. The vision of the National Strategy for Migration is to provide a comprehensive response to the challenges and opportunities of global migration in the context of Albania by the year 2022. The National Strategy on Migration and Action Plan 2019 – 2022 *"...addresses the European Commission's recommendation in 2018, which required Albania to consider migration as a core issue and to develop a cross-sectorial migration strategy..."* (NSM, page 5).

The Strategy and the Action Plan is guided by the International Migration Governance Framework (MiGoF) which was introduced and welcomed by all IOM Member States (including Albania) in November 2015. This framework sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration. MiGoF acts as a benchmark for governments in developing and evaluating "well-managed migration policies" under the Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator (10.7.2).

The vision of the strategy is inspired by global migration processes as much as by Albania's EU integration process, so as to ensure a comprehensive and holistic response to migration challenges and opportunities. In line with this vision, the Government of Albania has set as the Policy Goal to: *'Effectively govern migration in Albania to address challenges resulting from migratory movements and to enhance the impact of migration on development to the benefit of migrants and society'*⁵ building on four strategic objectives:

- A. Ensure strategic governance of migration in Albania
- B. Ensure safe and orderly migration from, through and to Albania
- C. Promote and protect migrants' rights and their integration

⁵ NSM, page 34

D. Develop an effective labor migration policy while enhancing the positive impact of migration in the national/local socioeconomic development ⁶

These four strategic objectives in the strategy are detailed into 15 specific objectives and 35 specific outcomes as per following:

A. Ensure strategic governance of migration in Albania	
A1. Align national legal framework with EU and international framework on migration governance	A1.1 Ensure systematic adoption and implementation of international terms, norms and standards in the field of migration
A2. Enhance institutional capacities for migration governance	A2.1 Clearly define competences of key Government of Albania institutions and agencies and identify their capacities for migration governance
	A2.2 Improve migration data collection, analysis and sharing
A3. Improve coordination mechanisms for migration governance	A3.1 Improve horizontal and vertical coherence through enhanced operational and strategic coordination
A4. Enhance partnerships for migration governance	A4.1 Review existing institutional partnerships on migration and formulate of new partnerships

B. Ensure safe and orderly migration from, through and to Albania	
B1. Effectively address irregular movements at the country's borders and inside the territory of Albania	B1.1 Continue to improve infrastructure at the country's borders and within the country in order to strengthen migration control while safeguarding migrants' rights.
	B1.2 Ensure efficiency of the border guard
	B1.3 Entry and stay procedures serving as effective instruments to prevent and reduce irregular migration
	B1.4 Minimize cases of irregular stay and transit through checks on the legality of stay, measures for proven violation of legality of stay and provision of information
B2. Improve effectiveness of return mechanisms for foreign citizens	B2.1 Successful return of foreign citizens to their countries of origin through readmission and voluntary return
	B3.1 Implement adequate measures to prevent the irregular migration of Albanian citizens

⁶ NSM, page 34

B3. Efficiently respond to irregular migration of Albanian citizens in EU Member States	B3.2 Support return and reintegration of readmitted Albanian citizens
B4. Management of mixed flows	B4.1 Develop strategic and operational frameworks to meet the challenge of mixed flows to Albania

C. Develop an effective labour migration policy while enhancing the positive impact of migration in the national/local socioeconomic development of the country	
C1. Ensure an effective labour migration policy framework	C1.1 Include the various elements of the emigration of Albanian citizens into the development, implementation and monitoring of national employment policies
	C1.2 Develop and implement proactive policies and schemes aiming at attracting Albanian citizens, members of the Albanian Diaspora and foreign workers with skills and qualifications in short supply in the Albanian labour market
	C1.3 Set up and implement an effective legal and institutional framework on labour migration
C2. Facilitate seasonal and circular migration for Albanian citizens	C2.1 Keep track of the dynamics of seasonal and circular labour migration and the establishment of a regulatory framework
	C2.2 Foster International cooperation on labour migration
	C2.3 Ensure that pre-departure services for prospective Albanian migrant workers are in place
	C2.4 Strengthen institutional capacities on protection of migrant workers' rights
	C2.5 Facilitate the return and socioeconomic reintegration of the Albanian citizens
C3. Maximize the impact of migration on national and local development	C3.1 Promote formal channelling and productive use of remittances
	C3.2 Promote investments to Albania

D. Promote and protect migrants' rights and their integration	
D1. Ensure that a comprehensive non-discrimination framework effectively protects migrants' rights	D1.1 Extend legal guarantees of non-discrimination to all persons residing in the country
	D1.2 Raise migrants' awareness of their rights and procedures for their enforcement
	D1.3 Improve effectiveness and monitoring of response mechanisms

D2. Identify migrants as a vulnerable category in programming and delivering assistance	D2.1 Tailor assistance to meet specific needs of children and youth
	D2.2 Address specific needs of migrants
D3. Improve conditions for migrants' socioeconomic and cultural integration	D3.1 Guarantee equal access to social security
	D3.2 Provide adequate access to housing, health care and education
	D3.3 Design and implement dedicated integration programmes
D4. Provide durable legal solutions for migrants	D4.1 Facilitate acquisition of long-term residence and make their legal status durable
	D4.2 Provide a clear path toward citizenship
	D4.3 Guarantee the legal status of family members ⁷

The Action Plan of the National Migration Strategy includes responsible and supporting institutions, timelines, financial allocations and indicators for each specific outcome in the strategy.

The objectives of **the Cross-cutting Integrated Border Management Strategy 2021-2027** are focused on the development of an integrated border management system in line with the European border surveillance system, and enhancement of border security by improving cooperation at all levels and strengthening administrative, infrastructural and technical capabilities. The mission of this Strategy is the integrated border management, coordination and joint action of the authorities involved in the IBM system, in order to minimize threats to border security, the internal security conditions and parts of the general security system of the Republic of Albania; the Strategy is based on international conventions that protect the rights of the refugees.

The focus of the **National Diaspora Strategy 2021-2025** is on the inclusion of the Albanian Diaspora in the economic development of the country to enhance the contributions of citizens living in diaspora to the development of the beneficiaries.

The **National Strategy on the Reintegration of the Returned Albanian Citizens, the National Strategy on Employment and Skills (revised), the National Strategy against Trafficking**

⁷ NSM, page 35 - 38

of Human Beings, the National Strategy on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tourism, the National Strategy on Justice for Children, the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Economic Reform Program (2021-2021), the Cross-Sector Justice Strategy 2017-2020 and Action Plan 2019-2021, the Cross-cutting Justice Strategy 2021-2025, the Strategy on the Fight against Organized Crime and Serious Crime 2021-2025 and the Action Plan 2021-2022, the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2030, the Action Plan for Social and Economic Reintegration of Women and Girls Victims / Potential Victims of Trafficking and other policy strategic documents in areas such as social inclusion, gender, employment, labour etc. share features directly related to migration as a cross-cutting topic.

3. Interlinkages among the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, 2030 Agenda, EU accession priorities and the strategic framework on migration in Albania

The mapping of the interlinkages that exist among the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, 2030 Agenda, EU accession priorities and the strategic framework on migration in Albania is important given the relevance of these frameworks on the migration policy topic, their different perspectives and the synergies deriving from achieving their specific objectives. Furthermore, mapping of the interlinkages supports and facilitates the reporting of progress made in the migration policy area through the various national, regional or global forums like the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), on Agenda 2030 Voluntary National Review (VNRs), International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), on GCM reviews or national mid-term progress reviews on NSM/AP and contribute to further alignment of the migration governance policy with the GCM, SDGs and EU accession priorities. In addition to reporting purposes, this mapping of interlinkages is useful in developing the GCM national implementation plans.

3.1 Mapping of the interlinkages

Interlinkages between the GCM Objectives, Commitments and Actions, with the SDGs at both Goals and SDG Targets, and the Albanian strategic framework on migration, referring to NSM and AP at both objective and outcome levels are shown in detail in the Annex I of this report. While there are additional internal interlinkages and synergies operating within each framework (SDGs, NSM and GCM), their consideration would make the analysis much more complex and therefore the assessment identifies only the direct linkages that exist between these frameworks. This approach captures the direct interlinkages that exist:

- For all 23 GCM Objectives with the NSM Objectives (i.e. GCM Objective 1 linked with NSM Objectives A2, B4 and C1, refer above for the full definitions of Objectives), and
- For all 186 GCM Actions with the NSM outcomes (i.e. GCM Action 1.a linked with NSM Outcomes A2.2 and C1.3, refer above for the full definitions of Outcomes)

The linkages at the GCM Actions and NSM Outcomes level are revealed by assessing the relevance of each GCM Action to the goals of NSM outcomes and vice-versa, while the linkages at the Objective level derive from this analysis, by taking in consideration the occurrence of at

least 1 NSM Outcome related to its NSM Objective, within every GCM Objective. For illustration: the identified linkages between GCM Action 1.d with the NSM Outcomes A2.2 and C1.3, establish the link between GCM Objective 1 and NSM Objectives A2 and C1 as shown in the following table:

GCM			NSM Sub-Objective	NSM & AP Outcome	SDG		AP Relevant Indicator
GCM Objective	GCM Commitment	Actions			Goal	Target	
OBJECTIVE 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies	We commit to strengthen the global evidence base on international migration by improving and investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, while upholding the right to privacy under international human rights law and protecting personal data. We further commit to ensure this data fosters research, guides coherent and evidence-based policy-making and well-informed public discourse, and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments over time.	d) Collect, analyse and use data on the effects and benefits of migration, as well as the contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development, with a view to inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related strategies and programmes at the local, national, regional and global levels	A2; C1	A2.2, C1.3	All	All	Number of inter-agency agreements on access to a common information management system

The same analysis is extended to the SDGs and SDG Targets, as the interlinkages between the GCM/NSM Objectives and Outcomes with the Goals and SDG Targets are revealed in the same annex.

3.2 Assessment of potential policy gaps

Albania's National Strategy on Migration and Action Plan 2019 -2022 and the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration are two different strategic frameworks sharing common policy issues from different perspectives. The National Strategy on Migration has a national focus on Albania's priorities on migration and the EU integration challenges and provides a roadmap for the policy actions in the field of migration until 2022, including the vision, specific goals and objectives, outcomes, financial resources and institutional coordination and monitoring mechanisms. The Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration provides a global approach to migration challenges, particularly aiming to improve the cooperation on international migration among states and concerted efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels.

Albania (especially through the Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA)) has actively participated in the GCM drafting and approval process. The objectives of this Pact have been taken into account during the NMS drafting process and are addressed in the NSM.⁸

However, the NSM's goal is not to align all its objectives with the GCM, considering that many of the objectives of the GCM are at the global level, and the majority of the objectives and measures envisaged by the NSM are at the national level. The NSM contains no direct references to the GCM and the structure of its objectives and actions follows a different model from the GCM. This is another important challenge in considering the links between the two frameworks.

For these reasons a quick assessment of the policy gaps between the GCM and NSM is primarily based on the quantitative analysis of the shared GCM objectives and actions versus the NSM objectives and outcomes, and vice versa.

At the objective level, all the GCM objectives, except for Objective No. 9 correspond to at least one NSM objectives and other strategic document of the Albanian Government (Objective No. 9, on strengthening the transnational response to smuggling of migrants has no direct

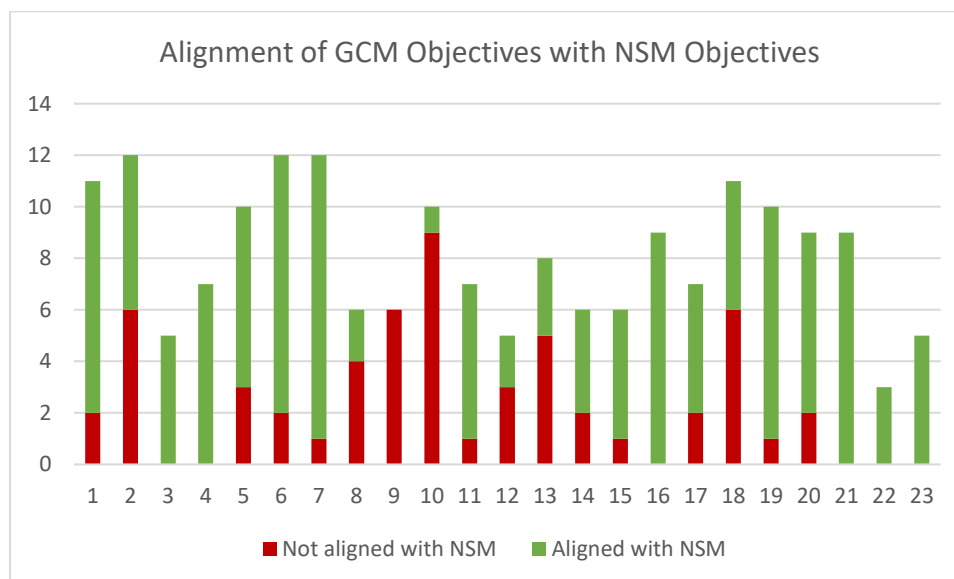
⁸ In addition to the different perspectives and interlinkages with the framework of the SDGs, the GCM was not yet adopted at the time the NSM was prepared and approved. The development of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was concluded on 10 December 2018 with the adoption of the GCM by the majority of UN Member States at an Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, followed by formal endorsement by the UN General Assembly on 19 December. The drafting of the National Strategy for Migration development was completed and made available for public consultation in November 2018 and formally approved from the Albanian government in June 2019.

reference to NSM but the policy area falls under the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking).

At the objective level, all the NSM objectives, except for Objective A.3, correspond to at least one GCM objective (NSM Objective A.3: Improve coordination mechanisms for migration governance, is a cross-cutting issue in GCM but not specific to any of the GCM Objectives).

At the action level, 130 GCM actions, or about 70 percent of the total, refer to specific Outcomes of the NSM. As it could be observed from the following chart that reveals the alignment of the GCM Actions with the NSM Outcomes for every GCM Objective, the best alignment stands with GCM Objectives 1, 3, 4, 7, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22 and 23 while the least alignment exists in GCM Objectives 2, 9, 10, 13 and 18⁹.

Reference, where relevant, to the SDG Targets and Goals for every GCM Objective and Action, as well as the related NSM Objectives and Outcomes, is also included in the Annex. At the Goal level, the interlinkages of the frameworks with the Agenda 2030 exist in Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17.



Number of GCM Actions aligned (green) and not aligned (red) with NSM Outcomes for every GCM Objective

⁹ Please note that reference here is considered only between GCM and NSM. Some policy areas, while partially or not covered by NSM are part of other policy documents in Albania. This is the case for example for smuggling of migrants – GCM Objective 9 – it is not an explicit part of NSM but falls in the area of the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking.

The EU integration is the overarching goal of Albania. Progress made in the fulfilment of obligations in line with the political criteria, especially constructive cooperation and political dialogue between the ruling majority and the opposition on major reforms related to the priorities of the accession process, the parliamentary elections, and measures against corruption and organized crime, conditioned the granting of candidate status to Albania by the European Council in 2014.

To succeed with the accession negotiations, the Government of Albania through an inclusive process developed and is successfully implementing the Roadmap, while addressing five priorities set out in the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy, as follows:

- Public administration reform;
- Independence, efficiency and accountability of the institutions of the Judiciary;
- Fight against corruption;
- Fight against organized crime; and
- Protection of human rights (including the rights of Roma community, anti-discrimination policies, and implementation of property rights).

Migration is an important topic which falls under the Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom, Security of the EU acquis. Certain policy areas falling under Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights, particularly in its third pillar - Improvement and protection of fundamental rights and freedom, are relevant as well to the topic of migration. Within the Chapter 24, the sub-areas relevant to migration include:

- Pillar 3: Regular and Irregular Migration,
- Pillar 4: Asylum, and
- Pillar 5: Visa Policy

These policy areas under the EU accession negotiations Chapters are part of Albania's priorities in the National Plan for European Integration 2021-2023. With its current EU accession candidate status, cooperation in the field of migration between Albania and the EU is envisaged in Articles 4, 80 and 81 of the Stabilization and Association Agreement. Emigration of Albanian citizens toward the European Union countries persists to be a current and future challenge in the accession negotiations and the adoption of the NSM 2019-2022 is also a result of the European Commission's recommendation in 2018, which required Albania to consider migration as a core

issue and to develop a cross-sectorial migration strategy. For this reason, the priorities on migration policy from the EU integration perspective, are fully reflected in the adopted NSM.

3.3 Monitoring and reporting

The National Strategy on Migration and Action Plan 2019 – 2022 refers to a dual system to be established for monitoring the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy and the overall improvement the coordination of activities. The system comprises a Technical Secretariat on Migration already established and operational as a horizontal body at the Ministry of Interior, a Technical Committee on Migration created by Prime Minister's order, led by the Deputy Minister of Interior and composed by representatives of each ministry/institution assigned with the responsibility of implementing the Strategy and Action Plan on Migration, and a Steering Group on Migration as a consultative body in political level, established by Prime Minister's order and expected to meet in Autumn 2021, to oversee the overall progress made in attaining strategic migration policy objectives and in improving coordination mechanisms, the Technical Committee on Migration convening regularly in its meetings civil society representatives and other migration stakeholders. For every NSM Objective and Outcome, the Action Plan defines leading agency, the supporting agencies, and the relevant stakeholders in charge with the implementations, along with the respective financial commitments.¹⁰

¹⁰ In January 2021, pursuant to the provisions of the NSM, the Ministry of Interior with the support of IOM, has prepared an assessment report of the institutional capacity for effective migration governance in the Republic of Albania. The assessment was conducted to identify gaps and needs of Albanian institutions for the effective implementation of the NSM and the AP.

Based on this assessment, a comprehensive Training Program was prepared on Migration Governance in Albania in cooperation with Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA). Firstly, a training of trainers was organized, and then a training for public administration officials in charge for the implementation of the NSM was piloted. During these trainings, the objectives of GCM were widely presented, in order to recognize them and the commitments that Albania has taken.

To monitor the implementation of the NSM, a comprehensive set of indicators tied to specific objectives, actions and outputs of the NSM, is included in the Action Plan. The indicators are closely related to the specific objectives and to a good extent they support the reporting and monitoring processes for the strategy. Nevertheless, in some isolated cases, indicators are limited in their scope, not quantifiable, or with targets set for the year 2020 which is already passed. Following the completion of the first two years of implementation, a mid-term review of the Action Plan will be carried out in 2021 to take stock of migration trends and to adjust budgetary planning with the mid-term planning of the Government. The mid-term review will be informed by a scoping study that is currently taking place. The scoping study will capture the status of implementation of the NSM as well as carry out a full review of other sector strategies which include migration related measures or actions. The study will in this way provide a comprehensive snapshot of the migration governance in the country, taking into account also the different implementation timelines for the implementation of sectors strategies to which migration related measures have been mainstreamed, in a sort of stock taking approach.

As the GCM, differently from the SDGs, member states specifically decided against a global monitoring framework based on indicators used to monitor its implementation, the responsibility for defining the datasets for monitoring progress with its implementation is with the national authorities. For this reason, the mapping of interlinkages between the NSM and AP, SDGs and GCM, described in the previous section, is also extended at the indicator level with the purpose of identifying adequate indicators to monitor the implementation of GCM along with the NSM.

As illustrated in section 3.1 above, Annex I comprises the list of the AP indicators identified for every GCM action, based on the identified interlinkages between the GCM and the NSM outcomes. These indicators are carefully selected from the pool of the AP indicators by taking in consideration the relevance of the AP indicators to every GCM action, their validity as indicators (measurable/targets clearly defined) and adequacy of the indicators for the cases where more than one indicator was used in the AP, or more than one NSM outcome is tied to the GCM actions.

Based on this arrangement, monitoring the NSM implementation through the set of indicators included in the AP, would directly support Albania to track progress with implementing the GCM and prepare inclusive reviews of progress at the national level. Such reviews may contribute on the preparation of the mid-term reviews of the NSM or/and VNRs prepared by Albania on achieving the SDGs in the country.

Based on the positive experience with the VNR on the SDGs and the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM) guidelines for preparing GCM reviews at the national level¹¹, such review may build on the following structure:

- *Introduction / Executive summary*
- *Methodology for preparing the GCM review*
- *Policy and enabling environment*
 - *Review of policy and legislation framework,*
 - *EU integration process*
 - *Institutional responsibilities*
- *Progress on GCM guiding principles and objectives*
 - *Mechanisms across all migration-related sectors of all government levels*
 - *In-depth topics/cases – human rights/children/gender/environmental etc.*
 - *Progress with achieving the GCM objectives and actions*
 - *Success stories – selected experiences*
- *Means of implementation*
- *Challenges, conclusions and next steps forward*
- *Annexes*

In the resolution 73/195 establishing the GCM, the UN General Assembly created the IMRF¹² (para 48-54) which will take place every four years, beginning in 2022, to serve as the

¹¹ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/regional-reviews>

¹²

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf

primary global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The resolution also encourages all Member States to develop ambitious national responses for the implementation of the GCM, and to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, such as through the voluntary elaboration and use of a national implementation plan, drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders. These mechanisms have already been tried and tested in the preparation of the Voluntary Review Report on the implementation status of GCM in Albania, during the period 2019-2020, and serves as a best practice. As Albania participates in this process and would have to report the GCM voluntary review in 2022, the following indicative timeline is proposed to prepare this review combined with NSM monitoring and reporting:

Activities	Timeline
Preparation of a scoping study on the status of implementation of the NSM/AP and a full review of other sector strategies which include migration related measures or actions	September 2021
NSM/AP mid-term review adopted by the Steering Group on Migration	November 2021
NSM/AP mid-term review transposed into GCM progress using the interlinkages mapping from this report	December 2021
GCM review drafted based on above and input from progress in related but not-NSM/AP policy areas	March 2022
GCM review updated, adopted and submitted	May 2022

4. Conclusions

- Albania participates in the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration while implementing its national framework on migration (NSM) in compliance with the EU integration process as the overarching policy goal.
- Although GCM and NSM share commonalities and the same policy area, as well as institutional responsibilities for implementation, their structure and modalities of implementation are similar, but not the same.
- This report provides a reference on the interlinkages that exist between the GCM, NSM, other national policy documents relevant to migration, the EU Integration priorities and the SDGs, at objective, outcome, action, indicator and SDG target levels.
- The assessment of these interlinkages reveals that the national policy on migration is very well aligned and covers most of the migration topics included in the GCM.
- Using the references identified in this report, Albania may utilize the monitoring and reporting mechanisms included in the NSM/AP to temporarily monitor and prepare reviews on the implementation of the GCM. Additional efforts are required particularly for policy areas extending beyond the focus of the NSM/AP
- The guidelines and templates for the regional reviews, made available to member states by UNNM¹³ should be used to structure the national review for the GCM, expected in 2022.
- The mid-term review of the NSM/AP would be helpful in supporting revisions and updates of the mapping included in this document in Annex I.
- Any policy document related to migration, including NSDI III and future NSM/AP, would benefit from alignment with the GCM, particularly in the GCM policy areas partially or not addressed by the current NSM/AP. Such alignment would also facilitate reporting and benchmarking at regional and international level.

¹³ <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/regional-reviews#>

Annex I: Interlinkages between GCM, 2030 Agenda, and the strategic framework on migration in Albania

GCM			NSM Sub-Objective	NSM & AP Outcome	SDG		AP Relevant Indicator
GCM Objective	GCM Commitment	Actions			Goal	Target	
OBJECTIVE 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies	We commit to strengthen the global evidence base on international migration by improving and investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, while upholding the right to privacy under international human rights law and protecting personal data. We further commit to ensure this data fosters research, guides coherent and evidence-based policy-making and well-	a) Elaborate and implement a comprehensive strategy for improving migration data at local, national, regional and global levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission, by harmonizing methodologies for data collection, and strengthening analysis and dissemination of migration-related data and indicators	A2; C1	A2.2, C1.3	17	17.18	Number of inter-agency agreements on access to a common information management system
		b) Improve international comparability and compatibility of migration statistics and national data systems, including by further developing and applying the statistical definition of an international migrant, elaborating a set of standards to measure migrant stocks and flows, and documenting migration patterns and trends, characteristics of migrants, as well as drivers and impacts of migration		A2.2, C1.3	17	17.18	A new standard template for the collection of administrative migration data developed and used by each national institution
		c) Develop a global programme to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination to share data, address data gaps and assess key migration trends, that encourages collaboration between relevant stakeholders at all levels, provides dedicated training, financial support and technical assistance, leverages new data sources, including big data, and is reviewed by the United Nations Statistical Commission on a regular basis		A2.2, C1.1	17	17.18	Frequency of updates of the regularly collected migration data on INSTAT and MoI websites
		d) Collect, analyse and use data on the effects and benefits of migration, as well as the contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development, with a view to inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related strategies and programmes at the local, national, regional and global levels		A2.2, C1.3	All	All	Number of migration data exchanges carried out annually; volume of data exchanged.

	informed public discourse, and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments over time.	e) Support further development of and collaboration between existing global and regional databases and depositories, including the IOM Global Migration Data Portal and the World Bank Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, with a view to systematically consolidate relevant data in a transparent and user-friendly manner, while encouraging inter-agency collaboration to avoid duplication	A2.2	17		Number of inter-agency agreements on access to a common information management system
		f) Establish and strengthen regional centres for research and training on migration or migration observatories, such as the African Observatory for Migration and Development, to collect and analyse data in line with United Nations standards, including on best practices, the contributions of migrants, the overall economic, social and political benefits and challenges of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as drivers of migration, with a view to establishing shared strategies and maximizing the value of disaggregated migration data, in coordination with existing regional and subregional mechanisms	N/A			
		g) Improve national data collection by integrating migration-related topics in national censuses, as early as practicable, such as on country of birth, country of birth of parents, country of citizenship, country of residence five years prior to the census, most recent arrival date and reason for migrating, to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of results, disaggregated and tabulated in accordance with international standards, for statistical purposes	A2.2, C1.3	17	17.18	Number of periodic publications focused on the scale, composition and socioeconomic position of migrants out of and into Albania
		h) Conduct household, labour force and other surveys to collect information on the social and economic integration of migrants or add standard migration modules to existing household surveys to improve national, regional and international comparability, and make collected data available through public use of statistical microdata files	A2.2, C1.3	17	17.18	Frequency of updates of the regularly collected migration data on INSTAT and MoI websites

		i) Enhance collaboration between State units responsible for migration data and national statistical offices to produce migration-related statistics, including by using administrative records for statistical purposes, such as border records, visa, resident permits, population registers and other relevant sources, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data		A2.2, C1.3	17	17.18	Number of inter-agency agreements on access to a common information management system
		j) Develop and use country-specific migration profiles, which include disaggregated data on all migration-relevant aspects in a national context, including those on labour market needs, demand and availability of skills, the economic, environmental and social impacts of migration, remittance transfer costs, health, education, occupation, living and working conditions, wages, and the needs of migrants and receiving communities, in order to develop evidence-based migration policies		A2.2, C1.3	17	17.18	Extent to which the socioeconomic profile of Albanian communities abroad is utilized to advance national policies in the field of migration
		k) Cooperate with relevant stakeholders in countries of origin, transit and destination to develop research, studies and surveys on the interrelationship between migration and the three dimensions of sustainable development, the contributions and skills of migrants and diasporas, as well as their ties to the countries of origin and destination		N/A			
OBJECTIVE 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to	We commit to create conducive political, economic, social and environmental conditions for	a) Promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first, as well as the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	B3	All	All	All	

leave their country of origin	<p>people to lead peaceful, productive and sustainable lives in their own country and to fulfil their personal aspirations, while ensuring that desperation and deteriorating environments do not compel them to seek a livelihood elsewhere through irregular migration. We further commit to ensure timely and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to build upon and invest in the implementation of other existing frameworks, in order to enhance the overall impact of the Global Compact to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.</p>	<p>b) Invest in programmes that accelerate States' fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of eliminating the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, including through poverty eradication, food security, health and sanitation, education, inclusive economic growth, infrastructure, urban and rural development, employment creation, decent work, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, resilience and disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, addressing the socioeconomic effects of all forms of violence, non-discrimination, rule of law and good governance, access to justice and protection of human rights, as well as creating and maintaining peaceful and inclusive societies with effective, accountable and transparent institutions</p>		B3.1	All	All	Number of youth/families who benefitted from local empowerment programmes on prevention of irregular migration
		<p>c) Establish or strengthen mechanisms to monitor and anticipate the development of risks and threats that might trigger or affect migration movements, strengthen early warning systems, develop emergency procedures and toolkits, launch emergency operations, and support post-emergency recovery, in close cooperation with and support of other States, relevant national and local authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, and civil society</p>		B3.1			Number of citizens reached through awareness-raising campaigns on the terms of visa-free travel in the EU, opportunities for regular migration and consequences of irregular migration; share of youth versus adults, males/females; number of families reached in USC's' regions of origin

		d) Invest in sustainable development at local and national levels in all regions allowing all people to improve their lives and meet their aspirations, by fostering sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, including through private and foreign direct investment and trade preferences, to create conducive conditions that allow communities and individuals to take advantage of opportunities in their own countries and drive sustainable development		B3.1			Number of youth/families who benefitted from local empowerment programmes on prevention of irregular migration
		e) Invest in human capital development by promoting entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development programmes and partnerships, productive employment creation, in line with labour market needs, as well as in cooperation with the private and trade unions, with a view to reducing youth unemployment, avoiding brain drain and optimizing brain gain in countries of origin, and harnessing the demographic dividend sector		B3.1	Goal 4	4.b	Number of youth/families who benefitted from local empowerment programmes on prevention of irregular migration
		f) Strengthen collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, including by promoting joint analysis, multi-donor approaches and multi-year funding cycles, in order to develop long-term responses and outcomes that ensure respect for the rights of affected individuals, resilience and coping capacities of populations, as well as economic and social self-reliance, and by ensuring these efforts take migration into account		B3.1			
		g) Account for migrants in national emergency preparedness and response, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from State-led consultative processes, such as the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster (MICIC Guidelines) Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation		N/A			
		h) Strengthen joint analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements, such as those that may result from sudden-onset and slow onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation, as well as other		N/A			

		precarious situations, while ensuring the effective respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants					
		i) Develop adaptation and resilience strategies to sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, taking into account the potential implications on migration, while recognizing that adaptation in the country of origin is a priority		N/A			
		j) Integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighbouring and other relevant countries to prepare for early warning, contingency planning, stockpiling, coordination mechanisms, evacuation planning, reception and assistance arrangements, and public information		N/A			
		k) Harmonize and develop approaches and mechanisms at subregional and regional levels to address the vulnerabilities of persons affected by sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, by ensuring they have access to humanitarian assistance that meets their essential needs with full respect for their rights wherever they are, and by promoting sustainable outcomes that increase resilience and self-reliance, taking into account the capacities of all countries involved		N/A			
		l) Develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from State-led consultative processes, such as the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement		N/A			
OBJECTIVE 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration	We commit to strengthen our efforts to provide, make available and disseminate accurate, timely, accessible, and transparent information on	a) Launch and publicize a centralized and publicly accessible national website to make information available on regular migration options, such as on country-specific immigration laws and policies, visa requirements, application formalities, fees and conversion criteria, employment permit requirements, professional qualification requirements, credential assessment and equivalences, training and study opportunities, and living costs and conditions, in order to inform the decisions of migrants	C1; C2; D2; D4	C1.3, C2.3			Number of migrants recruited annually through ethical recruitment practices

	migration-related aspects for and between States, communities and migrants at all stages of migration. We further commit to use this information to develop migration policies that provide a high degree of predictability and certainty for all actors involved.	b) Promote and improve systematic bilateral, regional and international cooperation and dialogue to exchange information on migration-related trends, including through joint databases, online platforms, international training centres and liaison networks, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data		C1.3			Issues identified during consultations are used to produce specific recommendations on improved dissemination methods
		c) Establish open and accessible information points along relevant migration routes that can refer migrants to child-sensitive and gender-responsive support and counselling, offer opportunities to communicate with consular representatives of the country of origin, and make available relevant information, including on human rights and fundamental freedoms, appropriate protection and assistance, options and pathways for regular migration, and possibilities for return, in a language the person concerned understands		D2.1, D2.2	Goal 5	5.5	Number of irregular USCs provided with shelter each year
		d) Provide newly arrived migrants with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining of work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as on access to basic services		D4.1			Number of info materials on requirements for long-term residence disseminated every year
		e) Promote multi-lingual, gender-responsive and evidence-based information campaigns and organize awareness-raising events and pre-departure orientation trainings in countries of origin, in cooperation with local authorities, consular and diplomatic missions, the private sector, academia, migrant and diaspora organizations and civil society, in order to promote safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as to highlight the risks associated with irregular and unsafe migration		D2.2			Number of leaflets produced in the main languages used by migrant women, and disseminated to inform them of the contacts details of state institutions and NGOs that

							can help with job-seeking
OBJECTIVE 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation	We commit to fulfil the right of all individuals to a legal identity by providing all our nationals with proof of nationality and relevant documentation, allowing national and local authorities to ascertain a migrant's legal identity upon entry, during stay, and for return, as well as to ensure effective migration procedures, efficient service provision, and improved public safety. We further commit to ensure, through appropriate measures, that migrants are issued adequate documentation and civil registry documents, such as birth, marriage	a) Improve civil registry systems, with a particular focus on reaching unregistered persons and our nationals residing in other countries, including by providing relevant identity and civil registry documents, strengthening capacities, and investing in information and communication technology solutions, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data	C2; D4	C2.4	Goal 16	16.9	Changes made to Albanian consular services to improve service delivery to Albanian workers abroad and information on protection of their rights
		b) Harmonize travel documents in line with the specifications of the International Civil Aviation Organization to facilitate interoperable and universal recognition of travel documents, as well as to combat identity fraud and document forgery, including by investing in digitalization, and strengthening mechanisms for biometric data-sharing, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data		D4.3	Goal 16	16.9	
		c) Ensure adequate, timely, reliable and accessible consular documentation to our nationals residing in other countries, including identity and travel documents, making use of information and communications technology, as well as community outreach, particularly in remote areas		D4.3	Goal 16	16.9	
		d) Facilitate access to personal documentation, such as passports and visas, and ensure that relevant regulations and criteria to obtain such documentation are non-discriminatory, by undertaking a gender-responsive and age-sensitive review in order to prevent increased risk of vulnerabilities throughout the migration cycle		D4.1	Goal 5, 16	5.5, 16.9	Number of standard written notifications on refusal and number of appeal procedures for long-term residence permit

	and death certificates, at all stages of migration, as a means to empower migrants to effectively exercise their human rights.	e) Strengthen measures to reduce statelessness, including by registering migrants' births, ensuring that women and men can equally confer their nationality to their children, and providing nationality to children born in another State's territory, especially in situations where a child would otherwise be stateless, fully respecting the human right to a nationality and in accordance with national legislation		D4.1	Goal 16	16.9	
		f) Review and revise requirements to prove nationality at service delivery centres to ensure that migrants without proof of nationality or legal identity are not precluded from accessing basic services nor denied their human rights		D4.1	Goal 16	16.9	Number of amendments adopted to the Law on Aliens incorporating EU acquis norms in the long term residence permit procedure
		g) Build upon existing practices at the local level that facilitate participation in community life, such as interaction with authorities and access to relevant services, through the issuance of registration cards to all persons living in a municipality, including migrants, that contain basic personal information, while not constituting entitlements to citizenship or residency		D4.2	Goal 16	16.9	Number of information materials to applicants for Albanian citizenship disseminated
OBJECTIVE 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration	We commit to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life, and responds to the needs of migrants	a) Develop human rights-based and gender-responsive bilateral, regional and multilateral labour mobility agreements with sector-specific standard terms of employment in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, drawing on relevant ILO standards, guidelines and principles, in compliance with international human rights and labour law	C1; C2; D2; D4	C2.1, C2.2, C2.4			Number of new bilateral labour agreements initiated by the Albanian authorities
		b) Facilitate regional and cross-regional labour mobility through international and bilateral cooperation arrangements, such as free movement regimes, visa liberalization or multiple country visas, and labour mobility cooperation frameworks, in accordance with national priorities, local market needs and skills supply		C1.3, C2.1, C2.2			Number of new bilateral labour agreements initiated by the Albanian authorities; Number of incentives for circular movements

	in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration.					identified in bilateral agreements		
		c) Review and revise existing options and pathways for regular migration, with a view to optimize skills matching in labour markets, address demographic realities and development challenges and opportunities, in accordance with local and national labour market demands and skills supply, in consultation with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders			C1.3, C2.1			
		d) Develop flexible, rights-based and gender-responsive labour mobility schemes for migrants, in accordance with local and national labour market needs and skills supply at all skills levels, including temporary, seasonal, circular, and fast-track programmes in areas of labour shortages, by providing flexible, convertible and non-discriminatory visa and permit options, such as for permanent and temporary work, multiple-entry study, business, visit, investment and entrepreneurship			C1.3, C2.1, C2.4	Goal 5	5.5	Number of ethical recruitment instructions of migrant workers drafted and published; number of information materials disseminated
		e) Promote effective skills matching in the national economy by involving local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector and trade unions, in the analysis of the local labour market, identification of skills gaps, definition of required skills profiles, and evaluation of the efficacy of labour migration policies, in order to ensure market responsive contractual labour mobility through regular pathways			C1.3, C2.1	Goal 8	8.3	
		f) Foster efficient and effective skills-matching programmes by reducing visa and permit processing timeframes for standard employment authorizations, and by offering accelerated and facilitated visa and permit processing for employers with a track record of compliance			C2.1	Goal 8	8.3	

		g) Develop or build on existing national and regional practices for admission and stay of appropriate duration based on compassionate, humanitarian or other considerations for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin, due to sudden-onset natural disasters and other precarious situations, such as by providing humanitarian visas, private sponsorships, access to education for children, and temporary work permits, while adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible		N/A			
		h) Cooperate to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin due to slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, including by devising planned relocation and visa options, in cases where adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible		N/A			
		i) Facilitate access to procedures for family reunification for migrants at all skills levels through appropriate measures that promote the realization of the right to family life and the best interests of the child, including by reviewing and revising applicable requirements, such as on income, language proficiency, length of stay, work authorization, and access to social security and services		D4.3			Number of work permit applications from holders of family unification processed through fast-track procedures annually
		j) Expand available options for academic mobility, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements that facilitate academic exchanges, such as scholarships for students and academic professionals, visiting professorships, joint training programmes, and international research opportunities, in cooperation with academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders		N/A			
OBJECTIVE 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that	We commit to review existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, and to	a) Promote signature, ratification, accession and implementation of relevant international instruments related to international labour migration, labour rights, decent work and forced labour	C1	C1.3	Goal 8	8.3	Number of new bilateral labour agreements initiated by the Albanian authorities;

ensure decent work	protect all migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse in order to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination.						Number of reports on recruitment practices prepared and delivered by private employment agencies;
		b) Build upon the work of existing bilateral, subregional, and regional platforms that have overcome obstacles and identified best practices in labour mobility, by facilitating cross regional dialogue to share this knowledge, and to promote the full respect for the human and labour rights of migrant workers at all skills levels, including migrant domestic workers		C1.3	Goal 8	8.3	
		c) Improve regulations on public and private recruitment agencies, in order to align them with international guidelines and best practices, prohibit recruiters and employers from charging or shifting recruitment fees or related costs to migrant workers in order to prevent debt bondage, exploitation and forced labour, including by establishing mandatory, enforceable mechanisms for effective regulation and monitoring of the recruitment industry		C1.3			Number of ethical recruitment instructions of migrant workers drafted and published; number of information materials disseminated; Number of reports on recruitment practices prepared and delivered by private employment agencies using the standard template; number of cases at risks of exploitation identified and reported

		d) Establish partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including employers, migrant workers organizations and trade unions, to ensure that migrant workers are provided written contracts and are made aware of the provisions therein, the regulations relating to international labour recruitment and employment in the country of destination, their rights and obligations, as well as on how to access effective complaint and redress mechanisms, in a language they understand		C1.3			Number of migrants recruited annually through ethical recruitment practices
		e) Enact and implement national laws that sanction human and labour rights violations, especially in cases of forced and child labour, and cooperate with the private sector, including employers, recruiters, subcontractors and suppliers, to build partnerships that promote conditions for decent work, prevent abuse and exploitation, and ensure that the roles and responsibilities within the recruitment and employment processes are clearly outlined, thereby enhancing supply chain transparency		Employment legislation and strategy			
		f) Strengthen the enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment and decent work norms and policies by enhancing the abilities of labour inspectors and other authorities to better monitor recruiters, employers and service providers in all sectors, ensuring that international human rights and labour law is observed to prevent all forms of exploitation, slavery, servitude, and forced, compulsory or child labour		Employment legislation and strategy	Goal 8	8.3, 8.8	
		g) Develop and strengthen labour migration and fair and ethical recruitment processes that allow migrants to change employers and modify the conditions or length of their stay with minimal administrative burden, while promoting greater opportunities for decent work and respect for international human rights and labour law		C1.3	Goal 8	8.3, 8.8	Number of reports on recruitment practices prepared and delivered by private employment agencies using the standard template;

		h) Take measures that prohibit the confiscation or non-consensual retention of work contracts, and travel or identity documents from migrants, in order to prevent abuse, all forms of exploitation, forced, compulsory and child labour, extortion and other situations of dependency, and to allow migrants to fully exercise their human rights		N/A	Goal 8	8.8	Number of cases at risks of exploitation identified and reported
		i) Provide migrant workers engaged in remunerated and contractual labour with the same labour rights and protections extended to all workers in the respective sector, such as the rights to just and favourable conditions of work, to equal pay for work of equal value, to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including through wage protection mechanisms, social dialogue and membership in trade unions		C1.3, D1.1	Goal 3, 8	All	Number of administrative/legal acts passed to address the gaps in meeting international obligations for the protection non-nationals
		j) Ensure migrants working in the informal economy have safe access to effective reporting, complaint, and redress mechanisms in cases of exploitation, abuse or violations of their rights in the workplace, in a manner that does not exacerbate vulnerabilities of migrants that denounce such incidents and allow them to participate in respective legal proceedings whether in the country of origin or destination		N/A			
		k) Review relevant national labour laws, employment policies and programmes to ensure that they include considerations of the specific needs and contributions of women migrant workers, especially in domestic work and lower-skilled occupations, and adopt specific measures to prevent, report, address and provide effective remedy for all forms of exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, as a basis to promote gender-responsive labour mobility policies		C1.3	Goal 5, 8, 16	5.5, 8.8, 16.1	Issues identified during consultations are used to produce specific recommendations on improved dissemination methods
		l) Develop and improve national policies and programmes relating to international labour mobility, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the IOM International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS)		C1.3			Evidence of changes proposed in institutional setup on labour migration

OBJECTIVE 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration	We commit to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, which may arise from the circumstances in which they travel or the conditions they face in countries of origin, transit and destination, by assisting them and protecting their human rights, in accordance with our obligations under international law. We further commit to uphold the best interests of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in situations where children are concerned, and to apply a gender-responsive approach in addressing vulnerabilities, including in responses to mixed movements.	a) Review relevant policies and practices to ensure they do not create, exacerbate or unintentionally increase vulnerabilities of migrants, including by applying a human right based, gender- and disability-responsive, as well as an age- and child-sensitive approach	A1; B1; B2; B4; C2; D2; D3; D4	D2.1, D2.2	Goal 5	5.5	Number of legal/administrative amendments passed to ensure access to employment and protection of women in the labour market
		b) Establish comprehensive policies and develop partnerships that provide migrants in a situation of vulnerability, regardless of their migration status, with necessary support at all stages of migration, through identification and assistance, as well as protection of their human rights, in particular in cases related to women at risk, children, especially those unaccompanied or separated from their families, members of ethnic and religious minorities, victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons who are discriminated against on any basis, indigenous peoples, workers facing exploitation and abuse, domestic workers, victims of trafficking in persons, and migrants subject to exploitation and abuse in the context of smuggling of migrants		D2.1, D2.2	Goal 16	16.1	Number of irregular USCs provided with shelter each year
		c) Develop gender-responsive migration policies to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys, which may include assistance, health care, psychological and other counselling services, as well as access to justice and effective remedies, especially in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation		D2.1, D2.2	Goal 3, 5	All	Number of irregular USCs provided with shelter each year
		d) Review relevant existing labour laws and work conditions to identify and effectively address workplace-related vulnerabilities and abuses of migrant workers at all skills levels, including domestic workers, and those working in the informal economy, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector		D2.1, D2.2	Goal 8	8.8	Number of legal/administrative amendments passed to ensure access to employment and protection of women in the labour market

		e) Account for migrant children in national child protection systems by establishing robust procedures for the protection of migrant children in relevant legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all migration policies and programmes that impact children, including consular protection policies and services, as well as cross-border cooperation frameworks, in order to ensure the best interests of the child are appropriately integrated, consistently interpreted and applied in coordination and cooperation with child protection authorities		D2.1			Improved coverage with social care and support of the undocumented migrant children who were returned
		f) Protect unaccompanied and separated children at all stages of migration through the establishment of specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification, and provide access to health care services, including mental health, education, legal assistance and the right to be heard in administrative and judicial proceedings, including by swiftly appointing a competent and impartial legal guardian, as essential means to address their particular vulnerabilities and discrimination, protect them from all forms of violence, and provide access to sustainable solutions that are in their best interests		D2.1, D3.2	Goal 3, 4, 16	3.All, 4.1, 4.6, 16.9	Improved coverage with social care and support of the undocumented migrant children who were returned
		g) Ensure migrants have access to public or affordable independent legal assistance and representation in legal proceedings that affect them, including during any related judicial or administrative hearing, in order to safeguard that all migrants, everywhere, are recognized as persons before the law and that the delivery of justice is impartial and non-discriminatory		D4.1, D4.3	Goal 16		Number of standard written notifications on refusal and number of appeal procedures for long-term residence permit
		h) Develop accessible and expedient procedures that facilitate transitions from one status to another and inform migrants of their rights and obligations, so as to prevent migrants from falling into an irregular status in the country of destination, to reduce precariousness of status and related vulnerabilities, as well as to enable individual status assessments for migrants, including for those who have fallen out of regular status, without fear of arbitrary expulsion		D4.1, D4.3			Number of standard written notifications on refusal and number of appeal procedures for long-term

						residence permit
		i) Build on existing practices to facilitate access for migrants in an irregular status to an individual assessment that may lead to regular status, on a case by case basis and with clear and transparent criteria, especially in cases where children, youth and families are involved, as an option to reduce vulnerabilities, as well as for States to ascertain better knowledge of the resident population	D4.1, D4.3			Number of work permit applications from holders of family unification processed through fast-track procedures annually
		j) Apply specific support measures to ensure that migrants caught up in situations of crisis in countries of transit and destination have access to consular protection and humanitarian assistance, including by facilitating cross-border and broader international cooperation, as well as by taking migrant populations into account in crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis action	B4.1, D4.1, D4.3			Individuals entering Albania through mixed flows comprehensively assisted and their rights protected; share of males/females identified and assisted each year; categorisation by status
		k) Involve local authorities and relevant stakeholders in the identification, referral and assistance of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, including through agreements with national protection bodies, legal aid and service providers, as well as the engagement of mobile response teams, where they exist	B4.1			Number of people on the move benefiting from health services provided annually

		l) Develop national policies and programmes to improve national responses that address the needs of migrants in situations of vulnerability, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations of the Global Migration Group Principles and Guidelines, Supported by Practical Guidance, on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations		A1.1			Number of recommendations / mechanisms identified to improve the effective implementation of ratified conventions
OBJECTIVE 8: Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants	We commit to cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations, standardized collection and exchange of relevant information, assuming collective responsibility to preserve the lives of all migrants,	a) Develop procedures and agreements on search and rescue of migrants, with the primary objective to protect migrants' right to life that uphold the prohibition of collective expulsion, guarantee due process and individual assessments, enhance reception and assistance capacities, and ensure that the provision of assistance of an exclusively humanitarian nature for migrants is not considered unlawful	A1; D2	A1.1			Number of recommendations / mechanisms identified to improve the effective implementation of ratified conventions
		b) Review the impacts of migration-related policies and laws to ensure that these do not raise or create the risk of migrants going missing, including by identifying dangerous transit routes used by migrants, by working with other States as well as relevant stakeholders and international organizations to identify contextual risks and establishing mechanisms for preventing and responding to such situations, with particular attention to migrant children, especially those unaccompanied or separated		N/A			
		c) Enable migrants to communicate with their families without delay to inform them that they are alive by facilitating access to means of communication along routes and at their destination, including in places of detention, as well as access to consular missions, local authorities and organizations that can provide assistance with family contacts, especially in cases of unaccompanied or separated migrant children, as well as adolescents		D2.2			
		d) Establish transnational coordination channels, including through consular cooperation, and designate contact points for families looking for missing migrants, through which families can be kept informed on the status of the search and		N/A			

		obtain other relevant information, while respecting the right to privacy and protecting personal data					
		e) Collect, centralize and systematize data regarding corpses and ensure traceability after burial, in accordance with internationally accepted forensic standards, and establish coordination channels at transnational level to facilitate identification and the provision of information to families		N/A			
		f) Make all efforts, including through international cooperation, to recover, identify and repatriate the remains of deceased migrants to their countries of origin, respecting the wishes of grieving families, and, in the case of unidentified individuals, facilitate the identification and subsequent recovery of the mortal remains, ensuring that the remains of deceased migrants are treated in a dignified, respectful and proper manner		N/A			
OBJECTIVE 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants	We commit to intensify joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants in order to end the impunity of smuggling networks. We further commit to	a) Promote ratification, accession and implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)	National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			
		b) Use transnational, regional and bilateral mechanisms to share relevant information and intelligence on smuggling routes, modus operandi and financial transactions of smuggling networks, vulnerabilities faced by smuggled migrants, and other data to dismantle the smuggling networks and enhance joint responses		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			
		c) Develop gender-responsive and child-sensitive cooperation protocols along migration routes that outline step-by-step measures to adequately identify and assist smuggled migrants, in accordance with international law, as well as to facilitate cross-border law enforcement and intelligence cooperation in order to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants with the aim to end impunity for smugglers and prevent irregular migration, while ensuring that counter-smuggling measures are in full respect for human rights		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			

	ensure that migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution for the fact of having been the object of smuggling, notwithstanding potential prosecution for other violations of national law. We also commit to identify smuggled migrants to protect their human rights, taking into consideration the special needs of women and children, and assisting in particular those migrants subject to smuggling under aggravating circumstances, in accordance with international law.	d) Adopt legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish the smuggling of migrants as a criminal offence, when committed intentionally and in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit for the smuggler, and include enhanced penalties for smuggling of migrants under aggravating circumstances, in accordance with international law		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			
		e) Design, review or amend relevant policies and procedures to distinguish between the crimes of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons by using the correct definitions and applying distinct responses to these separate crimes, while recognizing that smuggled migrants might also become victims of trafficking in persons, therefore requiring appropriate protection and assistance		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			
		f) Take measures to prevent the smuggling of migrants along the migration cycle in partnership with other States and relevant stakeholders, including by cooperating in the fields of development, public information, justice, as well as training and technical capacity building at national and local levels, paying special attention to geographic areas from where irregular migration systematically originates		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			
OBJECTIVE 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the	We commit to take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate	a) Promote, ratification, accession and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)	A1; National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking			

context of international migration	trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks. We further commit to enhance the identification and protection of, and assistance to migrants who have become victims of trafficking, paying particular attention to women and children.	b) Promote the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and take into consideration relevant recommendations of the UNODC Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons and other relevant UNODC documents when developing and implementing national and regional policies and measures relating to trafficking in persons		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
		c) Monitor irregular migration routes which may be exploited by human trafficking networks to recruit and victimize smuggled or irregular migrants, in order to strengthen cooperation at bilateral, regional and cross-regional levels on prevention, investigation, and prosecution of perpetrators, as well as on identification of, and protection and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
		d) Share relevant information and intelligence through transnational and regional mechanisms, including on the modus operandi, economic models and conditions driving trafficking networks, strengthen cooperation between all relevant actors, including financial intelligence units, regulators and financial institutions, to identify and disrupt financial flows associated with trafficking in persons, and enhance judicial cooperation and enforcement with the aim to ensure accountability and end impunity		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
		e) Apply measures that address the particular vulnerabilities of women, men, girls and boys, regardless of their migration status, that have become or are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in persons and other forms of exploitation by facilitating access to justice and safe reporting without fear of detention, deportation or penalty, focusing on prevention, identification, appropriate protection and assistance, and addressing specific forms of abuse and exploitation		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
		f) Ensure that definitions of trafficking in persons used in legislation, migration policy and planning, as well as in judicial prosecutions are in accordance with international law, in order to distinguish between the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants		A1.1	Goal 16	16.2	Number of recommendations / mechanisms identified to improve the effective implementation of

							ratified conventions
		g) Strengthen legislation and relevant procedures to enhance prosecution of traffickers, avoid criminalization of migrants who are victims of trafficking in persons for trafficking-related offences, and ensure that the victim receives appropriate protection and assistance, not conditional upon cooperation with the authorities against suspected traffickers			Goal 16	16.2	
		h) Provide migrants that have become victims of trafficking in persons with protection and assistance, such as measures for physical, psychological and social recovery, as well as measures that permit them to remain in the country of destination, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, facilitating victims' access to justice, including redress and compensation, in accordance with international law		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
		i) Create national and local information systems and training programmes which alert and educate citizens, employers, as well as public officials and law enforcement officers, and strengthen capacities to identify signs of trafficking in persons, such as forced, compulsory or child labour, in countries of origin, transit and destination		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
		j) Invest in awareness-raising campaigns, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, for migrants and prospective migrants on the risks and dangers of trafficking in persons, and provide them with information on preventing and reporting trafficking activities		National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking	Goal 16	16.2	
OBJECTIVE 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner	We commit to manage our national borders in a coordinated manner, promoting bilateral and regional cooperation, ensuring security for States, communities and	a) Enhance international, regional and cross-regional border management cooperation, taking into consideration the particular situation of countries of transit, on proper identification, timely and efficient referral, assistance and appropriate protection of migrants in situations of vulnerability at or near international borders, in compliance with international human rights law, by adopting whole-of-government approaches, implementing joint cross-border trainings, and fostering capacity-building measures	A4; B1;	A4.1			Number of partnership agreements entered by Government of Albania entities with nongovernment stakeholders in the field of migration each year

	<p>migrants, and facilitating safe and regular cross-border movements of people while preventing irregular migration. We further commit to implement border management policies that respect national sovereignty, the rule of law, obligations under international law, human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and are non-discriminatory, gender-responsive and child-sensitive.</p>	<p>b) Establish appropriate structures and mechanisms for effective integrated border management by ensuring comprehensive and efficient border crossing procedures, including through pre-screening of arriving persons, pre-reporting by carriers of passengers, and use of information and communication technology, while upholding the principle of non-discrimination, respecting the right to privacy and protecting personal data</p>		B1.1, B1.2			<p>Total number of DBM staff involved annually in border control cooperation and number of joint operations per year.</p>
		<p>c) Review and revise relevant national procedures for border screening, individual assessment and interview processes to ensure due process at international borders and that all migrants are treated in accordance with international human rights law, including through cooperation with National Human Rights Institutions and other relevant stakeholders</p>		B1.3, B1.4			

		<p>d) Develop technical cooperation agreements that enable States to request and offer assets, equipment and other technical assistance to strengthen border management, particularly in the area of search and rescue as well as other emergency situations</p>		B1.1, B1.2			Value of border management equipment purchased each year; number of migrants apprehended at Albania's borders and inside the territory of the country (also compared to the total volume of cross-border movement); share of male/female migrants	
				e) Ensure that child protection authorities are promptly informed and assigned to participate in procedures for the determination of the best interests of the child once an unaccompanied or separated child crosses an international border, in accordance with international law, including by training border officials in the rights of the child and child sensitive procedures, such as those that prevent family separation and reunite families when family separation occurs	D2.1			Improved coverage with social care and support of the undocumented migrant children who were returned
				f) Review and revise relevant laws and regulations to determine whether sanctions are appropriate to address irregular entry or stay and, if so, to ensure that they are proportionate, equitable, non-discriminatory, and fully consistent with due process and other obligations under international law	N/A			

		g) Improve cross-border collaboration among neighbouring and other States relating to the treatment given to persons crossing or seeking to cross international borders, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders when identifying best practices		A4.1			Number of partnerships agreements entered by Government of Albania entities with nongovernment stakeholders in the field of migration each year
OBJECTIVE 12: Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral	We commit to increase legal certainty and predictability of migration procedures by developing and strengthening effective and human rights-based mechanisms for the adequate and timely screening and individual assessment of all migrants for the purpose of identifying and facilitating access to the appropriate referral procedures, in	a) Increase transparency and accessibility of migration procedures by communicating the requirements for entry, admission, stay, work, study or other activities, and introducing technology to simplify application procedures, in order to avoid unnecessary delays and expenses for States and migrants	D1; D2; B4	N/A			
		b) Develop and conduct intra- and cross-regional specialized human rights and trauma informed trainings for first responders and government officials, including law enforcement authorities, border officials, consular representatives and judicial bodies, to facilitate and standardize identification and referral of, as well as appropriate assistance and counselling in a culturally-sensitive way, to victims of trafficking in persons, migrants in situations of vulnerability, including children, in particular those unaccompanied or separated, and persons affected by any form of exploitation and abuse related to smuggling of migrants under aggravating circumstances		N/A			
		c) Establish gender-responsive and child-sensitive referral mechanisms, including improved screening measures and individual assessments at borders and places of first arrival, by applying standardized operating procedures developed in coordination with local authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, international organizations and civil society		N/A			

	accordance with international law.	d) Ensure that migrant children are promptly identified at places of first arrival in countries of transit and destination, and, if unaccompanied or separated, are swiftly referred to child protection authorities and other relevant services as well as appointed a competent and impartial legal guardian, that family unity is protected, and that anyone legitimately claiming to be a child is treated as such unless otherwise determined through a multi-disciplinary, independent and child-sensitive age assessment		D2.1			Improved coverage with social care and support of the undocumented migrant children who were returned
				D1.2			Number of migrants reached through campaigns on non-discrimination norms; number of materials produced and disseminated; number of migrants seeking legal remedies each year
OBJECTIVE 13: Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives	We commit to ensure that any detention in the context of international migration follows due process, is non-arbitrary, based on law, necessity, proportionality and individual assessments, is	a) Use existing relevant human rights mechanisms to improve independent monitoring of migrant detention, ensuring that it is a measure of last resort, that human rights violations do not occur, and that States promote, implement and expand alternatives to detention, favouring non-custodial measures and community-based care arrangements, especially in the case of families and children	A1; D2	N/A			
		b) Consolidate a comprehensive repository to disseminate best practices of human rights based alternatives to detention in the context of international migration, including by facilitating regular exchanges and the development of initiatives based on successful practices among States, and between States and relevant stakeholders		N/A			

	<p>carried out by authorized officials, and for the shortest possible period of time, irrespective of whether detention occurs at the moment of entry, in transit, or proceedings of return, and regardless of the type of place where the detention occurs. We further commit to prioritize noncustodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law, and to take a human rights-based approach to any detention of migrants, using detention as a measure of last resort only.</p>	<p>c) Review and revise relevant legislation, policies and practices related to immigration detention to ensure that migrants are not detained arbitrarily, that decisions to detain are based on law, are proportionate, have a legitimate purpose, and are taken on an individual basis, in full compliance with due process and procedural safeguards, and that immigration detention is not promoted as a deterrent or used as a form of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment to migrants, in accordance with international human rights law</p>		A1.1			Number of recommendations / mechanisms identified to improve the effective implementation of ratified conventions
		<p>d) Provide access to justice for all migrants in countries of transit and destination that are or may be subject to detention, including by facilitating access to free or affordable legal advice and assistance of a qualified and independent lawyer, as well as access to information and the right to regular review of a detention order</p>		D1.2			Number of detained irregular migrants receiving free legal assistance each year; share of male/female migrants
		<p>e) Ensure that all migrants in detention are informed about the reasons for their detention, in a language they understand, and facilitate the exercise of their rights, including to communicate with the respective consular or diplomatic missions without delay, legal representatives and family members, in accordance with international law and due process guarantees</p>		N/A			
		<p>f) Reduce the negative and potentially lasting effects of detention on migrants by guaranteeing due process and proportionality, that it is for the shortest period of time, safeguards physical and mental integrity, and that, as a minimum, access to food, basic healthcare, legal orientation and assistance, information and communication, as well as adequate accommodation is granted, in accordance with international human rights law</p>		N/A			
		<p>g) Ensure that all governmental authorities and private actors duly charged with administering immigration detention do so in a way consistent with human rights and are trained on non-discrimination, the prevention of arbitrary arrest and detention in the context of international migration, and are held accountable for violations or abuses of human rights</p>		N/A			

		h) Protect and respect the rights and best interests of the child at all times, regardless of their migration status, by ensuring availability and accessibility of a viable range of alternatives to detention in non-custodial contexts, favouring community-based care arrangements, that ensure access to education and healthcare, and respect their right to family life and family unity, and by working to end the practice of child detention in the context of international migration		D3.2D4.1	Goal 3, 4	3.All, 4.1, 4.6	Number of foreigners/ children benefiting from primary education and basic health care every year
OBJECTIVE 14: Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle	We commit to strengthen consular protection of and assistance to our nationals abroad, as well as consular cooperation between States in order to better safeguard the rights and interests of all migrants at all times, and to build upon the functions of consular missions to enhance interactions between migrants and State authorities of countries of origin, transit and destination, in	a) Cooperate to build consular capacities, train consular officers, promote arrangements for providing consular services collectively where individual States lack capacity, including through technical assistance, and to develop bilateral or regional agreements on various aspects of consular cooperation	C2.4; B3.1	N/A			
		b) Involve relevant consular and immigration personnel in existing global and regional fora on migration in order to exchange information and best practices about issues of mutual concern that pertain to citizens abroad and contribute to comprehensive and evidence-based migration policy development		B3.1			
		c) Conclude bilateral or regional agreements on consular assistance and representation in places where States have an interest in strengthening effective consular services related to migration, but do not have a diplomatic or consular presence		N/A			
		d) Strengthen consular capacities in order to identify, protect and assist our nationals abroad who are in a situation of vulnerability, including victims of human and labour rights violations or abuse, victims of crime, victims of trafficking in persons, migrants subject to smuggling under aggravating circumstances, and migrant workers exploited in the process of recruitment, by providing training to consular officers on human rights-based, gender responsive and child-sensitive actions in this regard		B3.1			Number of Albanian citizens who receive information each year at the consular desks and through their webpage

	accordance with international law.	e) Provide our nationals abroad the opportunity to register with the country of origin, in close cooperation with consular, national and local authorities, as well as relevant migrant organizations, as a means to facilitate information, services and assistance to migrants in emergency situations and ensure migrants' accessibility to relevant and timely information, such as by establishing helplines and consolidating national digital databases, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data		B3.1			Number of Albanian citizens who receive information each year at the consular desks and through their webpage
		f) Provide consular support to our nationals through advice, including on local laws and customs, interaction with authorities, financial inclusion, and business establishment, as well as through the issuance of relevant documentation, such as travel documents, and consular identity documents that may facilitate access to services, assistance in emergency situations, the opening of a bank account, and access to remittance facilities		B3.1			Number of Albanian citizens who receive information each year at the consular desks and through their webpage
OBJECTIVE 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants	We commit to ensure that all migrants, regardless of their migration status, can exercise their human rights through safe access to basic services. We further commit to strengthen migrant inclusive service delivery systems, notwithstanding that nationals and regular migrants may be entitled to	a) Enact laws and take measures to ensure that service delivery does not amount to discrimination against migrants on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other grounds irrespective of cases where differential provision of services based on migration status might apply	D1; D3	D1.1	Goal 8	8.7, 8.8	Number of administrative/legal acts passed to improve the regulation of labour relations for foreign workers based on the findings of the needs assessment
		b) Ensure that cooperation between service providers and immigration authorities does not exacerbate vulnerabilities of irregular migrants by compromising their safe access to basic services or unlawfully infringing upon the human rights to privacy, liberty and security of person at places of basic service delivery		N/A	Goal 11	11.1	

	more comprehensive service provision, while ensuring that any differential treatment must be based on law, proportionate, pursue a legitimate aim, in accordance with international human rights law.	c) Establish and strengthen holistic and easily accessible service points at local level, that are migrant inclusive, offer relevant information on basic services in a gender- and disability responsive as well as child-sensitive manner, and facilitate safe access thereto		D3.2	Goal 5	All	Number of foreign residents in Albania who receive information annually on public services through ADISA counters
		d) Establish or mandate independent institutions at the national or local level, such as National Human Rights Institutions, to receive, investigate and monitor complaints about situations in which migrants' access to basic services is systematically denied or hindered, facilitate access to redress, and work towards a change in practice		D1.3			Number of periodic reports on the position of foreigners in the Albanian labour market compiled and shared with relevant stakeholders
		e) Incorporate the health needs of migrants in national and local health care policies and plans, such as by strengthening capacities for service provision, facilitating affordable and non-discriminatory access, reducing communication barriers, and training health care providers on culturally-sensitive service delivery, in order to promote physical and mental health of migrants and communities overall, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from the WHO Framework of Priorities and Guiding Principles to		D3.2	Goal 3	All	Number of foreigners/ children benefiting from primary education and basic health care every year
		f) Provide inclusive and equitable quality education to migrant children and youth, as well as facilitate access to lifelong learning opportunities , including by strengthening the capacities of education systems and by facilitating non-discriminatory access to early childhood development, formal schooling, non-formal education programmes for children for whom the formal system is inaccessible, on-the-job and vocational training, technical education, and language training, as well as by fostering partnerships with all stakeholders that can support this endeavour		D3.2	Goal 4, 8	4.1, 4.6, 8.3	Number of foreigners/ children benefiting from primary education and basic health care every year

OBJECTIVE 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion	We commit to foster inclusive and cohesive societies by empowering migrants to become active members of society and promoting the reciprocal engagement of receiving communities and migrants in the exercise of their rights and obligations towards each other, including observance of national laws and respect for customs of the country of destination. We further commit to strengthen the welfare of all members of societies by minimizing disparities, avoiding polarization and increasing public confidence in policies and	a) Promote mutual respect for the cultures, traditions and customs of communities of destination and of migrants by exchanging and implementing best practices on integration policies, programmes and activities, including on ways to promote acceptance of diversity and facilitate social cohesion and inclusion	C1; C2; C3; D3	D3.3	Goal 10	10.2	Number of permanent reintegration programmes for foreigners designed; size of the budget allocated annually
		b) Establish comprehensive and needs-based pre-departure and post-arrival programmes that may include rights and obligations, basic language training, as well as orientation about social norms and customs in the country of destination		D3.3			Number of pilot initiatives implemented to enhance the integration of vulnerable groups of foreigners in Albania; number of migrants benefiting
		c) Develop national short, medium, and long-term policy goals regarding the inclusion of migrants in societies, including on labour market integration, family reunification, education, non-discrimination, and health, including by fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders		C1.3, D1.1, D3.2, D3.3	Goal 4, 8, 10	4.3, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 10.2, 10.3, 10.7	Number of foreigners/ children benefiting from primary education and basic health care every year; Roadmap for establishment of pilot and permanent programmes on integration compiled and implemented

	institutions related to migration, in line with the acknowledgment that fully integrated migrants are better positioned to contribute to prosperity.	d) Work towards inclusive labour markets and full participation of migrant workers in the formal economy by facilitating access to decent work and employment for which they are most qualified, in accordance with local and national labour market demands and skills supply		C1.1	Goal 10	10.2, 10.3, 10.7	Number of returnees benefiting each year from changes in the national policies on employment
		e) Empower migrant women by eliminating gender-based discriminatory restrictions on formal employment, ensuring the right to freedom of association, and facilitating access to relevant basic services, as measures to promote their leadership and guarantee their full, free and equal participation in society and the economy		C1.3, D3.2	Goal 5, 10	5.5, 10.2, 10.3, 10.7	Number of migrants recruited annually through ethical recruitment practices (gender disaggregated)
		f) Establish community centers or programmes at the local level to facilitate migrant participation in the receiving society by involving migrants, community members, diaspora organizations, migrant associations, and local authorities in intercultural dialogue, sharing of stories, mentorship programmes, and development of business ties that improve integration outcomes and foster mutual respect		C1.2, D3.3			Number of employers' associations participants in the consultations on demand of skilled workers; conclusions generated from the consultations
		g) Capitalize on the skills, cultural and language proficiency of migrants and receiving communities by developing and promoting peer-to-peer training exchanges, gender responsive, vocational and civic integration courses and workshops		D3.3			Number of permanent reintegration programmes for foreigners designed; size of the budget allocated annually

		h) Support multicultural activities through sports, music, arts, culinary festivals, volunteering and other social events that will facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation of migrant cultures and those of destination communities		D3.3	Goal 10	10.2	Roadmap for establishment of pilot and permanent programmes on integration compiled and implemented
		i) Promote school environments that are welcoming and safe, and support the aspirations of migrant children by enhancing relationships within the school community, incorporating evidence-based information about migration in education curricula, and dedicating targeted resources to schools with a high concentration of migrant children for integration activities in order to promote respect for diversity and inclusion, and to prevent all forms discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance		D3.3	Goal 4	4.1, 4.6	Number of pilot initiatives implemented to enhance the integration of vulnerable groups of foreigners in Albania; number of migrants benefiting
OBJECTIVE 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration	We commit to eliminate all forms of discrimination, condemn and counter expressions, acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, violence, xenophobia and related intolerance against all migrants in conformity with international human rights law. We further commit to promote an open and evidence-	a) Enact, implement or maintain legislation that penalizes hate crimes and aggravated hate crimes targeting migrants, and train law enforcement and other public officials to identify, prevent and respond to such crimes and other acts of violence that target migrants, as well as to provide medical, legal and psychosocial assistance for victims	A1; D1	A1.1, D1.1	Goal 16	16.1	Number of recommendations / mechanisms identified to improve the effective implementation of ratified conventions
		b) Empower migrants and communities to denounce any acts of incitement to violence directed towards migrants by informing them of available mechanisms for redress, and ensure that those who actively participate in the commission of a hate crime targeting migrants are held accountable, in accordance with national legislation, while upholding international human rights law, in particular the right to freedom of expression		D1.2			Number of migrants reached through campaigns on non-discrimination norms; number of materials produced and disseminated; number

	<p>based public discourse on migration and migrants in partnership with all parts of society, that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard. We also commit to protect freedom of expression in accordance with international law, recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration.</p>					of migrants seeking legal remedies each year	
		<p>c) Promote independent, objective and quality reporting of media outlets, including internet based information, including by sensitizing and educating media professionals on migration-related issues and terminology, investing in ethical reporting standards and advertising, and stopping allocation of public funding or material support to media outlets that systematically promote intolerance, xenophobia, racism and other forms of</p>		N/A			
		<p>d) Establish mechanisms to prevent, detect and respond to racial, ethnic and religious profiling of migrants by public authorities, as well as systematic instances of intolerance, xenophobia, racism and all other multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in partnership with National Human Rights Institutions, including by tracking and publishing trends analyses, and ensuring access to effective complaint and redress mechanisms</p>		D1.1, D1.2, D1.3			Number of administrative/legal acts passed to address the gaps in meeting international obligations for the protection non-nationals
		<p>e) Provide migrants, especially migrant women, with access to national and regional complaint and redress mechanisms with a view to promoting accountability and addressing governmental actions related to discriminatory acts and manifestations carried out against migrants and their families</p>		D1.3			Number of judiciary staff trained every year on how to detect and prosecute violation of immigrant rights; share of male/females

		f) Promote awareness-raising campaigns targeted at communities of origin, transit and destination in order to inform public perceptions regarding the positive contributions of safe, orderly and regular migration, based on evidence and facts, and to end racism, xenophobia and stigmatization against all migrants		N/A			
		g) Engage migrants, political, religious and community leaders, as well as educators and service providers to detect and prevent incidences of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination against migrants and diasporas and support activities in local communities to promote mutual respect, including in the context of electoral campaigns		D1.2, D1.3			Number of migrants reached through campaigns on non-discrimination norms; number of materials produced and disseminated; number of migrants seeking legal remedies each year
OBJECTIVE 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences	We commit to invest in innovative solutions that facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers at all skills levels, and promote demand driven skills development to optimize the employability of migrants in formal labour markets in	a) Develop standards and guidelines for the mutual recognition of foreign qualifications and non-formally acquired skills in different sectors in collaboration with the respective industries with a view to ensuring worldwide compatibility based on existing models and best practices	C1; C2	N/A			
		b) Promote transparency of certifications and compatibility of National Qualifications Frameworks by agreeing on standard criteria, indicators and assessment parameters, and by creating and strengthening national skills profiling tools, registries or institutions in order to facilitate effective and efficient mutual recognition procedures at all skills levels		N/A			
		c) Conclude bilateral, regional or multilateral mutual recognition agreements or include recognition provisions in other agreements, such as labour mobility or trade agreements, in order to provide equivalence or comparability in national systems, such as automatic or managed mutual recognition mechanisms		N/A			

	countries of destination and in countries of origin upon return, as well as to ensure decent work in labour migration.	d) Use technology and digitalization to evaluate and mutually recognize skills more comprehensively based on formal credentials as well as non-formally acquired competences and professional experience at all skills levels		N/A			
		e) Build global skills partnerships amongst countries that strengthen training capacities of national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and trade unions, and foster skills development of workers in countries of origin and migrants in countries of destination with a view to preparing trainees for employability in the labour markets of all participating countries		C1.2			
		f) Promote inter-institutional networks and collaborative programmes for partnerships between the private sector and educational institutions in countries of origin and destination to enable mutually beneficial skills development opportunities for migrants, communities and participating partners, including by building on the best practices of the Business		C1.2			Number of consultations held along with a concrete proposal for a permanent mechanism to prevent “brain drain” and “brain waste
		g) Engage in bilateral partnerships and programmes in cooperation with relevant stakeholders that promote skills development, mobility and circulation, such as student exchange programmes, scholarships, professional exchange programmes and trainee- or apprenticeships that include options for beneficiaries, after successful completion of these programmes, to seek employment and engage in entrepreneurship		C1.2			Number of professionals returning each year to public or private sectors
		h) Cooperate with the private sector and employers to make available easily accessible and gender-responsive remote or online skills development and matching programmes to migrants at all skills levels, including early and occupation-specific language training, on-the-job training and access to advanced training programmes, to enhance their employability in sectors with demand for labour based on the industry’s knowledge of labour market dynamics, especially to promote the economic empowerment of women		C1.2	Goal 5, 8	5.5, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6	Number of professionals returning each year to public or private sectors

		i) Enhance the ability of migrant workers to transition from a job or employer to another by making available documentation that recognizes skills acquired on the job or through training in order to optimize the benefits of upskilling		C1.2	Goal 8	8.3, 8.5, 8.6	Number of professionals returning each year to public or private sectors
		j) Develop and promote innovative ways to mutually recognize and assess formally and informally acquired skills, including through timely and complementary training to job seekers, mentoring, and internship programmes in order to fully recognize existing credentials and provide certificates of proficiency for the validation of newly acquired skills k) Establish screening mechanisms of credentials and offer information to migrants on how to get their skills and qualifications assessed and recognized prior to departure, including in recruitment processes or at an early stage after arrival to improve employability		N/A			
		l) Cooperate to promote documentation and information tools, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, that provide an overview of a worker's credentials, skills and qualifications, recognized in countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to enable employers to evaluate the suitability of migrant workers in job application processes		N/A			
OBJECTIVE 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries	We commit to empower migrants and diasporas to catalyse their development contributions, and to harness the benefits of migration as a source of sustainable development, reaffirming that migration is a multidimensional	a) Ensure the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by fostering and facilitating the positive effects of migration for the realization of all Sustainable Development Goals	B.3, C.1, C.2, C3, Diaspora Strategy	All			
		b) Integrate migration into development planning and sectoral policies at local, national, regional and global levels, taking into consideration relevant existing policy guidelines and recommendations, such as the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, in order to strengthen policy coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation		C1.1			Extent to which employment policies reflect the migration of Albanian citizens and their impact in the labour market

	reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination	c) Invest in research on the impact of non-financial contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination, such as knowledge and skills transfer, social and civic engagement, and cultural exchange, with a view to developing evidence-based policies and strengthening global policy discussions					C1.2, C2.5, C3.2	Number of Diaspora members expressing an interest in employment in Albania
		d) Facilitate the contributions of migrants and diasporas to their countries of origin, including by establishing or strengthening government structures or mechanisms at all levels, such as dedicated diaspora offices or focal points, diaspora policy advisory boards for governments to account for the potential of migrants and diasporas in migration and development policy-making, and dedicated diaspora focal points in diplomatic or consular missions					C1.2, C3.2	Number of Diaspora members expressing an interest in employment in Albania
		e) Develop targeted support programmes and financial products that facilitate migrant and diaspora investments and entrepreneurship, including by providing administrative and legal support in business creation, granting seed capital-matching, establish diaspora bonds and diaspora development funds, investment funds, and organize dedicated trade fairs					B3.2, C1.2, C2.5, C3.2	Number of readmitted USCs receiving assistance locally each year
		f) Provide easily accessible information and guidance, including through digital platforms, as well as tailored mechanisms for the coordinated and effective financial, voluntary or philanthropic engagement of migrants and diasporas, especially in humanitarian emergencies in their countries of origin, including by involving consular missions					B3.2	Number of readmitted citizens informed about implications of sanctions on irregular migration; share of males/females
		g) Enable political participation and engagement of migrants in their countries of origin, including in peace and reconciliation processes, in elections and political reforms, such as by establishing voting registries for citizens abroad, and by parliamentary representation, in accordance with national legislation					B3.2	Number of readmitted citizens referred to public/ other services when available; share of males/ females

		<p>h) Promote migration policies that optimize the benefits of diasporas for countries of origin and destination and their communities, by facilitating flexible modalities to travel, work and invest with minimal administrative burdens, including by reviewing and revising visa, residency and citizenship regulations, as appropriate</p>		C3.2			Number of actions undertaken to remove barriers for investment in Albania from Albanian Diaspora community; number and value of investments per year and the % of annual increase
		<p>i) Cooperate with other States, the private sector and employers organizations to enable migrants and diasporas, especially those in highly technical fields and in high demand, to carry out some of their professional activities and engage in knowledge transfer in their home countries, without necessarily losing employment, residence status, or earned social benefits</p>		C2.2			Number of incentives for circular movements identified in bilateral agreements
		<p>j) Build partnerships between local authorities, local communities, the private sector, diasporas, hometown associations and migrant organizations to promote knowledge and skills transfer between their countries of origin and countries of destination, including by mapping the diasporas and their skills, as a means to maintain the link between diasporas and their country of origin</p>		N/A			
OBJECTIVE 20: Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants	We commit to promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances by further developing existing conducive policy and regulatory environments that enable competition,	<p>a) Develop a roadmap to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030 in line with target 10.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>	C3	N/A	Goal 10	10.c	
		<p>b) Promote and support the United Nations International Day of Family Remittances and the IFAD Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development as an important platform to build and strengthen partnerships for innovative solutions on cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances with all relevant stakeholders</p>		N/A			

	<p>regulation and innovation on the remittance market and by providing gender-responsive programmes and instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families. We further commit to optimize the transformative impact of remittances on the well-being of migrant workers and their families, as well as on sustainable development of countries, while respecting that remittances constitute an important source of private capital, and cannot be equated to other international financial flows, such as foreign direct investment, official development</p>	<p>c) Harmonize remittance market regulations and increase the interoperability of remittance infrastructure along corridors by ensuring that measures to combat illicit financial flows and money laundering do not impede migrant remittances through undue, excessive or discriminatory policies</p>		C3.1	Goal 10	10.c	Share of remittances that go through official channels to the total number of remittances
		<p>d) Establish conducive policy and regulatory frameworks that promote a competitive and innovative remittance market, remove unwarranted obstacles to non-bank remittance service providers in accessing payment system infrastructure, apply tax exemptions or incentives to remittance transfers, promote market access to diverse service providers, incentivize the private sector to expand remittance services, and enhance the security and predictability of low-value transactions by bearing in mind de-risking concerns, and developing a methodology to distinguish remittances from illicit flows, in consultation with remittance service providers and financial regulators</p>		C3.1			Increased financial culture and know-how; use and possession of financial products; level of financial inclusion; number of Albanian families' benefiting from the Greenback project each year; Lower transaction costs for remittances; number of financial institutions established to facilitate remittance transfer and related services in rural areas.

	assistance, or other public sources of financing for development. To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:	e) Develop innovative technological solutions for remittance transfer, such as mobile payments, digital tools or e-banking, to reduce costs, improve speed, enhance security, increase transfer through regular channels and open up gender-responsive distribution channels to underserved populations, including for persons in rural areas, persons with low levels of literacy, and persons with disabilities		C3.1	Goal 10	10.c	Share of remittances that go through official channels to the total number of remittances
		f) Provide accessible information on remittance transfer costs by provider and channel, such as comparison websites, in order to increase the transparency and competition on the remittance transfer market, and promote financial literacy and inclusion of migrants and their families through education and training		C3.1	Goal 10	10.c	Share of remittances that go through official channels to the total number of remittances
		g) Develop programmes and instruments to promote investments from remittance senders in local development and entrepreneurship in countries of origin, such as through matching grant mechanisms, municipal bonds, and partnerships with hometown associations, in order to enhance the transformative potential of remittances beyond the individual households of migrant workers at skills levels		C3.1			Annual volume of remittances sent to Albania via the banking network;
		h) Enable migrant women to access financial literacy training and formal remittance transfer systems, as well as to open a bank account, own and manage financial assets, investments and business as means to address gender inequalities and foster their active participation in the economy		C3.1	Goal 5	5.5	Annual volume of remittances sent to Albania via the banking network;
		i) Provide access to and develop banking solutions and financial instruments for migrants, including low-income and female-headed households, such as bank accounts that permit direct deposits by employers, savings accounts, loans and credits in cooperation with the banking sector		C3.2	Goal 10	10.c	Number of Diaspora businesses and those registered in Albania who entered into a joint cooperation each year; volume of investment in the country

							through B to B cooperation.
OBJECTIVE 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration	We commit to facilitate and cooperate for safe and dignified return and to guarantee due process, individual assessment and effective remedy, by upholding the prohibition of collective expulsion and of returning migrants when there is a real and foreseeable risk of death, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, or other irreparable harm, in accordance with our obligations under international human rights law. We further commit to ensure that our nationals are duly received and readmitted, in full respect for the human right to return to one's own country and	a) Develop and implement bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks and agreements, including readmission agreements, ensuring that return and readmission of migrants to their own country is safe, dignified and in full compliance with international human rights law, including the rights of the child, by determining clear and mutually agreed procedures that uphold procedural safeguards, guarantee individual assessments and legal certainty, and by ensuring they also include provisions that facilitate sustainable reintegration	A1; B2; B3; B4; C2; D2	A1.1, B2.1			Number of recommendations / mechanisms identified to improve the effective implementation of ratified conventions
		b) Promote gender-responsive and child-sensitive return and reintegration programmes, that may include legal, social and financial support, guaranteeing that all returns in the context of such voluntary programmes effectively take place on the basis of the migrant's free, prior and informed consent, and that returning migrants are assisted in their reintegration process through effective partnerships, including to avoid they become displaced in the country of origin upon return		B2.1, C1.3	Goal 5	All	% increase in the number of irregular migrants and vulnerable categories returned to their countries of origin through voluntary return procedures
		c) Cooperate on identification of nationals and issuance of travel documents for safe and dignified return and readmission in cases of persons that do not have the legal right to stay on another State's territory, by establishing reliable and efficient means of identification of own nationals such as through the addition of biometric identifiers in population registries, and by digitalizing civil registry systems, with full respect to the right to privacy and protection of personal data		B2.1			Number of readmission implementation protocols signed or amended; % increase in the number of foreign citizens returned to their countries of origin in the context of readmission agreements/ protocols

	<p>the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals. We also commit to create conducive conditions for personal safety, economic empowerment, inclusion and social cohesion in communities, in order to ensure that reintegration of migrants upon return to their countries of origin is sustainable.</p>	<p>d) Foster institutional contacts between consular authorities and relevant officials from countries of origin and destination, and provide adequate consular assistance to returning migrants prior to return by facilitating access to documentation, travel documents, and other services, in order to ensure predictability, safety and dignity in return and readmission</p>		C2.2			Number of new bilateral labour agreements initiated by the Albanian authorities
		<p>e) Ensure that the return of migrants who do not have the legal right to stay on another State's territory is safe and dignified, follows an individual assessment, is carried out by competent authorities through prompt and effective cooperation between countries of origin and destination, and allows all applicable legal remedies to be exhausted, in compliance with due process guarantees, and other obligations under international human rights law</p>		B2.1		Number of irregular migrants readmitted each year under readmission agreements and protocols	
		<p>f) Establish or strengthen national monitoring mechanisms on return, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, that provide independent recommendations on ways and means to strengthen accountability, in order to guarantee the safety, dignity, and human rights of all returning migrants</p>		B2.1		Number of DBM specialists designated to undertake AVR procedures	
		<p>g) Ensure that return and readmission processes involving children are carried out only after a determination of the best interests of the child, take into account the right to family life, family unity, and that a parent, legal guardian or specialized official accompanies the child throughout the return process, ensuring that appropriate reception, care and reintegration arrangements for children are in place in the country of origin upon return</p>		D2.1		Improved coverage with social care and support of the undocumented migrant children who were returned	
		<p>h) Facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants into community life by providing them equal access to social protection and services, justice, psycho-social assistance, vocational training, employment opportunities and decent work, recognition of skills acquired abroad, and financial services, in order to fully build upon their entrepreneurship, skills and human capital as active members of society and contributors to sustainable development in the country of origin upon return</p>		B3.2	Goal 1, 8	1.3, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6	Number of readmitted citizens referred to public/ other services when available; share of males/ females

		i) Identify and address the needs of the communities to which migrants return by including respective provisions in national and local development strategies, infrastructure planning, budget allocations and other relevant policy decisions and cooperating with local authorities and relevant stakeholders		B3.2			Number of readmitted citizens referred to public/ other services when available; share of males/ females
OBJECTIVE 22: Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits	We commit to assist migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country.	a) Establish or maintain non-discriminatory national social protection systems, including social protection floors for nationals and migrants, in line with the ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors	D3	D3.1	Goal 1, 8	1.3, 8.7, 8.8	Number of proposals approved by the Council of Ministers
		b) Conclude reciprocal bilateral, regional or multilateral social security agreements on the portability of earned benefits for migrant workers at all skills levels, which refer to applicable social protection floors in the respective States, applicable social security entitlements and provisions, such as pensions, healthcare or other earned benefits, or integrate such provisions into other relevant agreements, such as those on long-term and temporary labour migration		D3.1	Goal 1	1.3	
		c) Integrate provisions on the portability of entitlements and earned benefits into national social security frameworks, designate focal points in countries of origin, transit and destination that facilitate portability requests from migrants, address the difficulties women and older persons can face in accessing social protection, and establish dedicated instruments, such as migrant welfare funds in countries of origin that support migrant workers and their families		D3.1	Goal 1	1.3	% increase in the total number of migrant children benefiting from social care in Albania every year
OBJECTIVE 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration	We commit to support each other in the realization of the objectives and commitments laid out in this Global Compact through enhanced international cooperation, a revitalized global	a) Support other States as we collectively implement the Global Compact, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance, in line with national priorities, policies action plans and strategies, through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach	A2, A4, C2	A4.1, C2.2	Goal 17	17.3	Extent to which the recommendations of the assessment carried out are translated into actions by Government institutions responsible for

	<p>partnership, and in the spirit of solidarity, reaffirming the centrality of a comprehensive and integrated approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, and recognizing that we are all countries of origin, transit and destination. We further commit to take joint action in addressing the challenges faced by each country to implement this Global Compact, underscoring the specific challenges faced in particular by African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, and middle-income</p>						the implementation of Albania's commitments in the context of regional and international migration consultative processes and bilateral cooperation on migration
		<p>b) Increase international and regional cooperation to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in geographic areas from where irregular migration systematically originates due to consistent impacts of poverty, unemployment, climate change and disasters, inequality, corruption, poor governance, among other structural factors, through appropriate cooperation frameworks, innovative partnerships and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, while upholding national ownership and shared responsibility</p>		A4.1, C2.2	All	All	
		<p>c) Involve and support local authorities in the identification of needs and opportunities for international cooperation for the effective implementation of the Global Compact and integrate their perspectives and priorities into development strategies, programmes and planning on migration, as a means to ensure good governance as well as policy coherence across levels of government and policy sectors, and maximize the effectiveness and impact of international development cooperation</p>		A2.1			Number of staff allocated for each MC with clear terms of reference; number of migrants referred from Migration Counters to other public services at the national and local level

	<p>countries. We also commit to promote the mutually reinforcing nature between the Global Compact and existing international legal and policy frameworks, by aligning the implementation of this Global Compact with such frameworks, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and their recognition that migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent.</p>	<p>d) Make use of the capacity-building mechanism and build upon other existing instruments to strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities by mobilizing technical, financial and human resources from States international financial institutions, the private sector, international organizations and other sources in order to assist all States in fulfilling the commitments outlined in this Global Compact</p>		A2.1			<p>Existence of the training programme itself; number of training modules developed and aligned with this national programme; number of Government of Albania officials trained every year on by this programme; Number of trainers engaged and delivering training courses</p>
		<p>e) Conclude bilateral, regional or multilateral mutually beneficial, tailored and transparent partnerships, in line with international law, that develop targeted solutions to migration policy issues of common interest and address opportunities and challenges of migration in accordance with the Global Compact</p>		A4.1, C2.2			<p>Number of partnerships agreements entered by Government of Albania entities with nongovernment stakeholders in the field of migration each year</p>