GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION: AN AGENDA FOR TOMORROW AND BEYOND

Recommendations by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development

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International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

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1. INTRODUCTION

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) holds that the main overarching purpose of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) should be to improve global migration governance and support states in achieving this aim – putting forward concrete measures to improve the safety of migrants, ensure their human rights are respected, and promote regular migration channels, while discouraging irregular ones. This should include highlighting concrete ways for UN Member States and other relevant stakeholders to both manage current and potential future migration contexts, as well as to strengthen migrants' contributions to countries of origin, transit and destination. ICMPD stands ready to support states in achieving the goals set out under this Compact, particularly at the national, sub-regional and regional level, where we are best situated to support the implementation and monitoring process.

ICMPD is an international organisation headquartered in Vienna, with regional offices and representatives across Europe, West, Central and South Asia, as well as North and West Africa and a mandate to support inter-state consultations and multilateral cooperation, provide expertise on migration and asylum issues, and to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies. It does so across three main pillars of work: Research and Policy, Migration Dialogues and Capacity Building. With its European member state-basis the organisation embraces the principles and values of European migration governance, which is built upon strong rule of law principles and the effective protection of human and fundamental rights, as well as multilateralism and a partnership approach. Arguably the most highly integrated region globally in terms of political integration and common policies on migration and protection, the European experience should be recognised during the GCM process. Europe's experiences building and improving internal mobility mechanisms and external migration policies have broken new ground in terms of possibilities for regional entities, yet have also offered new challenges that must be learned from at the global level.

ICMPD's input here aims at contributing to the dialogue around and development of the GCM, with **input and recommendations** as to where the GCM and global efforts with regard to migration can focus attention and future work. We emphasise in particular the importance of **building on already existing knowledge and experience on migration issues**, as well as the **strong and effective networks and institutions already established**, which have made considerable progress with regard to achieving consensus and supporting policy-making on migration issues. This paper represents an adaptation of ICMPD's official input to the Report of the UN Secretary General, in this version providing additional details and recommendations.

2. FIVE THEMATIC PRINCIPLES – AN APPROACH FOR ORGANISING GCM FUTURE WORK

ICMPD believes that the principles, objectives and targets of the GCM can be organised around **five main thematic objectives** or principles. These principles cover the main spheres of work on migration policy and management. Nonetheless they complement each other, and certain activities or approaches may bridge different areas – as they should. These five principles are:

1. Fulfil human rights obligations with respect to migrants

2. Reduce irregular migration and migrant smuggling, and end trafficking in persons

3. Promote regular migration pathways

4. Promote migrants' contributions in countries of origin, transit and destination

5. Promote cooperation and partnership

Within each principle, the GCM can further elaborate specific areas of interest, challenges and opportunities for states and other stakeholders to respond to the objective. Existing programmes of action that have been successful in organising future work (as well as review processes) should be taken as a model (e.g. ICPD Programme of Action[1]).

Targets and objectives under these themes should focus on supporting the ratification and implementation of **existing international instruments**, on implementing **concrete and action-oriented policies** and measures that support the achievement of these goals, and **elimination or revision of policies that have been identified as counter-productive**. Where relevant, the GCM should refer to existing guidance and international frameworks (See Annex 2). Actionable commitments that may be included in the GCM are included in Annex 1, while replicable examples of best practices from ICMPD's research and policy work, migration dialogues and capacity building are included within each respective thematic area, below.

2.1 Fulfil human rights obligations with respect to migrants

Throughout the GCM process, states and non-state stakeholders have emphasised the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach to migration policy and migration management. This objective should be particularly focused on the promotion and protection of human rights, by effectively implementing and upholding the rights enshrined in existing international frameworks.

This principle should also encompass the appropriate linkages with the Global Compact on Refugees. Considering the phenomenon of mixed migration flows, responses to irregular migration flows, and to migration in general, must respect the right of refugees to international protection, as well as provide adequate protection for other migrants in vulnerable situations, including both accompanied and unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking, the elderly, people with a disability, smuggled migrants who have suffered

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1 United Nations Population Fund (2004), "Programme of Action: Adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994", available at: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/PoA_en.pdf

abuses, and those caught in crisis situations, among others. Good Practices from the three main pillars of ICMPD's work are:

Research and Policy Development
- Monitoring and assessing migrants' access to their rights and essential services can hold states accountable and help develop recommendations to improve the human rights treatment of migrants. Comparative empirical research studies have helped identify areas for improvement in operational responses to migrants at borders[2], as well as in access to essential services[3] (healthcare, housing and education in particular).

Migration Dialogues
- Dialogues have underlined political consensus on upholding international human rights obligations – as in the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and the Rome Declaration of the Rabat Process, the latter including specific reference to international protection. At the same time, dialogues also translate this into action, as in the Budapest Process Silk Routes programme, in which they focus on protection of migrant workers' rights in the region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan) and establish Migrant Resource Centres to improve migrants' access to information on their rights before departure.[4]

Capacity Building
- Ensuring the human rights of those caught in crisis situations (be it civil unrest or natural disaster) can be hindered by the breakdown or inaccessibility of services and coordination or communication channels. Rebuilding rights-based migration systems where they have broken down or are non-existent should be of highest priority, as in Libya.[5] Building the capacities of stakeholders to better anticipate and coordinate responses to crises, for example through multi-stakeholder crisis coordination platforms[6] and training programmes for consular staff and first responders[7], are likewise essential.

2.2   Reduce irregular migration and migrant smuggling, and end trafficking in persons

This objective and relevant challenges and opportunities identified by the GCM should focus on an approach that balances security and protection concerns, in order to reduce the scale of irregular migration stocks and flows, and of associated human rights abuses, including the eradication of trafficking in persons. Opportunities included here would cover not only ensuring ratification, implementation and compliance with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, but also immigration enforcement activities (border control, assisted voluntary return) aimed at reducing irregular migration flows and policies addressing irregular migratory status, including targeted regularisation programmes. Good Practices from the three main pillars of ICMPD's work are:

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2   EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014-2017), "Treatment of third-country nationals at the EU's external borders: Surveying border checks at selected border crossing points", reports available at: http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2011/treatment-third-country-nationals-eus-external-borders-surveying-border-checks-selected/publications

3   EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2011), "The situation of migrants in an irregular situation in the European Union," reports available at: http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2012/situation-migrants-irregular-situation-european-union/publications.

4   Through the flagship initiative on the Protection of Migrant Workers' Rights through the Budapest Process Silk Routes Partnership.

5   Libya: Support to rights-based migration management and asylum system in Libya (2017-2020).

6   Migrants in Countries in Crisis Multi-Stakeholder Crisis Coordination Initiative, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/migrants-in-countries-in-crisis/capacity-building/.

7   Migrants in Countries in Crisis Capacity Building Training Module on Crisis Preparedness and Consular Contingency Planning, see: https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/2017/Crisis_Preparedness_factsheet_MICIC.pdf and https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/user_upload/MICIC_CB_Interactive_Contingency_Plan_Template_EN.pdf.

Research and Policy Development
- Understanding the extent of irregular migration and developing effective policies is dependent on the availability of reliable and comparable data(sets). Research and policy-oriented studies can provide accurate estimates and analysis of the size and development of irregular migration flows[8], including migrant smuggling trends and the impact of counter-smuggling measures[9], improve the quality (reliability and comparability) of datasets[10], upon which migration policies are built, and analyse the practices and impact of relevant policies (for example regularisations[11]).

Migration Dialogues
- All multilateral dialogues address irregular migration, in some cases as a main focus (e.g. Khartoum Process). Yet this topic can become a starting point for a broader dialogue and comprehensive approach: on the one hand, nearly all dialogues adopt a multi-pronged approach covering a wide range of migration-related issues, recognising the need for a comprehensive approach in addressing irregular migration.[12] On the other hand, dialogues increasingly move from discussion to concrete action, as in the Budapest Process, in which partner countries established an MoU on establishing a network, regular information exchanges, risk analysis and early warning systems, with regard to migrant smuggling and human trafficking trends.[13]

Capacity Building
- Responses to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons first require effective institutional structures to frame their activities. Thus the elaboration of National Anti-Trafficking Strategies and Action Plans, including transnational action plans (as is currently being done in Jordan[14]) must be the first step. Building on these frameworks at the national and transnational level is the crucial next step. Transnational referral mechanisms are the tool for states to meet their obligations on trafficking in persons, to increase victim identification and to improve access to justice and social inclusion.[15]

2.3 Promote regular migration pathways

This objective and its related challenges and opportunities go hand-in-hand with the previous one, as should also relevant measures, programmes and policies. Improving migrants' access to regular migration pathways, labour rights and labour mobility are subjects to be included here. Such pathways should be complementary to measures to increase refugee resettlement programmes and other legal pathways for those seeking

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8   As was done in the Clandestino project (2007-2009), see http://irregular-migration.net/.

9   Optimity Advisors, ICMPD, ECRE (2015), "A Study on smuggling of migrants: Characteristics, responses and cooperation with third countries", Brussels: European Commission, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/study_on_smuggling_of_migrants_final_report_master_091115_final_pdf.pdf.

10   As was done in the PROMINSTAT project (2007-2009), which enhanced the comparability of statistical data and understanding of indicators with regard to migration, see http://www.prominstat.eu.

11   ICMPD (2009), "Regularisations in Europe: Study on practices in the area of regularisation of illegally staying third-country nationals in the Member States of the EU", Vienna: ICMPD, available at: http://research.icmpd.org/fileadmin/Research-Website/Project_material/REGINE/Regine_report_january_2009_en.pdf.

12   The Budapest Process Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and the Prague Process identify six priority areas, covering irregular migration, integration, legal migration, migration and development, return and readmission and international protection. EUROMED Migration IV identifies four main areas of work: legal migration, irregular migration, migration and development and international protection.

13   Initiating Law enforcement Cooperation Silk Routes and Turkey (RELEC) initiative, under the Silk Routes Partnership and Budapest Process.

14   In the context of the wider Support to the Mobility Partnership between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (JEMPAS) 2016-2018, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/multi-thematic-programmes/support-to-the-mobility-partnership-between-the-european-union-and-the-hashemite-kingdom-of-jordan-jempas/.

15   Guidelines for the Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons in Europe (TRM-EU), see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/trafficking-in-human-beings/publications/guidelines-for-the-development-of-a-transnational-referral-mechanism-for-trafficked-persons-in-europe-trm-eu/.

international protection in the Global Compact on Refugees. Good Practices from the three main pillars of ICMPD's work are:

Research and Policy Development
- Assessments of particular regular migration pathways (such as for highly skilled migrants[16]) and labour market integration (particularly for refugees[17]) can highlight gaps in implementation or areas for improvement, including the lack of information disseminated to potential migrants and structural constraints, which can hinder the possibilities for states to benefit from already elaborated admission policies.

Migration Dialogues
- Migration dialogues can help build consensus on which specific issues to prioritise in promoting new or better legal channels. In the Prague Process, states have promoted the concept of cross-border student mobility[18], including through agreements with national and foreign universities, as well as the elaboration of labour and circular migration schemes[19], with the objective to maximise the positive impact of migration on countries of origin and destination.

Capacity Building
- The development of mechanisms for visa free travel between and within regions is a demanding task. When carried out in a sustained and pragmatic way, as has been done in Armenia[20], Azerbaijan[21] and Georgia[22] in the context of visa facilitation with the EU, as well as in the ECOWAS region at the local, national and regional level[23], the underlying process supports the achievement of joint goals not only in the area of migration but also in terms of economic, political and cultural cooperation.

2.4 Promote migrants' contributions in countries of origin, transit and destination

This objective should clarify the aim and relevant measures to ensure the positive contribution of migrants to their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. Engaging the diaspora in inclusive and nuanced ways can contribute to development in countries of origin, transit and destination, yet social inclusion of migrants must be a precondition to all other measures aimed at promoting migrants' abilities to contribute. This includes measures, programmes and policies to improve social cohesion (including integration policies)

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16   As was done in the research project Assessment and Implementation of the "Scientific Visa Package" (Researchers Directive 2005/71/EC and Recommendation 2005/761/EC), see ICMPD (2012), "Implementation and Impact of the Researchers Directive (Directive 2005/71/EC)", Policy Brief, Vienna: ICMPD, available at: https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ ICMPD_General/Policy_Brief_March_2012_Scientific_Visa.pdf.

17   Perspectives and future prospects of young refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. Implications for Integration Policy (Perspekt), 2017-2018, see http://research.icmpd.org/projects/integration-non-discrimination/perspekt/. Also Integration measures and labour market success of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in Austria (FIMAS) 2016-2017, see http://research.icmpd.org/projects/integration-non-discrimination/fimas/.

18   Prague Process Handbook on Enhancing International Student Mobility, available at: https://www.pragueprocess.eu/ en/documents/category/39-lang-en-handbooks-lang-lang-ru-lang?download=229:prague-process-handbook-on-enhancing-international-student-mobility.

19   Prague Process Handbook on Managing Labour and Circular Migration, available at: https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/ documents/category/39-lang-en-handbooks-lang-lang-ru-lang?download=73:prague-process-handbook-on-managing-labour-and-circular-migration-en.

20   Support to Migration and Border Management in Armenia (MIBMA), see https://www.mibma.eu/en/.

21   Support to the Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan (MOBILAZE), see https://www.icmpd.org/ our-work/capacity-building/multi-thematic-programmes/support-to-the-implementation-of-the-mobility-partnership-with-azerbaijan-mobilaze/.

22   Enhancing Georgia's Migration Management and Sustaining Migration Management in Georgia projects (ENIGMMA), see http://www.enigmma.ge/.

23   Support Free Movement of Persons & Migration in West Africa, see https://fmmwestafrica.org, including a special focus on the labour market and labour information systems.

and address multiple forms of discrimination faced by migrants, as well as those to support the impact of migrants and diasporas on sustainable development. Good Practices from the three main pillars of ICMPD's work are:

Research and Policy Development
- Successful integration of migrants and refugees in their host societies is based on long-term processes, individual empowerment and the maintenance of ties with countries of origin. Tailored migrant surveys and panel surveys[24] provide the evidence base needed to better understand integration conditions, conditions in the country of origin and the type of transnational connections[25] and entrepreneurship[26] in which migrants engage (such as business, trade, investments, or social and cultural programmes), which help states improve their diaspora policies.[27]

Migration Dialogues
- Dialogues have provided the platform to share good practices and new means for countries to engage with their diaspora, including in terms of use of new technologies to foster a dialogue (e.g. as has been done in the Mediterranean region[28]), encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation (e.g. for countries engaged in the Rabat Process[29]), and in laying the ground for the development of a new diaspora policy (as in Iraq[30]). Beyond the national level, city networks showcase promising initiatives that link local economic development to diasporas and migrant communities.[31]

Capacity Building
- Supporting government to develop and implement inclusive diaspora engagement policies[32] have enabled the diaspora to engage in dialogue, participate in the socio-economic development of their countries of origin and establish inter-institutional and private/public partnerships. At the same time, building regional diaspora networks (such as the ADEPT platform[33]) is conducive to optimise existing engagement, create new partnerships across regions, scale their development activities horizontally and vertically, and expand their influence within the broader international migration and development community.

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24   Such as implemented in FIMAS: Integration measures and labour market success of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in Austria 2016-2017, see http://research.icmpd.org/projects/integration-non-discrimination/fimas/.

25   ITHACA (Integration, Transnational Mobility and Human, Social and Economic Capital Transfers) project, see http://globalgovernanceprogramme.eui.eu/ithaca/.

26   Link Up! Feasibility Study, Enabling Diaspora Entrepreneurship, see https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2015/NewFeasibility_Study_LIGHT.pdf.

27   Frankenhaeuser, M. & M. Noack (2015). "Promoting Diaspora Engagement: What have we learnt?" Working Paper, Vienna: ICMPD, available at: https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2015/Promoting_Diaspora_Engagement.pdf.

28   As is done in EUROMED Migration IV, in particular peer-to-peer meetings on migration and technology and on diaspora engagement.

29   Through the MEET Africa Rabat Process flagship project and in a focused thematic meeting on Malian diaspora engagement strategies, see https://www.rabat-process.org/en/in-action.

30   Current ongoing diaspora engagement policy being developed through the Budapest Process Silk Routes Partnership

31   For example, ONLYLYON Ambassadors engage more than 19,000 people globally in promoting the city, including through the Mediterranean Transit Migration City-to-City dialogue.

32   Through targeted approaches and technical assistance, as for example in Mieux activities in Malawi (see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/165-malawi-diaspora-affairs); Madagascar (see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/189-madagascar-i-diaspora-affairs); Lebanon (see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/150-lebanon-diaspora-affairs-migration-and-development); Togo (see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/123-togo-diaspora-affairs), as well as others in Jordan (JEMPAS), Iraq (through the Budapest Process Silk Routes Partnership), and Serbia (Link Up! Serbia – Facilitating Diaspora Investments, see http://www.entwicklung.at/themen/projekte/detail/project/show/link-up-serbia/).

33   An Africa-Europe diaspora development platform, ADEPT aims at improving the capacity and impact of African diaspora organisations based in Europe involved in development activities in Africa. See http://www.adept-platform.org/.

2.5   Promote cooperation and partnership

Throughout the GCM process, states and other stakeholders have reiterated the importance of cooperation and partnerships to respond to the needs of migrants and to build sustainable migration governance – across all levels from macro to micro: international, regional, national, sub-regional, and local. Moreover, multi-stakeholder responses have been promoted – in particular the key role civil society does and should play. Thus, **multidisciplinary approaches** should be promoted within the GCM and as an approach to migration governance at all levels. However, while achieving partnership with one or many counterparts can be a **goal in and of itself**, partnership must also be understood as a **means to achieving other objectives** – in particular the four principles previously elaborated.[34]

Effective cooperation and partnership on migration first require **sophisticated and nuanced frameworks** to support such work, as the Swiss example of Migration Partnerships has shown at the bilateral level.[35] At the national level, the European Integrated Border Management concept[36] emphasises the importance of establishing modes of cooperation not only across relevant agencies at the national level, but also among EU Member States, with non-EU states, and at the EU institutional level – all of which are considered necessary components to a national border management approach.

At the regional and international level, existing dialogues and multilateral frameworks have been important for improving cooperation on key issues, and the GCM should rely on these established mechanisms to build upon the lessons learnt and the achievements already made. Such partnerships are integral to **achieving consensus and making progress on key issues**, an approach well established and advocated within regional dialogues (e.g. Budapest Process, Rabat Process, Khartoum Process, Mediterranean Transit Migration dialogue). As such, they are well placed to take up complex issues, for example return, to discuss and conceive of smarter or more sustainable solutions.

In the end, the GCM should look to already existing structures supporting such partnerships, either to utilise them *in situ* or as a model. The Mobility Partnership Facility[37], for example, supports the preparation and implementation of agreements between the EU and partner countries on migration and mobility and as such provides a structure to promote partnerships on migration (including targeted capacity building initiatives[38]). At the same time, it can be considered as a model for implementing the GCM, considering its role operationalising the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility.

Good Practices from the three main pillars of ICMPD's work are:

Research and Policy Development
- Developing or ensuring effective implementation of migration policy at the local level requires first the recognition of municipal authorities that they can be and are important actors in the process. Data collection and analysis combined with dialogue have been successful for inducing political actors and civil society at the city level[39] to place the issue of migration more prominently on their

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34   ICMPD (2017), "Vienna Migration Conference 2017: Can we have partnerships on migration? And if so, what good can they bring?" Background paper, Vienna: ICMPD, available at: https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/2017/Background_Note_Final.pdf.

35   Swiss State Secretariat for Migration "Migration Partnerships", see https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/internationales/internat-zusarbeit/bilateral/migrationspartnerschaften.html.

36   Now enshrined across 11 dimensions in the legal basis of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, see http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Legal_basis/European_Border_and_Coast_Guard.pdf.

37   Mobility Partnership Facility, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/multi-thematic-programmes/mobility-partnership-facility-mpf/.

38   For example the Mediterranean Network for Training Orientation to Regular migration, action implemented in the framework of the Mobility Partnerships between the EU, Morocco and Tunisia, see https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/2017/Action_Infonote_IT.pdf.

39   As done through the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration project, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/migration-dialogues/mtm/city-to-city/.

agendas and to identify priority areas for future action. Cities have also learned from such a data collection process that they must approach central governments to receive data that they can use and build efforts around (high quality, structured access, etc), and be active in the data collection process themselves (e.g. Amman's urban mobility observatory).

Migration Dialogues

- Engaging the appropriate non-governmental partner(s) in terms of scope or geographic coverage in governmental dialogues on migration can at times present a challenge. However, engaging umbrella organisations – those platforms that are able to bring together recommendations, some with a particular mandate to share them at the inter-governmental level – have been identified by the Rabat Process as an effective strategy to engage civil society within governmental dialogue processes. Defining a methodology to work with such umbrella organisations and defining the specific steps on how they can contribute at the policy level has been a concrete way to engage civil society in a cooperative process.

Capacity Building

- Lack of trust in state institutions can greatly hinder the efficiency of border operations and implementation of migration and border policies. For capacity building activities engaging border agencies, building confidence and trust with local communities (including tribal and institutional local authorities) as well as cross-regionally (e.g. through the exchange of liaison officers and burden sharing agreements), as has been done in the G5 Sahel region[40], can improve the effectiveness of these activities.

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40 Through the project Border Management & Border Communities in the Sahel (2015-2016). See https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/MRT/Border%20and%20communities%20Management%20Sahel.pdf.

3. PUTTING PRINCIPLES INTO ACTION

The previously elaborated five thematic areas can provide a framing of future work, and the examples given demonstrate concrete actions states and other actors can take in the context of the GCM, in furthering their migration policy and its implementation. Yet, beyond this framing and the promising practices, there is a need to consider the potential structured approach to the GCM's implementation. In terms of both the means of implementation and a framework for follow-up, review and monitoring of implementation, ICMPD is of the position that – as far as possible – **existing channels of implementation, communication and reporting should be utilised**, as this would maximise the impact and efficacy of the GCM. Moreover, the GCM implementation process should be **multi-stakeholder, multi-level and multi-disciplinary**, engaging the wide range of institutions and parties already engaged in migration policy development and implementation.

In particular, in building the GCM framework for implementation and for monitoring and review, a **differentiation of roles of engaged actors at the structural level** must be clarified. Normative processes via implementation must be a separate process – conceptually and structurally – from a review process, in order to ensure the independence and acceptance of findings and the broader monitoring mechanisms.

ICMPD stands ready to contribute and support the implementation and review of the GCM process, as far as possible, based on our experience engaging with policy makers, academia, non-governmental organisations and others at the national, regional and international level.

3.1 Means of implementation

There is a plurality of actors engaged in migration policy, who should be brought into the GCM process and/ or their engagement stepped up in this context. Regional dialogues, (sections within) intergovernmental organisations like ICMPD, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, platforms and other entities are currently involved and have had success in research and policy development, dialogues and building the capacities of relevant stakeholders on migration issues. As such, **their expertise and achievements must be learned from and built on** in order to ensure the efficacy and successfulness of GCM-related work.

Reducing this plurality or changing the nature of existing frameworks would be counter-productive, whereas engaging them on and for their strengths would have an exponentially positive impact on GCM implementation. This should be considered a critical part of the GCM process of increasing global convergence on key migration issues.

Research and Policy Development
The GCM's implementation should also expand and foster knowledge development and sharing on migration issues. Research should feed into and be mainstreamed across the GCM implementation processes, to ensure and **support evidence-based policies and measures**. With the aim to contribute to future oriented migration policy development, research can provide answers to immediate policy relevant questions and allow for the exploration of new fields, generating new ideas, defining new principles and laying the foundation for longer-term strategic goals. Such research can transcend short-term policy priorities, remaining relevant for longer time periods. This is even more important in a policy field like migration, where divergence in approaches to and interests in specific migration-related issues occur. Thus, policy innovation is only possible with research that lays down the foundations for subsequent approaches.

Whether for the purpose of understanding or assessing the impact of particular policies (e.g. regularisations[41], counter-smuggling measures[42]), which can contribute to amended legislation or policy, or for developing new policies based on new trends (e.g. pathways to irregularity and the extent of irregular migration status within countries or regions[43]), comparative migration research has and will continue to contribute important lessons for policy development.

ICMPD's experience has demonstrated that **linking comparative empirical research with consultative processes** (such as regional or topical ones) and **capacity building activities** can ensure effective implementation of research-based recommendations. Within the Prague Process, the initiation and expansion of its knowledge base[44] was considered not only a valuable but an essential component to improving states' access to accurate and comprehensive information on migration issues in the region and for participating countries. In the context of the MICIC Initiative, focused on supporting migrants caught in situations of crisis or emergency, several capacity building activities have been identified based on research findings, in combination with expressions of needs from states in regional consultations, such as the training programme for consular staff on contingency planning.[45]

While the nature of research as independent and wide-ranging makes it challenging to assure that all relevant expertise is collected, engaging migration research networks and conferences (e.g. IMISCOE[46]), including ones aimed at bringing together academia and policy makers (e.g. Metropolis[47]), to identify current trends and findings in migration research would be an effective way to build on the most current knowledge and evidence on migration trends and policies.

Migration Dialogues
Policy and technical migration dialogues and programmes at the national and regional level – both those that already exist or new cooperative (global or regional, multi-stakeholder) arrangements around particular issues – should **remain a main avenue of implementation**. While inter-agency coordination at the UN level is key to the implementation of the GCM, so too is coordination at the regional level. **Regional formal and informal multilateral frameworks**, including regional bodies (e.g. AU, EU, ECOWAS, COMESA), regional economic commissions (e.g. AU Economic Commission, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), regional processes (Budapest Process, Khartoum Process, Rabat Process, Prague Process, Colombo Process) and international dialogues on migration (e.g. GFMD) are well positioned to take up GCM issues for further work and should be engaged in the implementation process. They can engage amongst each other, and also with stakeholders at the global level and at the national level, feeding into vertical and horizontal processes.

Regional and sub-regional organisations, as well as the formal and informal migration dialogues and frameworks, have the experience and know-how to **bridge gaps**, to bring together countries with divergent interests and to promote cooperation between stakeholders with at times fundamentally different views and

41 ICMPD (2009), "Regularisations in Europe: Study on practices in the area of regularisation of illegally staying third-country nationals in the Member States of the EU", Vienna: ICMPD, available at: http://research.icmpd.org/fileadmin/Research-Website/Project_material/REGINE/Regine_report_january_2009_en.pdf.

42 Optimity Advisors, ICMPD, ECRE (2015), "A Study on smuggling of migrants: Characteristics, responses and cooperation with third countries", Brussels: European Commission, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/study_on_smuggling_of_migrants_final_report_master_091115_final_pdf.pdf.

43 As was done in the Clandestino project (2007-2009), see http://irregular-migration.net/.

44 Prague Process Knowledge Base, see https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/knowledge-base.

45 Migrants in Countries in Crisis Consultations, Research and Capacity Building, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/migrants-in-countries-in-crisis/.

46 A European network of scholars focused on migration and integration. For more information, see https://www.imiscoe.org/.

47 An international conference convening academic researchers, policy makers and community groups engaged in aspects related to migration and diversity. For more information, see https://www.metropolisthehague.org/.

perceptions. Based on ICMPD's extensive first-hand knowledge and experience in supporting and engaging with such actors, the unique added value of regional and topical dialogues is their ability to **broach priority topics within such a setting and building consensus** and convergence on certain issues. In this way, within the GCM implementation process, such dialogues can actively work with states within specific regions or those dealing with set topics to further convergence and consensus on key issues across the five thematic areas of work.

During the GCM thematic sessions several issues have been noted as requiring further or continuous dialogue before any sort of consensus can be reached (e.g. return, detention), as well as certain "priority areas" for certain regions as compared with others. Dialogues are exceptionally placed and can convene "special sessions" to discuss such topics and opposing priorities that may exist, with the aim of identifying common challenges, good practices and potential solutions as well as eventually reaching a consensus. In this approach, such issues where there is divergence would not hinder work in other areas, while concurrently working towards consensus. Previous experience has shown the flexible manner such processes can apply to include new capacity building projects and joint initiatives or to expand on those already piloted, such as in the Prague Process, the Rabat Process and the EUROMED Migration programme.

Like-minded states may also convene on the basis of shared interest, cross-regionally, in the context of existing fora (e.g. GFMD), or a topic-based forum (e.g. MICIC Initiative and related consultations, Nansen Initiative, or other topic-focused Task Forces or Working Groups). Furthermore, existing migration dialogues and networks of cities (e.g. the Mediterranean City to City Migration network) and other sub-regional governments represent important channels for effective awareness-raising and implementation of the GCM. Such frank exchanges on sensitive topics among countries of origin, destination and transit can in the long run lead to shaping a balanced approach, integrating the corresponding needs and interests of relevant stakeholders.

There is a need for more coordination beyond that at the international level, but rather at all levels – from cities to UN agencies and at each level in between. Multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local, national, bilateral, regional and global levels must therefore be engaged as important platforms for developing policy coherence and convergence on key issues. Nonetheless, to build on the successful partnerships already built within these contexts, the **GCM should engage them as potential partners *in situ*** in furthering the GCM implementation process, rather than aiming at streamlining them within a separate process.

Capacity Building
Capacity building programmes facilitate states' actions on pre-identified challenges, using existing expertise and good practices from other states who have already taken action on similar challenges. The MIEUX Initiative provides an excellent model here – matching immediate needs identified by states with **peer-to-peer, tailor-made global expertise** on migration.[48] ICMPD experience has demonstrated that engaging stakeholders in a peer-to-peer format has increased the reception and on-boarding of effective approaches to migration management.

A wide range of tools and materials have been developed to contribute to the strengthening of institutions undertaking migration-relevant activities or policy-making, such as training manuals and programmes. While pooling such tools and materials within a central entity with the aim of coordinating capacity building could be an option in terms of identifying promising practices for certain states or on certain topics, one must ensure that it does not diminish the added value of **tailoring such approaches to the relevant context** (institutionally, geographically or otherwise). In the context of border management activities, for example, tailor-made programmes have been essential both to improving national capacities operating in challenging environments[49] and in identifying and building regional approaches[50] to combatting irregular migration and cross-border crime.

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48   For more information on Mieux, see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/.

49   For example as is done in the Integrated Border Management programme in Lebanon (2012-2018), see http://www.icmpd-lebanon.org/.

50   As for example the Eastern Partnership cooperation in the fight against irregular migration, implemented in the context of the Prague Process, see https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/projects/eap-sippap.

Frameworks that have **combined dialogue and capacity building** will be especially important, as they are particularly poised to move quickly and effectively from consensus to technical support, thus operationalising commitments (e.g. EUROMED Migration; Mediterranean Transit Migration dialogue; MICIC initiative).

3.2 Framework for follow-up, review and monitoring

A framework for follow-up, review and monitoring of implementation should similarly utilise those means of verification already available to the international community. ICMPD's experience has been that monitoring and review mechanisms are most effective when existing expertise and frameworks that have already been identified as effective are engaged. This includes existing expertise in relevant UN agencies and international organisations, as well as watchdog reporting conducted by non-governmental actors. Moreover, common targets should be used to track progress, using qualitative and quantitative indicators based on the five themes and the actionable commitments related to them.

Depending on the approach of the GCM, a Global Trust Fund could be foreseen, in which case it should build on previous good practices and experiences (such as the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa[51] or the Mobility Partnership Facility[52]) that have allowed for the pooling of donor resources while simultaneously **enabling quick, targeted and flexible responses to urgent situations and longer-term goals alike**.

Such a fund must also be linked to a monitoring platform – which should also build on existing examples of such review frameworks, such as the Joint Valletta Action Plan Monitoring and Reporting Tool[53], which encompasses a database on practices and data collection cycles using national focal points to feed into the database. Such a monitoring system should ensure that the initiatives launched under such large-scale funding regimes are not only effectively implemented but that the knowledge developed under such initiatives is systematically collected and re-engaged in parallel and future work (e.g. as done in the monitoring system of the EU Emergency Trust Fund[54]).

In the context of a compact of at least **10 years[55]**, we call for a three-pronged approach to reporting of progress, conducted in parallel. All parallel reporting lines would report based on a template organised across the five thematic areas or principles, and should focus on what the relevant entity has done or discovered across these areas, as well as where current and future challenges lie.

Bi-annual reporting lines and parallel meetings on one specific theme would congregate stakeholders across all three prongs, which ensures **cross-fertilisation of work** as well as ensuring **cross-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagement**. Moreover, triangulating the progress reporting across the relevant stakeholders would be an effective means of data collection and verification of progress.

This three-pronged approach consists of:

1. **UN Member States**, where input should be coordinated in a whole-of-government approach and across all relevant Ministries and at all levels of government.

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51 In which various donor funds are pooled in order to enable a quicker, more flexible and collective EU response. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa_en.

52 A tool supporting the preparation and implementation of EU Mobility Partnerships and Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/multi-thematic-programmes/mobility-partnership-facility-mpf/.

53 See https://www.khartoumprocess.net/news-and-events/newsletter/issue-1/58-joint-valletta-action-plan-jvap-database-to-be-launched.

54 Particularly via the Monitoring and Evaluation System for the North of Africa Window of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (MENOA).

55 While we believe the compact should be for at least 10 years, a longer period could be foreseen in order to align with existing processes (e.g. the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

Member States would provide reports on their progress organised across the five themes, focusing on concrete actions, with the overarching goal to progressively adopt measures addressing all five, and a majority of the GCM actionable commitments.

2. **Multilateral frameworks**, engaging Secretariats of dialogues and processes focused on migration issues, representatives from regional organisations, institutions or other bodies; topical and regional multilateral processes or large-scale projects; city networks and other multi-stakeholder frameworks as identified as relevant.

   Multilateral frameworks would report on their own progress in terms of reaching consensus on key thematic topics, as well as identify areas for future work or continued divergence. Engaging multilateral frameworks in this way serves a dual purpose of also encouraging these frameworks and processes to place GCM thematic topics on their agendas if they are not there already, as well as strengthening or deepening existing discussions.

3. **International and non-governmental stakeholders**, who will report and exchange on their research and policy findings.

   These experts, non-governmental actors and watchdog entities, as well as UN Rapporteurs, would report on specific challenges (as related to the GCM main themes and actionable commitments) they have identified in the course of their work.

   Such experts should include (but are not limited to):

   - Academic experts and research institutions working on the topic of migration policy (e.g. European University Institute, University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society), including academic networks when feasible (IMISCOE),

   - Civil Society Organisations focused on assistance to migrants or migration policy issues – at the international and national level (ICMC, MPI, Regional Mixed Migration Secretatiat),

   - Inter-governmental organisations focused on the topic of migration policy (e.g. ICMPD, OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe),

   - National Human Rights Committees, if their mandates can be extended to cover migrants,

   - UN agencies and relevant departments within them (e.g. IOM, ILO Labour Migration Branch, UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNHCR, UN DESA's Population Division, OHCHR, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, WHO Health and Migration Section, World Bank, IFAD),

   - UN Committees (e.g. on the Rights of the Child, on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women),

   - UN Special Rapporteurs (e.g. on the human rights of migrants, on the human rights of internally displaced persons, on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, on the situation of human rights defenders).

In all cases, these reports (main challenges and achievements across different stakeholder group) should be summarised, compiled and submitted for review to the SRSG, in order to assess the progress achieved and targets reached. As the UN-mandated organisation on migration, **IOM is well-placed to convene** such review meetings, as well as summarise and compile the reporting on progress and meeting reports on the relevant theme of in-depth discussion. Existing meetings can be transformed for and/or feed into this process, such as the International Dialogue on Migration, the GFMD Annual Summit, and UN DESA's Annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: WHERE CAN WE GO FROM HERE

ICMPD is prepared to support the GCM process as needed, and will work towards promoting the lessons we have learned from our experience conducting research, supporting migration dialogues and implementing capacity building activities. Across these three pillars, we have found that in fact **combined approaches are the most effective** – those that set out the evidence base, upon which states and other stakeholders can discuss and build consensus, and then work on tailored capacity building in those areas where consensus has been reached.

Moreover, we are of the view that the GCM should **build on existing knowledge and structures**: it should include or promote promising practices (some of which have been set out in this document), in addition to the Actionable Commitments (see Annex 1) – as well as build on already existing structures and frameworks (see Annex 2, for example). This is particularly important for the means of implementing and monitoring the GCM. Regional and multilateral informal processes and structures are uniquely placed in this regard, especially in terms of building consensus on contentious topics and across a region. As such, they should be engaged *in situ*, rather than altered to fit a new purpose, in order to build on their success to the benefit of the GCM.

ICMPD supports a **multilateral and multi-stakeholder reporting process** in the context of monitoring progress on GCM thematic areas. In our proposal, **cross-fertilisation of findings** across UN Member States, multilateral frameworks and independent experts can become an achievable aim of this monitoring process, in addition to tracking progress. Indeed, the GCM should take the opportunity to capitalise on the wide range of stakeholders and expertise available globally on migration generally, and engaged in the GCM implementation process specifically. However, the **independence of implementation mechanisms from monitoring frameworks** should be maintained, and not placed under one umbrella, to ensure the independence of each and broader acceptance of the process.

Finally, based on ICMPD's experience in supporting migration policy development across the globe, we suggest five overarching recommendations for the GCM, that can support the final development process of this Compact:

1. **Migrant rights must guide the work on migration policy** – at all levels: local, sub-regional, national, multilateral, regional, international. Existing international legal frameworks exist that apply to migrants' rights, and they should be upheld and promoted through the GCM.

2. **Institutions matter**. They need to be comprehensive, sophisticated and require political support from the bottom-up in order to be effective. There is a need for stronger and more sophisticated institutions and legislation – only in such an approach can safe, orderly and legal mobility and migration be assured. As the goal of the GCM process then, the value of sophisticated and complex institutional frameworks of mobility should be upheld and promoted.

3. In this regard, **common political support** is critical – without it, multilateral arrangements are not sustainable. From the very beginning, then, all states must support the design and potential implementation of a system. Finding and building on common ground within regions and globally is the basic step from which all systems or political arrangements must be built, including in this context the GCM.

4. **Partnership must be horizontal and vertical**. Engaging a wide range of stakeholder (public, private, civil society) and at different levels (from micro to macro) can only make policies and activities more comprehensive while also increasing the political buy-in of all stakeholders. This applies equally to national, regional and global policy-making – where partnership can be approached both *within* and *as* a particular bloc. For the GCM, while institutions charged with migration policy and/or border control may be those leading national input, it will be important to ensure that the GCM and its subsequent implementation process can be representative of a wider swathe of views and expertise on migration policy. This includes municipal and sub-regional experiences as well as other Ministries not traditionally tasked with migration management questions but whose input is still relevant (e.g. Ministries of Health or Education). This also includes the experiences and specific know-how of non-governmental organisations, civil society actors and grassroots initiatives, which have been successful in identifying needs and organising immediate and longer-term responses to these needs, and can be built on, or lessons gleaned from, at a global scale.

5. **Engage and change the discourse**. Public opinion can be a catalyst for change – for better or worse – and in the case of migration issues, should be engaged to highlight the myriad positive impacts migrants have on countries and communities of origin, transit and destination. One arm of the global approach should include engaging the media, the public more broadly and national and local political representations in awareness raising efforts, to explain and promote the GCM and its implementation and to mitigate potential negative reactions. Changing the narrative to a more nuanced one, recognising also these positive impacts, should be a goal of policy makers and other stakeholders engaged on migration issues alike.

ANNEX 1: ACTIONABLE COMMITMENTS

Fulfill human rights obligations with respect to migrants

- Member States should effectively implement and uphold the rights enshrined in international frameworks (on human rights, child rights, women's rights, migrant workers, trafficking, etc);

    • This includes improving the implementation of legal and policy frameworks with regard to better screening and assessing of potential rights to protection. This should improve identification of cases of trafficking and others with protection needs, and the triggering of relevant referral mechanisms, as well as increasing the effective provision of protection services to victims of abuse and migrants in vulnerable situations – including within asylum, migration and humanitarian assistance mechanisms and procedures.

    • Member States should develop preventive actions to address vulnerabilities to trafficking and other forms of exploitation in countries of origin, transit and destination. The risk of trafficking should be *a priori* taken into account in devising targeted measures for the identification of victims of trafficking or those at risks of trafficking by establishing a multidisciplinary approach for early identification, referral, service provision and protection preventing abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

    • Supporting migrants' access to (information on their) rights and protection via consular representations, migrant resource centres, diplomatic missions and labour attachés and building such representations' capacities to do so, are also critical.

- Member States should seek alternatives to detention, eliminate arbitrary detention and eliminate detention of children. Immigration detention should be an action of last resort, with alternatives implemented whenever possible (e.g. FRA's compilation of legal resources[56] and the International Detention Coalition's guidance[57]).

- Member States should improve migrants' access to justice and effective remedy, by establishing migrant assistance centres or expanding and improving existing processes, and ensuring firewalls are in place for (irregular) migrants to effectively access essential and emergency services and report crimes.

- Ensure adequate quality of the asylum / refugee status determination process[58] including through effective utilisation of jurisprudence[59].

- Engage firewalls in law enforcement, health services, housing, education and with other essential service providers to ensure that migrants in an irregular situation still have access to their rights and essential services.

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56 For example the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's paper on Alternatives to detention for asylum seekers and people in return procedures, see http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2015/alternatives-detention-asylum-seekers-and-people-return-procedures.

57 International Detention Coalition (2015), "There Are Alternatives", available at: https://idcoalition.org/publication/there-are-alternatives-revised-edition/.

58 Prague Process (2014), "Prague Process Guidelines on Training in the Asylum Process – Approaches to Achieve Quality", available at: https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/documents/category/39-lang-en-handbooks-lang-lang-ru-lang?download=75:prague-process-guidelines-on-training-in-the-asylum-process-approaches-to-achieve-quality.

59 Prague Process (2016), "Quality in Asylum Decision-Making. Using Jurisprudence and Multidisciplinary Knowledge for Training Purposes", available at: https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/documents/category/39-lang-en-handbooks-lang-lang-ru-lang?download=230:prague-process-guidelines-quality-in-asylum-decision-making.

Reduce irregular migration and migrant smuggling, and end trafficking in persons

- Build the capacities of states and other stakeholders to implement appropriate measures aimed at combating irregular migration, for example related to civil registry systems in countries of origin in order to improve identification and return of irregular migrants.

- Establish monitoring mechanisms on counter-irregular migration measures, including on compliance and effectiveness, and on ensuring that potential negative impacts are avoided (e.g. redirecting irregular flows, prosecuting migrants, limiting migrants' access to rights and services, increasing migrants' vulnerability to exploitation or other risks, increasing demand for migrant smuggling services) in order to improve such measures.

- Develop an early warning system along migration routes that would enable countries to remain informed about illegal crossings, modus operandi, numbers and potential risk of a sudden displacement or increases in migration flows. Risk analysis and management (including e.g. multi-stakeholder crisis coordination platforms[60]) should be put in place to allow law enforcement agencies, including border agencies, as well as other relevant stakeholders (e.g. NGOs), to identify risks, define efficient and appropriate responses, and coordinate their actions.

- Address the drivers of (irregular) migration, be they economic, demographic or environmental factors, or social and political dynamics, including lack of opportunities and access to services, lack of regular migration channels, lack of refugee resettlement programmes, poor or ineffective governance, and insecurity, as well as natural disasters, conflicts and forced displacement.

- Ensure that national legislation is in line with the UNTOC (and its SOM and TIP Protocols) and improve the implementation of these frameworks, including through the development of a national strategy and action plan, and targeted capacity building actions (e.g. building multidisciplinary teams[61], enhancing agencies' technical skills[62], establishing transnational referral mechanisms[63], and developing inter-sectoral guidelines[64]).

- Share data on and support data collection and analysis on (irregular) migration, policies and measures on (irregular) migration, and the drivers of migration by government institutions, NGOs, research institutes and others.

- Adopt preparatory and preventive measures to mitigate displacement as well as irregular migration flows, leverage the agency of people at risk and address vulnerabilities with a focus on local level (incl. through disaster risk reduction and contingency planning).

- Support practical implementation of an Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept as a means to improve coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders at and across the border. This includes establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination and monitoring body and relevant sub-working groups responsible for practical implementation of IBM Action plans and proper monitoring.

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60   More information on capacity building activities improving crisis response, including establishing multi-stakeholder crisis coordination platforms, is available via the Migrants in Countries in Crisis EU-funded project, at https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/migrants-in-countries-in-crisis/capacity-building/.

61   As done in Thailand and Jordan through the Mieux project, see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/146-thailand-trafficking-in-human-beings and https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/175-jordan-trafficking.

62   As done in Timor Leste and Ghana through the Mieux project, see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/148-timor-leste-trafficking-in-human-beings and https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/184-ghana-iii-trafficking-in-human-beings.

63   See the Guidelines for the Development of a Transnational Referral Mechanism for Trafficked Persons in Europe, available at https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/trafficking-in-human-beings/publications/guidelines-for-the-development-of-a-transnational-referral-mechanism-for-trafficked-persons-in-europe-trm-eu/.

64   As done in Peru through the Mieux project, see https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/185-peru-iii.

- Share best practices and lessons learnt in: travel and personal document security, cooperation in the detection of irregular migrants, establishment of identity and nationality of irregular migrants.[65]

- Examine the potential for use of innovative hi-tech solutions (e.g. access to national civil registry systems, interviews by videoconferencing) in the context of return procedures and readmission case management, in order to facilitate the identification and return process.

- Develop new scope and manner of work between origin, transit and destination countries, to balance the burden sharing in a realistic manner, with an aim to have more sustainable migration management capacities in origin, transit and destination countries

Promote regular migration pathways
- Improve migrants' access to regular migration pathways, both by opening up such channels and by disseminating information on how migrants can access them, including for work, study, family reunification and international protection.

  • Promote the use of pre-departure and post-arrival trainings (including on language) and migrant resource centres in accessing both information on how and opportunities to migrate legally.[66]

- Cultivate global skills partnerships among countries of origin and destination, through skills matching and skills recognition programmes, as well as targeted training programmes for (potential) migrants based on joint vocational training standards (pre-departure and post-arrival).

  • Promote use of alternative ways of assessment and recognition of qualifications. This could include mentoring, internship programs and 'bridging offers' for immigrants with partially or non-recognised qualifications.

- Conduct evaluations and assessments of active employment and sustainable recruitment cooperation to gather and promote good practices and lessons learnt.

- Improve labour market information systems in cooperation with the private sector, trade unions and employers' organisations in order to better assess the labour market needs at all skills levels.

- Introduce effective means of gathering and analysing information on migrant qualifications and skills in order to implement tailored integration programmes.

- Support regional mobility frameworks, in particular by promoting the implementation of free movement protocols of regional economic communities (e.g. concrete support in harmonising national migration policies, awareness raising campaigns, monitoring frameworks, etc).

- Promote and facilitate migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change and environmental degradation, for example through the adaptation or development of national, bilateral or regional agreements to facilitate temporary, circular or permanent migration in the context of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation.

- Develop mobility channels in case of emergencies, including the use of humanitarian visas and temporary protection mechanisms, and provide first responders with practical tools (especially contingency plans) to facilitate evacuation and relocation of migrants during emergencies.

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65 As facilitated through the Prague Process Handbook on Identification of Irregular Migrants, see https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/documents/category/39-lang-en-handbooks-lang-lang-ru-lang?download=392:prague-process-handbook-in-identification-of-irregular-migrants.

66 For example as have been newly established in Pakistan, see https://www.mrc.org.pk/en/.

- Promote cross-border student mobility including through concluding corresponding agreements with national and foreign universities.

Promote migrants' contributions in countries of origin, transit and destination
- Facilitate the collection, compilation and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, disaggregated by characteristics of the target group and by geographic region, by making statistics available to government institutions, NGOs, research institutes and others for analysis; by including relevant questions in national questionnaires or census data; and/or by facilitating researchers' access to target groups.

    • Analysis should also include approaches to monitor migration and national sentiments towards it, as well as collect information on indicators for integration and social cohesion.

- Dissolve barriers to migrants' contributions to their communities, for example:

    • Improve integration processes in the country/community of residence (transit and destination).

    • Implement preventative measures against xenophobia and racism, including appropriate punishments for hate crimes, as well as promoting positive narratives of migration.

    • Improve migrants' access to financial information, know-how and capital for diaspora entrepreneurs and investments, including opportunities for migrants with low incomes.

    • Reduce migrants' barriers to banking systems and financial transfer services, through better regulatory frameworks and technical solutions, to support remittance transfers.

    • Consider involvement of diasporas in policy development processes and political participation in country of origin parliaments, with either real or honorary seats allocated for diaspora communities.

- Empower migrants to engage as actors in their own right, through institutional and/or financial support to migrants and diaspora organisations and platforms and by establishing government institutions or focal points on diaspora issues in countries of origin.

- Establish and support pre-departure programmes and migrant resource centres, as they increase the accessibility to general and specific information on migration; provide potential migrants with information and counselling in various areas; raise awareness of regular and irregular migration and its serious concerns; and enhance the development of professional, language and social skills of potential migrants.

- Strengthen the role and support offered by embassies and consulates when possible, and consider alternative means to support nationals abroad when capacities are limited, through for example "mobile counselling"[67] or collective consular services.

    • Train consular staff on crisis preparedness and response to boost their capacities to assist and protect their fellow nationals abroad in times of crisis.[68]

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67 ICMPD (2014), "Guide on Organising Mobile Counselling for Migrants and Diaspora Members", Vienna: ICMPD, available at: https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD-Website/ICMPD-Website_2011/ICMPD_General/News/ERGEM_Guide/Organising_Mobile_Counselling_for_the_Diaspora_EN_SOFT.pdf.
68 For an example, see the training module established by the Migrants in Countries in Crisis EU-funded project, https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/2017/Crisis_Preparedness_factsheet_MICIC.pdf.

- Develop inclusive diaspora policies and nuanced approaches that cater to and recognise the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the diaspora, their vulnerabilities, needs and potentials, through participatory approaches.

- Reduce the potential negative impacts of return (including crisis-induced return) by supporting short and long-term reintegration support (e.g. financial support, training programmes, support for development of SMEs, psycho-social health care), including via public-private partnerships.

- Support programmes and activities that promote inter-cultural dialogue and a balanced narrative on migration through shared public spaces, knowledge platforms (e.g. Interactive Map on Migration (i-Map)[69]), working with the media and positive reinforcement (e.g. Migration Media Award[70]).

- Support civil society organisations, including migrant associations (at the local, national and international level), who identify and address gaps and needs, including increasing service take-up among migrants and combatting prejudices.

Promote cooperation and partnership
- Bolster the institutional and technical capacities of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders involved in developing and implementing migration policy and in migration governance mechanisms, specifically through targeted capacity building programmes.

- Engage partners in cooperative processes on migration governance across levels (from local to international, including tribal and institutional local authorities), stakeholder groups (migrant and diaspora organisations, civil society organisations, international organisations, etc) and cross-regionally (e.g. through the exchange of liaison officers and burden sharing agreements).

- Reaffirm and engage in international and multi-stakeholder dialogues and forums (e.g. Bali, Budapest, Khartoum, Prague and Rabat Processes, the Mediterranean Transit Migration dialogue, the Global Forum on Migration and Development), and consider expanding their platform to include capacity building activities and other forms of concrete partnerships, as was done in the GFMD Platform For Partnerships[71] and the Prague Process Targeted Initiative[72].

- Sustain and operationalise existing well-established migration partnership frameworks and replicate good practices and experiences from those within other contexts and settings (e.g. Mobility Partnership Facility[73]).

- Promote tailor-made cooperation and coordination platforms, which can expand the scope and manner of cooperation at regional level as well as identification of priorities at the national regional and global level.

- Support regional integration processes and institutions in the development and implementation of regional mobility frameworks and principles, including on free movement, portability of social benefits and right of establishment.

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69 See http://www.imap-migration.org/.
70 Awarded to journalists dealing with the topic of migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region, see http://www.migration-media-award.eu/en/.
71 See https://gfmd.org/pfp.
72 See https://www.pragueprocess.eu/en/prague-process.
73 Established to support the EU's Mobility Partnerships and Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility, see https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/multi-thematic-programmes/mobility-partnership-facility-mpf/.

- Ensure inter-institutional cooperation across different administrations and policy areas like security (including crisis response), finance and others that may have detrimental impact on equality of treatment and perception of migrants. This should include guaranteeing the complementarity between the two global compacts, particularly in light of the counterproductive effect that fragmented approaches can have on social cohesion.

- Promote partnerships among and support to (institutionally and through capacity building programmes) government institutions, civil society organisations, and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. local authorities/leaders, consulates, radio stations, etc) to better assist and provide protection to migrants in vulnerable situations, particularly in a crisis situation.

- Support structural frameworks for public-private partnerships.

ANNEX 2: FRAMEWORKS FOR REFERENCE WITHIN GCM

Fulfill human rights obligations with respect to migrants:
The International Bill of Human Rights; European Convention on Human Rights; Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families; Domestic Workers Convention; UNHCR's 10 Point Plan of Action on refugee protection and mixed migration; Global Migration Group's draft Principles and guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements; OHCHR's Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders; Migrants in Countries in Crisis Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster; Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda; Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City; UN International Law Commission's Draft articles on the expulsion of aliens.

Reduce irregular migration and migrant smuggling, and end trafficking in persons:
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto; UNODC Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons; Alliance 8.7; UNODC's International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol; Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; Outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit, Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda.

Promote regular migration pathways:
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families; International Labour Standards on Labour Migration; Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda.

Promote migrants' contributions in countries of origin, transit and destination:
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; Nairobi Action Plan on Remittances; Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014; the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX); Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; New Urban Agenda.

Promote cooperation and partnership:
Global Forum on Migration and Development; international migration dialogues such as the Bali, Budapest, Khartoum, Prague and Rabat Processes; the Mediterranean Transit Migration dialogue; Regional bodies such as ASEAN, CAN, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, EU, IGAD, LAS, MERCOSUR, OAS, OSCE, SADC.

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION: AN AGENDA FOR TOMORROW AND BEYOND

Recommendations by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development

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