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# The Arab Regional GCM Review Report: Progress, Priorities, Challenges and Future Prospects



# Executive Summary

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On 10 December 2018, reaffirming the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which committed to launching a deliberative and inter-governmental process on international migration, 164 States adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Marrakesh. To ensure proper monitoring, States called for periodic review of implementation of the GCM. Given that most international migration takes place within regions, the GCM invited “relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions or Regional Consultative Processes, to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020.” Furthermore, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration (the network), was requested “to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact [for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration]”. The regional reviews will inform the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which is projected to take place every four years starting 2022, and which aims to provide an opportunity for States to engage in a global dialogue on the implementation of the GCM objectives.

In the Arab region, the GCM comes at a critical moment as the region witnesses unprecedented population movements. With 20 Arab States endorsing it, the guiding principles and objectives of the GCM have become a cornerstone of national frameworks, regional cooperation and partnerships on migration governance

in the Arab region. To support Member States’ efforts, IOM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the League of Arab States (LAS), in collaboration with the members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab Region, and with the support of the Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, coordinated the first GCM regional review process in the Arab region. IOM, ESCWA, LAS and partner United Nations agencies have played a key role in increasing awareness of the GCM, fostering regional dialogue and enhancing Member States’ capacities to work towards its implementation. One of the key outcomes of the regional review process is the present report “Arab Regional GCM Review Report” (the Report). It synthesizes the findings of the voluntary GCM review reports submitted by 13 Member States (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia)<sup>1</sup>. The Member States also presented those reviews at the Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which was held on 24–25 February 2021. The Report was also circulated to all partners and Member State representatives for validation.

The purpose of the Report is to raise the voice of the Arab region on migration governance and reflect the progress towards achieving the GCM objectives at the global level by synthesizing the voluntary GCM review reports, identifying gaps, challenges and best practices encountered, highlighting policy priorities and tracking regional trends.

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<sup>1</sup> The government of Sudan also submitted the voluntary GCM review report after the Regional Review Conference held in February 2021.

## Methodology

The Report uses a multi-stage, iterative and deliberative review process which tracked the progress and identified the gaps in the implementation of the GCM across the Arab region, as presented in the 13 voluntary GCM review reports.

## Policy and enabling environment

The GCM was adopted at a watershed juncture in the Arab world. Amid various conflicts, economic downturns and concomitant crises, Arab States<sup>2</sup> witnessed unprecedented population movements, leading them to grapple with key policy pressures arising from the challenges of governing migration. In 2020, the Arab region had become the host of 41.4 million migrants and refugees, and the number of migrants from Arab States had reached 32.8 million persons, half of whom remained within the region. Notwithstanding this, several Arab States have made strides in harmonizing the GCM with new or existing national mechanisms, and in advancing migration-related agenda-setting and policymaking.

## Main findings

Several Arab States have made major efforts to adopt new migrant-relevant policies, reform existing policies or strengthen previously adopted reforms in key areas at the heart of the GCM objectives. For instance, several Arab States have continuously engaged in efforts to enhance the protection of migrants' rights. Arab States, for example Bahrain, Tunisia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Qatar have taken positive steps, albeit at varying degrees, to harmonize the working conditions of migrant workers with a protection- and rights-based approach.

In Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar, the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for migrant mobility and protection triggered various policy

discussions and reforms. Egypt and Morocco are examples of countries which have implemented various efforts to regularize migrants' stay or facilitate their departure without enforcing penalties. Countries such as Bahrain, Iraq and Morocco have engaged in serious efforts to enhance protection mechanisms and access to education and work for displaced individuals. Others such as Tunisia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco have developed and consolidated existing efforts to combat trafficking and smuggling of humans. Several Arab States such as Comoros, Libya and Mauritania are developing an integrated approach to border management as a key policy area of interest.

Additionally, Kuwait issued Ministerial Resolution No. 288 of 2020 allowing foreigners who do not have residency permits or whose residency permits have expired to leave the country during the period from 1-4-2020 to 30-4-2020 from any of the designated ports directly and without obtaining Approval from any other party, this was followed by the Ministerial Resolution No. 924 of 2020 allowing foreigners who do not have residence permits or whose residence permits have expired to leave the country during the period from 1-1-2020 to 2-3-2020.

Finally, Arab States, for example Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia, have emphasized the development of data-sharing systems and the collection of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies on the one hand, and for improving migrants' livelihoods, access to protection and working conditions on the other.

## Review of the GCM 23 objectives: Overview and key highlights

Arab States reported progress in achieving the 23 GCM objectives. Their voluntary GCM review reports reveal that a migration perspective has indeed been taken into account when it comes to developing plans countering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and articulating as

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<sup>2</sup> In line with the members of the League of Arab States

well as designing longer-term national development policy strategies.

Overall, Objectives: 1 (data collection), 2 (minimize factors that compel people to leave their country), 3 (information at all stages of migration), 4 (ensure migrants legal identity and documentation), 6 (ethical recruitment and decent work), 7 (reduce vulnerabilities in migration), 13 (migration detention as last resort), 15 (provide access to basic services for migrants), 18 (invest in skills development and mutual recognition of qualifications), 19 (conditions for migrants/diasporas to contribute to development), 20 (promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances), 21 (facilitate safe and dignified return and readmission and reintegration) and 23 (cooperation) received considerable attention from States.

The Objectives that received less attention were objectives: 8 (save lives/missing migrants), 9 (strengthen response against migrants smuggling), 10 (combating human trafficking), 11 (manage borders in an integrated manner), , 14 (consular protection and assistance throughout the migration cycle), and 17 (eliminate discrimination and shape perceptions of migration).

Finally, Objectives: 5 (enhance regular migration), 12 (strengthen procedures for appropriate screening, assessment, and referral), 16 (empower migrants to realize full inclusion and social cohesion) and 22 (mechanisms for social security entitlements and benefits) were notably underreported.

### Regional collaboration

Arab States have been actively exploring opportunities for international cooperation and many have established global, regional or bilateral agreements that govern safe, orderly and regular migration. Bilateral collaboration efforts largely involve border management partnerships with neighbouring countries or bilateral labour migrant agreements. Several countries reported multilateral

collaboration efforts, mostly involving the United Nations agencies as key pillars driving international cooperation.

The Report concludes that GCM has served as a welcome accelerator for countries' efforts to better manage migration challenges. Common afflictions by the COVID-19 pandemic, interdependence on labour migration and spill over from the region's humanitarian crises have further emphasized the need for regional and global partnerships. The good progress in recognizing, engaging with and harnessing regional and international cooperation mechanisms and partnerships can be utilized to further strengthen national capacities to address the GCM across a range of objectives.

However, the lack of financial resources, underfunded budgets and gaps in technical expertise have various implications for following up on the 23 GCM objectives as interrelated, cross-sectoral and mutually constitutive components. In addition to these gaps and lack of resources, States have stressed the longer-term, protracted and multi-layered challenges that could delay the implementation of the GCM. Hindrances not only hinge on scarce financial resources, gaps in data collection on migration or overstretched capacities but also on cumulative shocks, political volatility and regional economic disparities.

The present Report provides several recommendations calling for enhanced multi-level coordination among national, regional and international partners to boost the implementation of the GCM.

### Opportunities

Member States can further enhance their efforts by:

- Aligning GCM implementation efforts with national migration strategies and existing State policy frameworks with a view to developing a holistic and comprehensive GCM approach and achieving sustainable development.

- Strengthening their efforts to align the GCM with previously developed migration governance strategies.
- Boosting technical capacity for generating, utilizing and disaggregating data to develop evidence-based policies. Streamline the multitude of authorities often dealing with migration mandates.
- Encouraging national partnerships that allow civil society organizations and municipalities to develop local integration and migrant protection programmes.
- Developing sustainable national strategies that would enable countries to leverage migration to increase economic growth.
- Establishing national counter-trafficking referral mechanisms to ensure effective coordination and cooperation.
- Boost research efforts which analyze best practices on the linkages between migration governance and sustainable development.
- Provide technical support to assist countries in monitoring and implementing the GCM.
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination between LAS, IOM, ESCWA and Members of the UN Network on Migration as well as other relevant bodies to ensure the implementation of the GCM at the regional level.

**International stakeholders and other partners can further enhance their efforts by:**

**Regional stakeholders and other partners can further enhance their efforts by:**

- Efficiently allocate resources enabling partnerships between Governments and civil society.
- Multiply regional avenues for sharing best practices and understandings of the GCM.
- Encourage the establishment and consolidation of solidarity networks that would allow Arab States to reduce the adverse effects of compounding crises on the governance of migration.
- Intensify regional data sharing and solidarity networks and optimize experience sharing.

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## Glossary and list of abbreviations

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ARCP	Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs
AU	African Union
EU	European Union
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
IBC/M	Issue Based Coalition on Migration in the Arab Region
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IMDF	International Migration Development Forum
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LAS	League of Arab States
MGI	Migration Governance Indicators
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNHCR	United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees



# Introduction

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## A. Background

On 10 December 2018, reaffirming the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which committed to launching a deliberative and inter-governmental process on international migration, 164 States adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Marrakesh. To ensure proper monitoring, States called for periodic review of the implementation of the GCM. Given that most international migration takes place within regions, the GCM invited “relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions or Regional Consultative Processes, to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020.”<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration (the network), was requested “to assist, upon request by Member States, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact [for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration]”. The regional reviews will inform the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which is projected to take place every four years starting 2022, and which aims to provide an

opportunity for States to engage in a global dialogue on the implementation of the GCM objectives.

In the Arab region, the GCM comes at a critical moment as the region witnesses unprecedented population movements. With 20 Arab States having endorsed it, the guiding principles and objectives of the GCM have become a cornerstone of national frameworks, regional cooperation and partnerships on migration governance in the Arab region. To support Member States’ efforts, IOM, ESCWA, LAS and the partner United Nations agencies have played a key role in increasing awareness of the GCM, fostering regional dialogue and enhancing Member States’ capacities to work towards its implementation.<sup>2</sup> IOM, ESCWA and LAS, under the framework of the United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab Region, also coordinated the first GCM regional review.

The regional review process was embedded in a four-fold objective: (1) enable Governments to carry out an initial assessment of progress in the implementation of the GCM; (2) take stock of challenges and opportunities while discussing regional priorities and identifying comparable trends, approaches and challenges; (3) foster an interactive platform where all relevant stakeholders could share best practices and lessons learned (4) and finally incorporate feedback from various

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1 See A/RES/73/195, para 50.

2 A year following the adoption of the GCM, IOM, ESCWA and LAS organized a Regional Conference on the GCM in December 2019, in collaboration with members of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region, with the aim of providing a platform for Member States to identify national and regional priorities, share best practices and key achievements in implementing the GCM and explore priority actions for the future. They also organized a capacity-building workshop on Migration Governance in the Arab Region in December 2019 that aimed to build the knowledge and skills of mid-level policymakers to address the challenges facing the implementation of the GCM. Furthermore, ESCWA and IOM focused the third edition of the flagship Situation Report on International Migration to explore the policy implications of the GCM for Arab States and to provide concrete policy recommendation to Member States accordingly.

other regional review processes, regional consultative processes and civil society platforms.

The regional review process (figure below) took place over the period of almost one year (2020–2021). During this period, Member States were first invited to appoint focal points on migration to optimize coordination of the review process at the national level. To support Member States efforts to develop national voluntary GCM review reports, IOM, ESCWA and LAS developed a template in line with the global template developed by the United Nations Network on Migration. IOM, LAS and ESCWA, in collaboration with the United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab Region also held two capacity-building workshops (in June and August 2020) to support Member States effort to develop their national review reports. The partners also held a consultation with the focal points to agree on the modalities of the regional review conference, which was held on 24–25 February 2021.

To ensure a whole-of-society approach to the regional review, IOM, ESCWA and members of the United Nations Network on Migration in the Arab region also organized a series of events including two multi-

stakeholder dialogues (November 2020), a dialogue with Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on the GCM Regional Review (January 2021) and a dialogue with parliamentarians (February 2021). A consultation with the different non-governmental stakeholders was held a day before the regional conference on 23 February 2021.

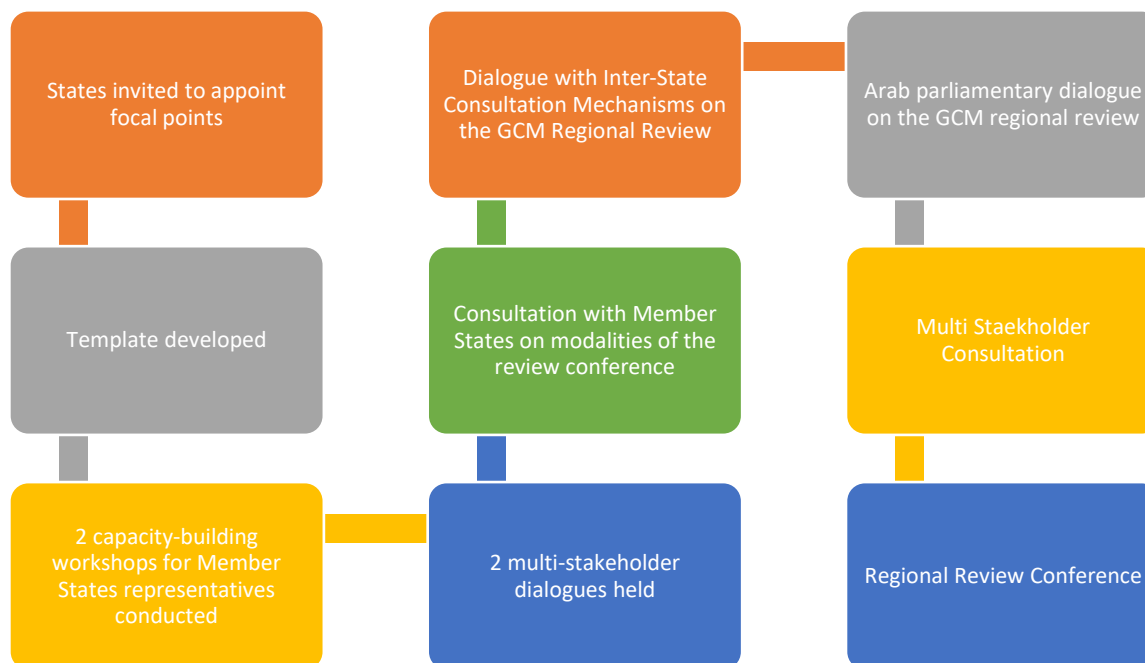
One of the key outcomes of the regional review process is this report “Arab Regional GCM Review Report” (the Report). It synthesizes the findings of the national voluntary GCM review reports. Submitted by 13 Member States (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia). The Member States also presented those reports at the Regional Review Conference on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that took place on 24–25 February 2021. The Report was also circulated to all partners and Member State representatives for validation.<sup>3</sup>

The Report seeks to raise the voice of the Arab region on migration governance and the progress towards achieving the GCM objectives at the global level by feeding into the IMRF set to take place in 2022.

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3 All events and documents can be found on ESCWA’s website: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/archived?initiative=22611> and on the United Nations Network for Migration regional review landing page : <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/arab-states>

### GCM regional review process in the Arab region



## B. Objectives and structure of the Arab Regional GCM Review Report

The Report is a **synthesis document** that highlights the progress and identifies the gaps in the implementation of the GCM across the Arab region. It also tracks pivotal actors, policy priorities and regional trends that have informed and guided the implementation of the GCM in the region.

The Report is structured as follows:

- The **Introduction** sets the stage for the GCM and the Arab Regional Review.
- The **Methodology** section briefly describes the approach that was adopted to write the report and synthesize the feedback of Arab States.
- The **Policy and enabling environment** section takes stock of key trends in strategies, policy developments and institutional reforms that have accompanied the GCM process.
- The **Review of the GCM objectives** section reviews and analyses the region's efforts and challenges in following up on each of the 23 objectives. It also expands on the strategies and developments that Arab States have implemented in the GCM process. Moreover, it employs a cross-comparative perspective to identify emerging issues, risks and lessons learned.
- The **Regional and national collaborations** section explores key initiatives and success stories in fostering regional, intra-regional and cross-regional frameworks and implementation plans to realize the GCM objectives.
- Building on the previous sections and the success stories as well as the challenges that were identified throughout the report, the **Means of implementation** section takes critical stock of the regional efforts and challenges in mobilizing means of

implementation ranging from allocating material resources, striking partnerships and collecting data to building capacities in ensuring the implementation of the compact. It also briefly accounts for the structural and contextual challenges that could undermine the achievement of the GCM 23 objectives.

- The concluding section formulates opportunities identified that could pave the way for accelerated implementation for the GCM in the Arab region.

### C. Methodology

As underscored, the regional review report provides detailed analysis of Arab States' assessment of progress in implementing the GCM within the Arab region. The methodological principles that have informed its drafting are based on the following axes:

**A methodological template for identification and comparison of regional trends (annex I):** In line with the template developed by the global United Nations Network on Migration, IOM, ESCWA and LAS have developed a **template** to enable various Member States to initially assess their implementation of the GCM, and to take stock of the various challenges and opportunities that the GCM has brought. This **template** has ensured the development and formulation of key assessment criteria and questions that have guided various Member States' efforts in the voluntary stocktaking and review of implementation of the GCM. More specifically, the template revolve around **the following key sections:** the methodology used to develop the national review of the Global Compact; public policy and the enabling environment that have shaped the implementation of the GCM; progress in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact; an assessment of the means of implementation and existing resources; and the next steps to be undertaken in implementing the GCM.

Member States developed their voluntary national GCM review reports in accordance with the template. Firstly, they described the methodology that they have adopted

to collect data on the one hand and to reflect on the effectiveness of the implementation of the GCM on the other. They have then carefully assessed the policy and enabling setting that has laid the groundwork for implementation of the GCM. After appraising the progress on the GCM objectives, they have evaluated the means of implementation and resources that have been at their disposal and that facilitated the implementation of the GCM. In this section, they have concomitantly placed emphasis on the constraints, challenges and resource needs that have interfered with implementation of the GCM. Lastly, they have described the next steps that they envisage undertaking with a view to consolidating the GCM within their migration governance frameworks. It is against this backdrop that common regional trends and challenges as well as best practices at the heart of implementation of the GCM have been extrapolated, identified and assessed.

**Gradual, concerted and deliberative review:** The Report is the outcome of a multi-stage and deliberative review process through which member states assessed the progress and identified the gaps in the implementation of the GCM across the Arab region. It synthesizes the 13 initial national voluntary reports that Arab States have submitted. Additionally, the findings of the regional report were discussed in the context of the abovementioned Regional Review Conference in which Member States reflected on their experiences, best practices and challenges as well as their assessment of the implementation of the GCM objectives in line with a 360-degree approach. This conference provided a key avenue to complement and enhance the report's findings with additional inputs from Member States that have submitted reports as well as from Member States that have not submitted national review reports.

**Desk review and sources:** The report is principally concerned with synthesizing the national reports that member States have submitted. However, to set the context and account for evolving as well as shifting migration trends and patterns, it also considers prior

literature on the GCM on the one hand<sup>6</sup> and on the situation of international migration in the Arab region on the other.<sup>7</sup>

**Terminology used:** The terminology used to draft this report is for the most part aligned with the GCM as well as with the definitions of technical terms. **However, for**

**the sake of accuracy, when referring to the situation in a given country, the report uses the terminology used in that country's national report.** To clarify, for countries that refer to irregular migration as illegal migration, this Report uses the term illegal migration only in the context of discussing that specific country, despite the term not being aligned with the GCM.

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6 See New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants A/RES/71/1; Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration A/RES/73/195; Format and Organizational Aspects of the International Migration Review Forums A/RES/73/326 5; Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development A/RES/70/1.

7 Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region, 2017, outcome document; Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Migration: Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region 2019, Report; Situation Report on International Migration 2019: The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Context of the Arab Region.

# 1. Policy and enabling environment

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The GCM was adopted at a watershed juncture in the Arab world.<sup>8</sup> Amid various conflicts, economic downturns and concomitant crises, Arab States witnessed unprecedented population movements, leading them to grapple with key policy pressures arising from the challenges of governing migration, harnessing its potential for development and mitigating push factors prompting Arab citizens to emigrate. In 2020, the Arab region became the host of 41.4 million migrants and refugees, and the number of migrants from Arab States reached 32.8 million persons, half of whom remained within the region. Further, 3.7 million refugees registered with UNHCR resided in Arab States. In addition, UNRWA reported 5.5 million Palestinian refugees in the region.<sup>9</sup> Widespread displacement from Syria placed major strains on several States, including Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. In 2020, COVID-19 lockdowns and mobility restrictions as well as their repercussions on national economies and governance particularly strained migrants' and internally displaced individuals' livelihoods and well-being, resulting in their increased vulnerability.<sup>10</sup>

Within this climate, migration governance has evolved into a salient policy item dominating Arab States' national, regional and global agendas. The complexity of migration patterns and trends, the mutually reinforcing socio-political and economic drivers of migration as well as the protracted nature of conflict-induced displacement have repeatedly underscored the

importance of a regional and comprehensive framework on migration governance in the Arab region.

This section gauges the policy and enabling environment that has characterized the adoption and implementation of the GCM in the Arab region. To inform our understanding of the policy climate that has set the stage for the GCM process and influenced it, it identifies some overarching migration policy trends and contextual realities that have marked the implementation of the GCM. It is worth noting that it primarily relies on the national reports provided by several Arab States to gauge the policy landscape that has marked the implementation of the GCM.

The section is structured as follows. First, it accounts for key **migration governance strategies** that have either preceded or accompanied the GCM process, thereby influencing its implementation. Secondly, it elaborates on some of the overarching **institutional reforms and national strategies** that governments have adopted to respond to the GCM and to create synergies among relevant stakeholders. More particularly, it identifies **key national stakeholders** involved in implementing the GCM, developing migration-relevant policies and projects and encouraging a participatory dialogue on migration governance. Thirdly, setting the broader context for understanding policymaking on migration in the Arab region, it reviews some of the best practices for developing **migration policies** and touches on the extent

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8 Michele Klein Solomon and Suzanne Sheldon, *The Global Compact for Migration: From the Sustainable Development Goals to a Comprehensive Agreement on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 2018, Vol 30, No 4, 584–590 doi:10.1093/ijrl/eey065.

9 The International Migrant Stock database, issued by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). UNDESA; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, Population statistics 2020); United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA, UNRWA in figures 2018–2019).

10 See for instance UNHCR, *Iraq Protection Monitoring of Refugees in Response to COVID-19 August–December 2020*.

to which these policies have sought to harmonize **implementation of the GCM with the SDGs** through a gender-based and child-sensitive approach. In accounting for the prevalent policy environment, this section takes note of some **relevant sub regional, regional and global cooperation frameworks** that have facilitated implementation of the GCM and that Arab governments have either proactively launched or taken part in. It is worth noting that the examples below of Arab member States' national policy frameworks, migration governance developments and best practices are meant to be illustrative and are by no means exhaustive.

### A. Developing migration policies and aligning GCM implementation efforts with wider development policy frameworks

Departing from the premise that implementation of the GCM requires that **good governance be embedded at the heart of migration together with** planned and well-managed migration policies and a whole-of-government approach, several Arab States have made strides in harmonizing the GCM with new or existing national mechanisms on the one hand and in advancing migration-related **agenda-setting and policymaking** on the other. Examples are numerous.

**Bahrain** has aligned the implementation of the GCM objectives with broader governance frameworks, such as its 2030 Vision to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and its national economic strategy that is prepared every four years, the most recent of which is for 2019–2022. In that regard, it has sought to create cross-cutting and cross-policy links spanning migration, development, human rights and labour market reforms.

**Qatar** has aligned the implementation of the GCM with its Qatar National Vision 2030, which focuses on reforms at the heart of social security, development and labour. Qatar has also sought to integrate some GCM objectives,

such as the collection of disaggregate and accurate data with existing mechanisms, such as the National Development Strategy 2018–2022 on labour market governance which aims to generate reliable data for policymaking and reforms.

Stressing the need to tackle migration governance from a holistic and comprehensive perspective, **Egypt** has sought to integrate migration issues with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a focus on Goal 10.7 that aims to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. Additionally, it has developed its own national strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030, which seeks to achieve sustainable development, social justice and a balanced, geographical and sectoral growth. Though migration governance is not specifically part of the SDS, the strategy accounts for vulnerable communities in the society, which by extension encompasses migrants and refugees. In line with SDGs 10 and GCM Goal 17, Egypt has furthermore developed various mechanisms for collecting, analysing and disseminating accurate and reliable data with a view to both reducing inequalities and optimizing the use of migration-related data that can support the creation of evidence-based policies and strategies.

Similarly, **Kuwait** has aligned the GCM within a broader framework for operationalizing and implementing nationally strategic objectives through 2035. These objectives recognize the importance of sustainable and balanced development as key requisites for harnessing the positive impact of labour migration.

**Tunisia** reaffirmed its commitment to align the implementation of the GCM with prior migration-related strategies and to consolidate a participatory migration governance strategy with multi-pronged goals: promote evidence and planning-based migration policies, enhance international cooperation on

migration, harness the nexus between migration and development, reduce irregular migration and manage migration while accounting for protection-based frameworks and international law standards.

Additionally, Tunisia ranked first in Africa in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals among 52 countries, according to a report issued by the African Center for Sustainable Development Goals for the year 2020, achieving progress compared to its ranking in the previous report for the year 2019, in which it ranked second in the continent.

In the same vein, Jordan stepped up its efforts to consolidate existing migration policy frameworks. It also established new mechanisms that could further the implementation of the GCM. A case in point is the creation of a unified database of all non-Jordanians who reside in Jordan. This database is crucial as it allows institutions to develop evidence-based migration policies while taking into account key trends and patterns of migration as well as the needs of the most vulnerable.

With the adoption of the GCM in 2018, it is also worth adding that some Arab States underscored their commitment to establishing a **National Migration Strategy (NMS)** built on inter-ministerial consultations and a thorough and updated assessment of their migration realities and challenges. Extending to before adoption of the GCM, several Arab States have been developing in collaboration with the IOM **Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) frameworks**. The aim is to take stock of their migration dynamics, assess their migration governance structure and identify policy fields with potential for further development. To launch their national migration governance strategy, some States, such as Iraq and Mauritania, have developed with IOM a **National Migration Profile (NMP)**, allowing them to take stock of their migratory realities and challenges.

Indeed, the impetus that the GCM has provided for **agenda setting on migration** has inspired **Iraq and Mauritania** to establish their first **nationally led migration governance** strategies. With the development of the National Migration Strategy, **Iraq** formulated long-term **MGIs** that are to set the tone for twinning migration management with development goals in the coming years.<sup>11</sup> During 2019 and 2020, Iraq has completed a comprehensive national migration profile that allowed it to take inventory of the new migration realities that the country has faced since 2003.

For its part, **Mauritania** has capitalized on the GCM process to consolidate its **National Migration Governance Strategy** that it initially developed in 2011. In collaboration with IOM, the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization developed guiding MGIs with a view to collecting comprehensive information on various aspects related to migration. This endeavour culminated in the publication of a **first national migration profile on Mauritania** in December 2019. In its recently developed national migration governance strategy, the government thus identified three priority areas: collecting data on migrant flows and stocks, developing frameworks to assist and cater to the protection needs of migrants and incentivizing Mauritians living abroad to return temporarily or permanently.

The **Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants (MoFA)** is currently in the process of developing a **National Strategy on Migration**. To this end it is engaging with various ministries to share and devolve responsibility over following up on the GCM objectives and to collect data on various aspects of migration ranging from labour migration to migrant protection. Key stakeholders that are currently involved in the formulation of this National Strategy reflect a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. They encompass key Lebanese offices and ministries, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the Ministry of

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11 mgi-iraq-2020.pdf (iom.int).



Defense, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education. Consultations have also been extended to include the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), the Central Bank as well as the Central Bureau of Statistics. Non-State actors, namely civil society bodies, have also been solicited to provide regular input.

## B. Creating new institutional setups and multi-stakeholder synergies

In addition to aligning the GCM with broader governance strategies and integrating its objectives with preceding migration-related frameworks, Arab States have made notable progress in establishing new institutional setups responsible for the implementation of the GCM and coordinating and collaborating with various local, national, regional and international stakeholders in promoting its objectives.

In Egypt, the Prime Minister issued a decree in November 2019 to establish a National Committee, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the GCM in coordination with all relevant national agencies, including the Ministry of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs (MoSEEEA), the Ministry of Manpower (MoM), the Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP). The objectives are to ensure policy coherence and mainstream migration within all existing policy areas. The National Committee reports on its work to the Prime Minister on a regular basis. To date, it has drafted three publicly available reports in January, March and July 2020.

Mauritania appointed the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization as the focal point to follow up on the Compact and coordinate with various official and non-official bodies, with a view to discussing a road map underlying the implementation of its 23 objectives. In the

Comoros, following a consultative process, the Ministry of Interior, which is tasked with the implementation of the GCM, put in place a multisectoral commission tasked with following up on the GCM objectives. In the same vein, in late 2018 Lebanon appointed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants (MoFA) to become the focal point for GCM implementation and monitoring.

Following adoption of the GCM, Jordan appointed the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Interior (Mol), Labor (MoL) and Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) as the key stakeholders in charge of following up and reporting on implementation of the GCM. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Department of Statistics also coordinate closely with the abovementioned ministries with a view to following up on the Compact. To ensure that implementation of the GCM is embedded within wider international partnerships, Jordan has coordinated with the IOM and ILO Country Offices in preparation for the voluntary national stocktaking review. In August 2020, it held a meeting with the United Nations National Migration Working Group to discuss GCM priorities. Keen on contextualizing the GCM into a wider participatory approach, the government has planned follow-up meetings with non-governmental organizations, civil society actors and with the private sector.

In Bahrain, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) formed an internal committee to prepare the voluntary stocktaking national report and to follow up on the implementation of the GCM. While it has still not initiated nationwide consultative processes with official and non-official bodies, Bahrain has nonetheless regularly participated in key consultations and preparatory negotiations leading up to the GCM and culminating in the Intergovernmental Conference for the GCM Adoption, held in Morocco on 10–11 December 2018.

Iraq appointed the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) as the national focal point for

implementing the GCM. In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and with the technical support of IOM, MoP established the Technical Working Group (TWG) in charge of implementing the GCM. The TWG brings together several ministerial stakeholders such as the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice as well as the Central Bureau of Statistics to devise a nationwide migration governance strategy.

In the case of Morocco, an advanced consultative intra-governmental and intra-societal mechanism has been set up to follow up on the GCM adoption and implementation. The Government has drawn on its existing governance mechanism developed over the last years to monitor the implementation of the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy and the National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad. The functions of this mechanism have now been extended to monitor the implementation of the Global Compact objectives and the presentation of the regional review. Since its inception, this mechanism has followed a participatory, multi-stakeholder and multi-level strategy, favouring synergies between Government departments, relevant public institutions, local actors, international organizations and United Nations bodies. Against this background, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad included the Department of Global Issues tasked with reviewing implementation of the GCM have ensured that the review reflects a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Other relevant departments and divisions including the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Administration Reform and the Higher Planning Commission have been involved in the review. Furthermore, local authorities such as the walis of the regions and governors of prefectures and provinces, in addition to relevant security authorities, have been consulted to define the

contribution of Morocco to the Global Compact and to draft the national plan for the implementation of the GCM objectives. Adding to this, consultations regarding implementation of the GCM have encompassed non-governmental organizations, civil society associations, migrant associations, labour unions, the private sector and academia. Public institutions, namely the Office for Vocational Training and Job Promotion (OFPPT) and the National Agency for Employment and Skills (ANAPEC), have also been involved in the implementation and development of the national strategy. To further enshrine this participatory and inclusive approach in its national strategy, the Moroccan Government has incorporated the feedback of civil society representatives who met in the context of the 5+5 Dialogue in Agadir in November 2019 to review the GCM provisions.<sup>12</sup>

In Algeria,<sup>13</sup> the Inter-Ministerial Committee usually in charge of migration governance strategies and chaired by the Ministry of Interior, local authorities and urban development was entrusted with monitoring the progress on the GCM in coordination with various ministerial sectors, agencies and official institutions, including local authorities such as the wilayas.

Libya has committed to advancing the conversation on the GCM provisions, goals and objectives in a variety of ways. It established the National Committee for Migration Strategies and Policies, which includes technical experts from various backgrounds, as well as individuals from both the executive branch and the Libyan House of Representatives in Tripoli. It aims to advance the conversation on migration governance and reinforce multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination strategies with a view to developing evidence-based policies in migration and aligning migration governance with the SDGs. Currently, the Libyan government is considering whether a multi-institutional strategy or a central unified system is most

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<sup>12</sup> See the Agadir Appeal launched by civil society representatives from countries of the 5 + 5 Dialogue.

<sup>13</sup> It is worth noting here that Algeria and Libya did not adhere to the GCM GA Resolution.

suitable to consolidate Libya's national migration governance framework.

### C. Setting the context for implementation of the GCM: Mapping migration-related policies and reforms

This policy climate in which Arab States, LAS (as the leading intergovernmental organization in the region) and the United Nations Network on Migration have sought to build a common understanding of GCM as “a whole-of-government” and “a whole-of-society” framework has provided key impetus for Arab States to embark on migration policy development following adoption of the GCM or to scale up existing efforts towards legal and policy reforms. It emerges from the national reports that consultative rounds and synergies with United Nations agencies and LAS have advanced conversations and policy formulation processes on “well-managed migration policies” in the context of the SDGs and the importance of harnessing the benefits of migration.

Indeed, in their national voluntary GCM reports, States have identified several policy axes as pivotal to advancing well-managed migration governance in the region. Examples include: ensuring the protection of migrants' rights; boosting migrants' contribution to development; curbing human trafficking and migrant smuggling; collecting data and promoting evidence-based migration policies while strengthening international cooperation on migration.

In this context, several Arab States have made major efforts to adopt migrant-relevant policies, reform existing policies or strengthen previously adopted reforms in key areas at the heart of the GCM Objectives. Though these policy areas will be carefully analysed in Section 4, the paragraphs below provide a brief review that informs our understanding of key trends in migration policy development that have marked and

guided the GCM process and advanced the conversation on its core objectives. The section below thus succinctly describes how the Global Compact inscribes itself within an overarching policy framework which has seen Arab States reflect, scale up and reaffirm their commitments to “well-managed migration policies”.

#### 1. Enhancing the protection of migrants' rights

In the lead-up to the adoption of the Global Compact and its aftermath, several Arab States have continuously engaged in efforts to enhance the protection of migrants' rights. A case in point is revamping national policies or consolidating already adopted reforms on nationality and statelessness. Building on its previous efforts in the last years which have seen Qatar reduce statelessness either through naturalization or marriage or by amending existing laws, the Qatari Government has strengthened measures in that direction. In particular, it has ensured that women and men are equally able to grant their nationality to their children, even in cases where children were born in another State, and especially in situations where the child would become stateless. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kuwait created migrant shelters as alternatives to detention centres. These shelters enabled access to basic meals and health services.

Morocco regularized the situation of 50,000 migrants (men, women and their minor children) during the exceptional regularization operation, carried out in two phases in 2014 and 2017. It is also worth noting the individual regularizations carried out for humanitarian reasons.

#### 2. Labour migration and migrant protection

Arab States have taken several steps, albeit at varying degrees, to harmonize the working conditions of migrant workers with a protection- and rights-based approach. Morocco has made strides in improving the living and

working conditions specific to the category of migrants, including female migrant workers. After passing the Law Establishing the Terms and Conditions of Labor and Employment of Female Migrant Workers Living in Morocco, it scaled up efforts to develop preventive measures and monitor the employment conditions of women and girls to protect them from exploitation. Additionally, it passed Law No. 12-19 which defines labour and employment conditions for domestic workers and guarantees them more rights and equity. With a view to improving the living and working conditions of Moroccan female workers living abroad, Morocco has signed a series of bilateral international agreements that target Moroccan seasonal female workers abroad.

Qatar has stepped up its efforts to harmonize labour migration with conditions for decent work and protection. Law No. 17 of 2020 guarantees a minimum wage for domestic workers regardless of their nationality or sector of work, and a Minimum Wage Commission was established to monitor the impact of wage protection measures. Decision No. 25 of 2020 of the Minister of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs set the minimum wage at QAR 1000.00 per month, in addition to the worker's right to food and suitable housing. Adding to this, in 2020 Qatar removed the requirement to obtain exit permits and to obtain the "non-objection of the employer" when changing employers, which had been a key restriction under the sponsorship or kafala system, thus allowing workers to move to new jobs and enjoy greater mobility in the labour market. Finally, it launched an electronic platform to boost mobility in the labour market, wherein migrant workers are provided with opportunities to apply online to various companies and to establish contacts with employers.

In line with the SDGs, and with a view to promoting the principle of "development that excludes no one", Bahrain has stepped up its efforts in its labour market reform project. The project seeks among other issues to prohibit discriminatory behaviour on the basis of ethnicity, religion or gender, to harmonize migrants'

rights with international human rights standards and to phase out the sponsorship or kafala system. In its Government's Work Program (2019–2022) entitled "Sustainable economic and social security within the framework of a financial balance", Bahrain has dedicated special attention to improving migrant workers' rights and their access to services and job opportunities in the labour market. In the wake of implementation of the GCM, it has also reiterated its objective to engage both national institutions and civil society bodies in boosting migrant workers' protection and rights.

Following adoption of the GCM, Lebanon reaffirmed its commitment to the National Steering Committee launched in 2007 by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and tasked with protecting women migrant domestic workers and improving their livelihoods and right to work in safety and dignity. More specifically, it set up a multi-stakeholder dialogue with various ministerial bodies and civil society organizations on following up on the grievances and complaints of migrant domestic workers.

In Tunisia, Tunisian labour law guarantees the principle of non-discrimination and equal labour rights for all migrant workers, whereby the foreign worker enjoys the same rights and is subject to the same duties applicable to the Tunisian worker.

In Jordan, the Domestic Workers' Regulation sought to enhance protection of migrant workers by mandating a minimum wage and enshrining their right to leave work in case of abuse or violation of workers' fundamental rights. Finally in Jordan, various initiatives were implemented including the removal of restrictions pertaining to the release of undocumented foreign workers, providing necessary protection services, procedures to regularize the situation of foreign workers that are not in line with labour law.

In Libya, the government formed a multi-sectoral committee to study the conditions of migrants from Egypt and Niger so as to regulate their entry and status

in an orderly manner and benefit from their skills in the Libyan labour market.

### **3. Responding to the impact of COVID-19 on migrants**

In some Arab States, it is worth noting that COVID-19 and its implications for migrant mobility and protection triggered various policy discussions and reforms. With the support of the United Nations Country Team, Jordan for instance is in the process of developing a Socio-Economic Recovery Framework (SEF) that boosts the State's ability to respond to migrant workers' livelihoods and protection needs during the pandemic. In the light of the pandemic and its adverse effects on vulnerable populations including migrants, the Ministry of Labor allowed migrant workers who registered on the leave portal but did not withdraw their social security entitlements to stay and seek employment in the country, which had not been allowed previously.

In Qatar, COVID-19 restrictions on mobility provided a catalyst for improving the conditions and safety of migrant workers as well as their ability to access livelihoods, jobs and resources even amid lockdowns. The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, for instance, sought to ensure that even in cases where contracts were terminated, employers would continue providing food and housing for migrant workers free of charge until return to their home country becomes possible. Migrant workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic were provided with opportunities to apply online to various companies and to establish contacts with other employers. To that end, in collaboration with the Qatar Chamber, the Government launched an electronic platform allowing for the rotation of workers in the local market. This platform has provided opportunities for companies that need new employment to contract workers whose contracts were terminated because of the pandemic.

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, Qatar also launched nationwide awareness campaigns on the importance of digitalized platforms to pay wages, open bank accounts or transfer funds. All migrant workers were thus encouraged to open bank accounts and to continue transferring funds to their family digitally without having to physically go to banks or exchange companies.

In Algeria, the Government facilitated visa extension and regularization of stay during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Amid the pandemic, Lebanon established a crisis cell composed of various ministries and relevant authorities to devise mechanisms for the return of more than 40,000 Lebanese living abroad. It has also adopted policy measures allowing Arab nationals and foreigners to renew their residency that expired starting 17 October 2019 (the day that the Lebanese national uprising broke out) without incurring additional late fees. Also, in the light of economic crisis, which was primarily sparked by a dollar shortage and resulting inability of employers to pay wages, the Government collaborated with relevant embassies and IOM to provide support including organizing return and reintegration for domestic migrant workers and foreigners wishing to voluntarily return to their country. Egypt adopted several measures to ease pressure on migrants during the pandemic. For instance, it has sought to provide medical health services to migrant workers on an equal footing with Egyptians. It has also applied flexibility in visa expiration dates. The Tunisian government implemented a series of social measures for the benefit of foreigners present in Tunisia to address the repercussions of COVID-19, and was keen to guarantee them access to essential services.

In Morocco, refugees and migrants were integrated into the COVID-19 pandemic surveillance and response as well as the vaccination plans. Providing the required healthcare for migrants and refugees for free.

The government of Kuwait has also taken active measures to combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, as the government issued Ministerial

Resolution No. (288) of 2020 allowing foreigners who do not have residence permits or whose residence permits have expired to leave the country during the period from 1/4/2020 to 30/4/2020 from any of the designated ports directly, and procedures are carried out at the ports without obtaining the approval of any other party. It also issued Ministerial Resolution No. (924) of 2020, which allows foreigners who do not have residence permits or whose residence permits have expired to leave the country during the period from 1/1/2021 to 2/3/2021. Additionally, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior launched a campaign “Leave Safely” for violators of the residence law, whether from residing in Kuwait illegally or became illegal after losing their jobs due to the pandemic, as all penalties and fees were canceled and free tickets were provided for violators to return to their countries of origin, as well as the ability to Return to Kuwait at a later time without putting them on the banned list.

#### **4. Limiting irregular migration**

To deal with situations of migrant irregularity, several Arab States engaged in various efforts to regularize migrants’ stay or facilitate their departure without penalties. In some cases, countries that have already embarked on regularization campaigns prior to adoption of the GCM have been able to reflect on what has been accomplished to guide further steps at the heart of the GCM objectives. Thus, prior to adoption of the GCM, Morocco had scaled up its efforts to implement its two-phased regularization campaigns back in 2014 and 2017. Those campaigns allowed more migrants to regularize their status and avoid falling into situations of irregularity, including migrants among vulnerable groups, such as women, children and migrants without an unemployment contract. This has resulted in the regularization of more than 50,000 irregular migrants out of 54,000 applications, or about 90% of the total applications, benefiting nationals from 112 countries. In light of the pandemic and its devastating effects on vulnerable communities including migrants, Egypt has

facilitated the enrolment of migrant children in schools for the 2020–2021 academic year even if they have no valid resident permits.

#### **5. Protracted forced displacement and large-scale refugee movements**

Though Arab States perceive protracted forced displacement and large-scale refugee movements as key challenges hindering migration policy, various countries have engaged in serious efforts to enhance protection mechanisms and access to education and work for displaced individuals. Morocco’s asylum strategy is a case in point. Its new and comprehensive National Immigration and Asylum Strategy has among its many objectives to make it easier for migrants in situations of irregularity to integrate and to manage refugee flows in accordance with human rights and international law standards. Furthermore, Morocco established the Office of Refugees and Stateless Persons which will endeavour to document migrants in situations of irregularity and to consider applications from asylum seekers. Amid the COVID-19 health crisis, Iraq engaged in nationwide efforts to raise awareness among refugees of the virus and to establish various local centres that could ensure service provision delivery to vulnerable and displaced individuals. Though Bahrain is no traditional donor country, the country has allocated financial and in-kind resources to support refugee populations in various regions including Egypt, the State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic.

#### **6. Trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling**

Several Arab States devised several initiatives to address those priorities either by establishing national commissions and strategies, assigning specialized entities to develop and consolidate anti-trafficking strategies or raising awareness on trafficking. In coordination with IOM and United Nations agencies, Mauritania revised its draft laws on Strengthening the Transnational Response to Smuggling of Migrants and

Preventing Combating and Eradicating Trafficking in Persons. In July 2020, both laws were approved by the parliament. In Iraq, the Ministry of Interior prioritized refining the country's national strategy for combatting human trafficking. Established under the 2012 Counter-Trafficking in Persons Law, the Iraqi Central Committee to Combat Human Trafficking has since 2019 been coordinating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and IOM to align national policy with international standards on combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The Committee has so far focused on building the capacity of the judiciary and police in enforcing the provisions of the Counter Trafficking Law and implementing the new Labor Law passed in 2015. In Libya, the Ministry of Justice has stepped up efforts to combat smuggling and human trafficking. In close coordination with UNODC, IOM and UNICEF, Libya is currently in the process of establishing capacity-building programmes that could feed into law enforcement and develop the capacity of judicial bodies to deal with trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

Tunisia Ratified the international and regional conventions related to combating trafficking in persons, in particular the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime and its Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Furthermore, Tunisian legislations and mechanisms to prevent and combat trafficking in persons were developed.

Morocco has upgraded its national legislation for the protection of migrant workers by passing new laws for fighting human trafficking. More specifically, Law No. 14-27 includes provisions for the protection of women and children who are victims of exploitation through forced labour and servitude. Furthermore, one of the many objectives of the Moroccan Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons is to combat trafficking in persons.

In the framework of integrating the SDGs with its sectoral action plans, Lebanon pledged in its first Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals

(2018) to take measures to end violence and combat trafficking in persons. Adoption of the GCM has helped to advance the conversation as to how Lebanon could further align migration affairs with human rights and international law while safeguarding national priorities.

## **7. Developing an integrated approach to border management**

Several Arab States are keenly interested in the policy areas of developing an integrated approach to border management and collecting accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies. With the establishment of the Border Points Commission (BPC) in 2016, and following implementation of the GCM, **Iraq** scaled up its efforts to implement an integrated approach to border management. This integrated approach currently revolves around strategically and synergistically managing all customs, trade and security functions at the border. Amid rising cases of COVID-19, the BPC played a major role in managing and coordinating public health controls and awareness-raising campaigns.

Additionally, the integrated management of border crossings and land and maritime borders is strongly focused on the protection of the rights of migrants, regardless of the conditions of their entry to Morocco.

## **8. Developing data sharing systems and collecting accurate and disaggregated data**

Lastly, several Arab States have underscored efforts at developing data sharing systems and collecting accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies on the one hand and for improving migrants' livelihoods, access to protection and working conditions on the other. Qatar made strides in developing a comprehensive strategy to improve the collection of disaggregated and accurate data associated with the labour market and the employment of migrant workers. Its Second National Development Strategy 2018–2022 seeks among other issues to optimize labour market

governance through the compilation of reliable data that feeds into a digitalized and interactive labour market database. In its cooperation with IOM, Libya has sought to advance the conversation on ways to develop systems for recording data on migrants, data sharing systems and a labour market information system relevant to migrant workers. It also formulated its intent to undertake research studies that could be harnessed to develop evidence-based policies on migration.

Against this backdrop, some countries emphasized the necessity of collecting data and research that lay the ground for evidence-based policymaking and well-informed public discourse. Morocco for instance underscored its manifold initiatives to boost research nationwide and at the city level as well as in the context of its communities living abroad to generate insights into migrants' pathways for inclusion on the one hand and on the nexus between migration and development.

Reiterating the importance of collecting accurate and disaggregated data for the purpose of evidence-based

policymaking, Egypt created the Migration Data Analysis Unit (MDAU) under the auspices of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Tunisia has also established the National Observatory on Migration to observe trends and patterns on migration and feed into creating evidence-based policy. In Tunisia, a nation-wide survey on migration has been conducted and work is underway to utilize the results of this survey through the establishment of thematic taskforces to develop research papers, studies, reports, workshops, and forums.

In Morocco, various initiatives pertaining to the collection and analyses of quality data has been implemented. This includes the launching of the African Migration Observatory which facilitates data exchange between African countries. The database, managed by the Ministry of the Interior, has facilitated optimal management of the process of centralization, analysis, exchange and use of migration statistics.



## 2. Review of the GCM 23 objectives

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### A. Overview and key highlights

Arab States reported considerable progress in achieving the 23 GCM objectives despite the turbulent first two years that followed the adoption of the GCM. The national reports submitted by Arab States reveal that a migration perspective has been taken into account in the development of plans for the COVID-19 pandemic as well as

in a wider perspective in designing national strategies and policies and long-term plans. Indeed, even States which had expressed reservations regarding all or parts of the GCM and its objectives were keen to report on the progress they had made in achieving some objectives as well as signal their continued interest in engaging in dialogue, experience sharing and collaboration opportunities presented by the GCM.

#### 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.

The national voluntary GCM reports varied in their comprehensiveness and their reporting on the 23 objectives (annex II). This variation could be understood in light of the specific migration context in each country and the capacity and preparedness of countries to develop their national reports. Some country reports followed the methodological template and reported for all 23 GCM objectives (Bahrain, Egypt and Kuwait), other countries addressed specific objectives that they deemed relevant to their context (Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar and Tunisia), while the rest of the Arab States submitted general reports identifying the progress towards the implementation of the GCM (Algeria, Comoros, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco).

Overall, Objectives: 1 (data collection), 2 (minimize factors that compel people to leave their country), 3 (information at all stages of migration), 4 (ensure migrants legal identity and documentation), 6 (ethical recruitment and decent work), 7 (reduce vulnerabilities in migration), 13 (migration detention as last resort), 15 (provide access to basic services for migrants), 18 (invest in skills development and mutual recognition of qualifications), 19 (conditions for migrants/diasporas to contribute to development), 20 (promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances), 21 (facilitate safe and dignified return and readmission and reintegration) and 23 (cooperation) received considerable attention from States.

The Objectives that received less attention were objectives: 8 (save lives/missing migrants), 10 (combating human trafficking), 9 (strengthen response against migrants smuggling), 11 (manage borders in an integrated manner), 14 (consular protection and assistance throughout the migration cycle), and 17 (eliminate discrimination and shape perceptions of migration).

GCM objectives		
<b>Most reported</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23	7 responses or more

<b>Fairly reported</b>	8, 9, 11, 14, and 17	6 responses
<b>Underreported</b>	5, 12, 16, and 22	5 responses or less

Finally, Objectives: 5 (enhance regular migration), 12 (strengthen procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral), 16 (empower migrants to realize full inclusion and social cohesion) and 22 (mechanisms for social security entitlements and benefits) were notably underreported.

The following are some of the highlights of progress towards achieving each objective. By no means is the progress described under each objective exhaustive of the information included in the national review reports, yet in order to provide a glimpse of the progress in the region, selected examples from different countries were included. For full details on countries' progress, please refer to the national review reports available online. (<https://migrationnetwork.un.org/country-regional-network/arab-states>).

## B. Country-by-country progress towards achieving the GCM objectives

### 1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

The region's countries are recognizing the importance of generating and utilizing data to inform policies and key decisions about migration at all levels, and hence the implementation of the GCM. Efforts are underway in many countries to ensure that appropriate, timely and accurate data are used to manage migration processes.

**Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia** have all reported progress in this regard. The type of inputs and

the information systems that generate this data in the country reports reflect growing awareness about holistic views of migration across all its types, and about migrants' rights as well as their importance to all economies. At the same time, the country reports also reflect recognition of the fundamental underlying root drivers of migration in terms of poverty, conflict and other push factors.

Illustrative examples of progress include **Bahrain's** Population Registry System and Expat Management System, **Jordan's** non-citizen database, **Kuwait's** General Authority for Manpower, **Lebanon's** Central Administration of Statistics (CAS), **Mauritania's** Country Migration Profile and **Tunisia's** National Migration Observatory. Some countries have also played a regional or global role in efforts to improve migration data. For example, in September 2019, **Egypt** hosted the fifth African Forum on Migration which focused on migration data in the continent and in January 2020 it also hosted the second International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS). **Morocco's** National Observatory on Migration played a leading role in creating the African Union's African Observatory on Migration, which aims to help develop responsive migration policies by providing reliable data on migration in Africa.

## 2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

Country reports reflected the keen interest in reducing the adverse drivers and structural challenges that induce migration. They realize that these adverse drivers cannot be eliminated without addressing the root causes forcing people to leave their countries, including conflicts, political instability and economic disparities. This has been clearly stated in the countries' national policies and priorities.

**Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco Qatar and Tunisia** all reported progress in achieving this objective. Some national development efforts have

targeted investment at local communities that are sources of migration outflows. For example, **Egypt** adopted a number of projects such as "A Decent Life", "Takaful and Karama" and "100 Million Health Care" for vulnerable groups and the least developed governorates. Similarly, **Algeria** set up development programmes through bilateral cooperation with other countries. In the context of its "Iraq Vision 2030" plan, **Iraq's** National Housing Policy of the Ministry of Construction and Housing is prioritizing the creation of proper housing to enable the return of Iraqis that were internally displaced by the war. **Lebanon's** efforts aimed to secure social and economic safety nets that address the reasons behind emigration from Lebanon. In **Tunisia**, bilateral agreements with European countries aimed to strengthen regular migration while including special provisions on solidarity in order to address the root causes of migration and reduce unemployment within Tunisia while the country's Agency for the Promotion of Agricultural Investments supports programmes which create an appropriate investment climate, benefitting young people from rural areas who are more vulnerable to irregular migration.

In Morocco, a new development model was launched aimed at restructuring and enhancing the social and economic potential of its users. Additionally, several programs dedicated to young people concerning employment and support for the creation of income-generating initiatives were launched.

## 3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

In addressing this objective, States were able to capitalize on strong civil service institutions as well as information exchange traditions with other States. However, as stated in some of the national reports, States felt they needed stronger, more comprehensive and more dynamic systems for generating and exchanging information in order to more effectively manage

migration. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has also challenged States' ability to develop and reinforce the necessary disease prevention and economic mitigation measures that protect citizens and migrants alike.

**Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia** all reported on their progress towards achieving this objective. Examples of this progress include **Bahrain's** national electronic platform for needed information and services and **Kuwait's** official websites providing data and regulatory decisions. Other examples of progress include efforts to raise awareness on safe, orderly migration options, such as **Bahrain's** centre for the protection and support for migrant workers, **Egypt's** registration of its citizens abroad and its awareness-raising workshops for communities of origin for irregular migration, **Tunisia's** guide for journalists reporting on migration issues and as **Qatar's** translation and distribution of its "Labour Laws and Domestic Employees Act". In Morocco, a guide for foreign employees was made available to migrants and employers via the TAECHIR information system.

#### 4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

States varied widely in their ability to progress towards achieving this objective. In many instances, States were constrained mainly by the lack of information about irregular migrants as well as the lack of institutional capacity. However, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, irregular migrants in some countries were granted forbearance and the opportunity to regularize their status.

**Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Qatar** have reported progress towards this objective and there are several examples of such progress. For example, benefiting from its strong electronic data systems, **Bahrain** issues biometric identity cards for migrants containing key data. Like **Algeria**, Bahrain has made an open call to provide compassionate or

humanitarian considerations for irregular migrants such as in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, by exempting migrant workers from fines and fees and issuing flexible work permits that allow them to work without being associated with a specific employer.

In **Kuwait**, article 12 of Law No. 68/2015 on domestic workers stipulates that "employers are prohibited from keeping any identification pertaining to domestic workers ..." In **Lebanon**, if a foreigner is born in the country, a birth certificate, identical to that issued for Lebanese new-borns, is drafted and submitted to the Directorate-General of Personal Status; and any child born on Lebanese territories to parents of unknown origins is considered to be Lebanese. Finally, **Qatar** issues registration cards to all residents of the municipalities of the State, including migrants. Qatar is also strengthening measures to reduce statelessness and to ensure that women and men are equally able to grant their nationality to their children.

#### 5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

States which reported on this objective include **Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia**. The reporting from States varied widely in response to this objective and in their efforts towards enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

In countries receiving labour migration such as **Bahrain and Qatar**, positive legal reforms have been introduced in which migrant workers are granted further freedom and flexibility aimed to maximize their options and maintain their human rights. Examples of progress on this objective include **Bahrain's** Labor Market Regulatory Authority, which is developing a strategy and general policy regarding the employment of national and migrant workers and facilitating the processes of obtaining work permits for migrants.

**Kuwait** established consultative processes with labour sending countries and enhanced efforts to facilitate the issuance of work permits for migrants in the country.

On the other hand, sending countries like **Egypt and Tunisia** were keen to facilitate regular movements for citizens who wish to travel and work abroad, including by establishing a system to enable digitization of work permit service in Egypt and for migrant workers in Tunisia. For example, **Egypt** and Tunisia has entered into bilateral agreements to expand regular pathways for labour mobility.

To limit irregular migration, the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment in Tunisia organizes the Annual Forum on Employment Abroad to inform persons wishing to migrate about regular migration routes and international job offers. The National Agency for Employment and Independent Work seeks to generate extensive media on employment opportunities available abroad at the websites of international agency and Offices of Employment and Independent Work. Tunisia is also developing circular migration initiatives among young migrants by enabling them to gain experience in several European countries as well as a professional migration guide containing data on labour migration. Finally, Tunisia is also assigning employment counsellors to each employment office and training them in cooperation with the ILO on the opportunities and mechanisms of regular migration and the risks of irregular migration.

In **Morocco**, the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy of Immigration and Asylum, the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills has proceeded to the simplification of procedures for the insertion of regularized migrants and refugees in the labour market.

## **6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work**

In order to fulfil this objective, several countries reviewed, amended and/or enforced existing labour laws and recruitment mechanisms to ensure that they are fair and ethical, to protect migrant workers from exploitation and abuse and hence guarantee decent work compatible with international standards. In the pursuit thereof, some States issued and drafted laws on the protection of all migrant workers, including female and migrant domestic workers. The States which reported on this objective include **Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia**.

**Kuwait, Lebanon, Tunisia and Qatar** (e.g. Qatar's Fair Employment Program) have introduced key reforms regarding labour protection. **Lebanon** drafted a law to include domestic work and **Morocco** has increased protection for female workers. Finally, **Egypt's** Ministry of Manpower is collaborating with the Federation of Egyptian Industries, international organizations and leading private sector entities to raise awareness and increase commitment in the private sector towards corporate social responsibility, ethical recruitment and sound business practices for worker protection.

**Bahrain** recently amended Civil Law No. 36 of 2012, which regulates the relationship between private sector employers and workers' rights, to prohibit discrimination between workers on the grounds of gender, origin, language, religion or belief, to guarantee decent work for migrant workers. Bahrain has also included occupational safety in its work programme (2019–2022) through the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Council.

## **7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration**

State efforts focused on enhancing cooperation with migrants' sending countries and coordination with diplomatic missions, strengthening the legislative framework by improving laws or their enforcement, raising awareness on migrants' rights, protecting freedom of employment choice through flexible work

permit systems, better monitoring and inspection by regulatory bodies and labour recruitment agencies and strengthening national efforts to combat migrant and child exploitation and trafficking.

**Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Qatar** reported on this objective and made efforts to expand migrant protection to reduce vulnerabilities, either among their citizens living abroad or for migrants living in these countries.

In **Morocco**, a humanitarian assistance mechanism was established providing financial support to civil society associations to carry out humanitarian aid actions for migrants in the various cities of the Kingdom.

## 8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

In this objective, countries commit to assuming collective responsibility and cooperating internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations. **Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya and Morocco** have reported progress on this objective, including efforts to save migrant lives and coordinate internationally on missing migrants.

For example, although **Bahrain's** geographical location and migration patterns limit migration movements except by air, it joined the British relief operation to help refugees in the Mediterranean Sea in 2018 as part of an international cooperation initiative, by sending specialized medical teams. In addition, **Lebanon** supported the establishment of a Search and Rescue Center (MRCC) as an ongoing project in cooperation with the Government of Cyprus and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX).

## 9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

Under this objective, countries are expected to intensify joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to prevent, investigate, identify, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants in order to end the impunity of smuggling networks and ensure that migrants are not subjected to prosecution, but rather are provided with assistance in accordance with international law.

Most countries of the region are party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two complementing Protocols on combating migrants smuggling and human trafficking. **Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia** have reported on their progress towards achieving this objective. For instance, **Egypt and Kuwait** have issued laws that combat migrant smuggling, while Lebanon and Tunisia have further trained their border officials to combat migrant smuggling. Border posts have also been equipped with laboratories to detect forged documents, and officers receive continuous training on combating smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Egyptian law no. 82/2016 on combating smuggling of migrants and irregular migration punishes the perpetrators of this crime and ensures that help is provided to the victims. The NCCP&TIP developed a National Strategy on Combating Illegal Migration for 2016–2026, as well as biannual Plans of Actions. Furthermore, in November 2019, Egypt hosted the Regional Forum for Cooperation and Exchange of Knowledge for national coordinating bodies concerned with combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in 18 African countries located on the central and western Mediterranean migration routes.

In **Morocco**, exemplary partnerships are nurtured in the fight against transnational crime, including the smuggling of migrants and related crime, at the bilateral, regional and international levels, in addition to cooperation with specialized UN bodies

## 10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

In addressing this objective, country reports reflected keen interest and efforts to combat human trafficking. Arab States' national anti-trafficking laws primarily build on the three pillars of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol): Prevention, Prosecution and Protection for the victims. States such as **Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia** have all reported on progress in this objective. Efforts reported by the countries included both improved legislative frameworks as well as enforced mechanisms to prevent trafficking in persons and protect the victims.

As one of the leading countries in this area, **Bahrain** has been classified under Tier-1 for the third year in a row by the United States' State Department's Trafficking in Person Annual Report (TIP). A broad cross-sectoral partnership, strong legislative framework, energetic efforts on judicial enforcement, a national referral mechanism and shelters for victims were among the key features of Bahrain's efforts.

Further illustrative examples include the **Comoros** and its efforts to combat trafficking in persons. These include accession in June 2020 to the Palermo Protocol, celebration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, revision of the Penal Code to include provisions to strengthen criminal prosecution of traffickers and the drafting of a law against trafficking in persons and for the protection of victims in the country.

Taking further steps towards legal reform, several laws have been promulgated in Lebanon to combat trafficking in persons. **Lebanon's** Directorate-General of General Security also cooperates with civil society organizations and associations and service providers to protect victims

of trafficking. Civil society in Lebanon, in cooperation with the relevant ministries and the National Commission for Lebanese Women, is scaling up awareness-raising and outreach activities on trafficking in persons. The Ministry of Social Affairs manages contracts with shelters run by civil society organizations, which host and offer care to a number of women living under difficult social conditions, including migrant domestic workers who are at high risk of falling victim to violence and exploitation.

**Mauritania**, in cooperation with IOM and other United Nations agencies, has engaged since 2018 in a robust and inclusive reform of its laws on trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants. The revised texts recently approved by Parliament in July 2020 are fully in line with the relevant GCM objectives and take into account the evolving migration profile of Mauritania.

In **Morocco**, Law No. 14-27 includes provisions for the protection of victims of exploitation through forced labour and servitude as well as Law No. 12-19 on the definition of labour and employment conditions for domestic workers, which represents a positive step towards equity for this category of workers.

**Kuwait** adopted in December 2019 the national referral system to prevent trafficking in persons in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.

Finally, **Tunisia** established a national mechanism to guide and refer victims of trafficking and the provision of free medical care for victims of trafficking in accordance with Basic Law No. 2016-61, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and international organizations.

## 11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

Several States in the region have exerted efforts towards implementing border management policies while maintaining State sovereignty as well as the human rights

of migrants. Efforts towards achieving this goal were made through bilateral, regional and international cooperation with the aim of sharing knowledge and best practices in this area.

For example, **Algeria** established joint committees with neighbouring countries that joined the *walis* of border provinces with their counterparts in Niger and Mali. The Comoros and Iraq have been collaborating with partners such as IOM to strengthen border management capacity. Iraq adopted an integrated approach to border management, especially since the establishment by law of the Border Points Commission (BPC) in 2016. The BPC coordinates the strategic management of all customs, trade and security functions at the border and has played a major role in managing public health controls during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lebanon** adopted an Integrated Border Management Strategy (for land, sea and air) in cooperation with the European Union and UNHCR in October 2019. The strategy defines the internal cooperation mechanism between border security agencies and how they manage legal border crossings and prevent smuggling, the illegal entry of people and trafficking in persons. In this context, a Consolidated Training Center for Border Management (CTC) was established in partnership with the European Union to train all border units and agencies and to ensure continuous international cooperation with the relevant partners.

Finally, the government of **Libya** in 2019 and 2020 sought to address migration challenges by establishing the National Committee for Migration Strategies and Policies, which brings together technical experts with various backgrounds as well as individuals from the executive branch and the Libyan House of Representatives in Tripoli. The Committee's work aims to develop a long-term, well-coordinated strategy that addresses migration management more holistically in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, incorporates lessons learned from current practice in other countries, reaffirms the commitment to the rule of

law, human rights and international cooperation, particularly in the Mediterranean and Africa.

In **Morocco**, Special protection is granted to migrants in vulnerable situations, including in the framework of the implementation of security measures in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime.

## 12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

This objective received less attention in the national reports. However, there are some illustrations provided by countries such as **Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar**. For example, to strengthen certainty in the migration process, Bahrain and Qatar are seeking to provide necessary, sufficient and transparent information through a number of Government electronic platforms, including procedures and conditions for entry, residence or work in a manner that is easily accessible and utilized by all migrants. **Bahrain** for example established the electronic platform of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs in addition to the central electronic platform, all of which are in multiple languages.

**Egypt**, in cooperation with IOM, is currently reviewing the national "Guidelines on Collecting Evidence, Investigation and Prosecuting Crimes of Human Trafficking and Victim Protection within the Context of the Law". This is expected to enhance the predictability of legal procedures for human trafficking and victim protection.

**Iraq** takes measures to facilitate the dignified return and reintegration of Iraqis abroad, especially those who lack legal residency and identification documents. Finally, **Kuwait's** General Authority for Manpower issued resolution No. 1486 in 2015 on the introduction of a model employment contract, which is accessible on the electronic system. To enhance predictability and enable informed decisions by migrants and their employers, the



Authority's website<sup>14</sup> displays all regulatory decisions of the labour market and legislative developments so that workers can have prior knowledge of most regulatory decisions in the labour market.

### 13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

**Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Qatar** have reported on progress on this objective. Some States took measures to guarantee freedom of movement for migrants (e.g. Bahrain), not penalize smuggled migrants (e.g. Egypt), create alternatives to detention facilities (e.g. shelters in Kuwait), prohibit arbitrary arrest (e.g. Lebanon) and re-evaluate the situation of current detention centres (e.g. Libya).

In **Bahrain**, there is a breach of the conditions of residency under the Aliens (Immigration and Residence) Act of 1965 and its amendments. In conjunction with the Criminal Procedure Law promulgated by Decree Law No. 46 of 2002, the Kingdom's Aliens (Immigration and Residence for example, detention of migrants can only take place during the return procedures w

hen) Act of 1965 and its amendments constitute an integrated legal framework to protect that right.

In **Lebanon**, legislators adopted Law No. 65 on 20 September 2017, which criminalizes torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The Code of Criminal Procedure prohibits arbitrary detention of people living in Lebanon and sets a specific period for arrest which must not be surpassed. The Directorate-General of General Security carries out "administrative arrests" only in cases where residency is illegal or upon illegal entry to Lebanon. As such, and as an alternative to detention, violators are given a grace

period to rectify their situation and obtain a Lebanese sponsor.

In **Libya**, the Ministry of Interior formed a special committee to re-evaluate the situation of some detention centres. It issued resolutions to close a number of detention centres.

In **Kuwait**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Interior established shelters for contractual migrant workers, so that they could get their travel tickets booked and return to their countries after the lockdown. In these shelters, migrants were provided access to all the basic services including meals and health provisions.

**Morocco** developed standard operating procedures reference framework for a system of orientation and care of migrants, which anchors a humane management of the borders and centered on the reception, orientation, care, accompaniment and follow-up for migrants and asylum seekers who arrive on the national territory in an irregular manner;

### 14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

Several countries such as **Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, and Lebanon** reported on efforts towards achieving this objective to enhance consular protection and cooperation targeting either their own citizens abroad or migrants in their countries. For example, **Bahrain's** mobile application Wejhaty ("my destinations") is a free service provided to Bahrainis which facilitates communication between the diplomatic missions of Bahrain and its registered citizens during crises, emergencies and natural disasters, with the aim of evacuating them and coordinating their safe return to the country.

**Iraq** is undertaking efforts to link Iraqis living abroad with Iraqi embassies in order to facilitate dignified return and

14 [www.manpower.gov.kw](http://www.manpower.gov.kw).

reintegration. In this regard, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) deploys ministry officials to Iraqi embassies abroad to support the management of complex return cases. MoMD supervises the establishment of community councils in Turkey, Iran and other countries where large numbers of Iraqis are present to facilitate communication and agreements with all migrants.

in **Kuwait**, ongoing dialogue continues between workforce regulatory bodies and diplomatic missions to identify and resolve problems.

Finally in **Morocco**, established coordination with consular representations of countries of origin for the voluntary return of migrants in conditions that respect their dignity and rights;

### 15. Provide access to basic services for migrants

**Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Qatar** have reported their progress towards achieving this objective. These States reported on this objective indicating that migrants benefited from health, education and social care, including health care during the current COVID-19 pandemic. In Algeria, for example, migrants received considerable attention from the public authorities, and health and social care were provided free for all migrants without the need to request a document proving their identity or legal status.

**Bahrain's** further efforts include providing migrants with the right to organize in workers' unions as well as efforts to facilitate free access to litigation during judicial procedures as per Article No. 6 of the Labor Law of the Private Sector No. 36 of 2012 for settling any dispute arising under the employment.

Finally in **Egypt**, as part of facilitating basic services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education decided to exempt children from the prerequisite of having a valid residency permit for the 2020–2021 academic year while migrants were included

in Egypt's programme for early detection and referral for treatment of hepatitis C (called the "100 Million Healthy Lives" Initiative) as well as in health insurance schemes.

In **Morocco**, access to the services of "Allo YAKADA" (080-100-47-47) has been set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to provide the necessary information on the coronavirus, on the guidelines for care and the measures undertaken by the government.

### 16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

In order to achieve inclusion and social cohesion between migrants and their host societies, the countries which addressed this objective (**Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco and Qatar**) have reported various laws, policies and mechanisms which allow migrants to enjoy their human rights and to practice their cultural rights and religious freedoms, while Morocco's efforts have also extended to Moroccans living abroad.

For example, consider a country like **Bahrain** where there are more migrant workers than citizens and migrants account for 78% of the workforce. Bahrain regards social security as one of its top priorities in order to achieve integration and social cohesion – as stated in the Government's programme of work for the years 2019–2022. In order to enhance mutual respect for the cultures, traditions and customs of local and migrant communities, Bahrain encourages and supports the formation of community organizations such as social and cultural associations and clubs in accordance with the terms and controls contained in Decree-Law No. 21 of 1989.

**Bahrain** has ensured that migrants enjoy their right to exercise religious freedom as a manifestation of social integration by allowing the conduct of rituals and ceremonies for different sects and religions that migrants embrace in special facilities allocated to them by the Government.

## **17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration**

**Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Qatar** have reported on this objective. The responses in country reports reaffirmed their commitment and provided illustrative national laws and policies that penalize discrimination and encourage tolerance and respect towards migrants. Moreover, some countries such as **Egypt and Lebanon** have also included migrants in national legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination against women. For example, Lebanese local laws safeguard the freedom of expression and opinion, while respecting the rights of others. The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) worked on draft laws that combat violence against women. These include amending the law on domestic violence and preparing a draft law to fight sexual harassment in the workplace and in public places.

In **Morocco**, the principle of equal treatment of nationals and foreigners is enshrined in the Kingdom's 2011 Constitution. In this sense, Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits 'any incitement to racism, hatred and violence', while Article 30 stipulates that 'foreigners enjoy the fundamental freedoms granted to Moroccan citizens, in accordance with the law. Furthermore, the inclusion of the values of tolerance and consideration of cultural diversity in curricula, textbooks, school life and teacher training in the field of education

## **18. Invest in skill development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences**

Efforts were reported by countries who provide trainings and enable their citizens to better compete in both the local market (Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia) and abroad (Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia).

In **Bahrain**, migrant workers are entitled to vocational orientation and training programmes, which contribute to the development of information and skills. In implementing this policy, Bahrain has established a mechanism for evaluating skills and qualifications to examine and compare foreign certificates based on the levels of the National Qualifications Framework. A central electronic platform has been set up to allow migrants to submit equivalency and evaluation applications for their qualifications issued by higher education institutions outside Bahrain, which are generally assumed to be valid, though they are subject to special procedures for equivalence and evaluation in some specific specializations.

**Egypt's** Ministry of Manpower expanded the development of vocational training centres (VTCs) to enhance the skills and employability of young Egyptians and migrants. Through the refurbishment of multiple VTCs, Egypt has been investing in employment creation for youth in different sectors. Furthermore, national universities have signed agreements with international counterparts to grant their graduates dual certificates; one from an Egyptian University and the other from an international university.

**Kuwait's** Chamber of Commerce and Industry established in 2003 the Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Saqr Center for Development, which provides short-term training programmes, vocational programmes and long-term programmes that meet the renewed needs of workers in the local business environment and qualify them to keep up with new developments and expand their knowledge, experience and skills and business risks. The Center collaborates in the delivery of its programmes with many local and international institutions.

In **Lebanon**, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education supports partnerships and bilateral programmes, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to promote skills development, transfer and rotation. Such partnerships include exchange programmes,

scholarships, technical expertise exchange programmes, trainings and internships, which offer beneficiaries multiple options upon successful completion such as seeking employment or engaging in freelance work.

**Tunisia** has invested in higher education programmes and skill development, which has led Tunisian higher education certificates to be recognized internationally, especially in the specialties of engineering, medicine, health, technological industries, communication, etc. Tunisia is trying to develop vocational training systems in all specialties and fields by adopting international standards and successful experiences, with the goal of enabling graduates of this system to enjoy a high integration rate exceeding 80% in the Tunisian and international labour market.

Finally, **Morocco** implemented several initiatives to support migrants in vocational training including extended access to vocational training establishments to migrants and refugees in the same manner to Moroccans.

### **19. Create conditions for migrants and citizens living abroad to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries**

Countries which reported on this objective include: **Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia**. These reports suggest that migrants abroad are considered development actors. This was particularly manifested in the national legislation and policies of sending countries, which aim to proactively engage migrants and encourage nationals abroad to return and contribute to the development of their countries of origin (e.g. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia).

In **Lebanon**, the Directorate-General of Emigrants at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in Lebanon,

established a Facebook page dedicated to highlighting Lebanese success stories and promoting emigrants' ties with their home country.<sup>15</sup> Moreover, the Directorate-General of General Security also grants courtesy residence for migrants of all nationalities married to Lebanese women and their children.

In **Libya**, migrants from Niger and Egypt constitute the majority of migrants. In this regard, a multi-sector government committee was formed to examine the conditions of Egyptians and Nigerien migrants, with a view to developing the best policies to regulate their entry and status and benefit from them in an orderly manner in the Libyan labour market.

**Tunisia** has integrated migration in its 2016–2020 Five-Year Development Plan to support the contribution of Tunisian citizens living abroad to development. The Agency for the Promotion of Industry and Innovation is responsible for informing and supporting Tunisian citizens living abroad to implement industrial and service projects while the “Migrants for Development” programme aims to support Tunisian citizens living abroad as entrepreneurs so that they can launch innovative and creative projects in Tunisia.

Finally, **Morocco** implemented several projects including Setting up the Maghribcom platform aimed at exchanging information and strengthening collaboration between the skills of Moroccans living abroad and national partners in terms of investment promotion and technology and expertise transfer.

### **20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants**

**Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Morocco and Tunisia** reported on progress towards this objective. Receiving and sending countries reported measures to ensure financial flows and the transfer of remittances (e.g. Bahrain). Sending countries, in particular, were keen

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15 [https://www.facebook.com/EmigrantsDirectorate2020/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/EmigrantsDirectorate2020/?ref=page_internal).

to stipulate laws and policies giving certain privileges to their citizens abroad (e.g. Egypt and Tunisia).

One of the major challenges stated in the national reports is the high fees charged for money transfers (e.g. Lebanon). In **Lebanon**, remittances from Lebanese migrants account for 12.5% of GDP.<sup>16</sup> In 2019, remittances were estimated at \$7.313 billion. Despite the current crisis in Lebanon, incoming remittances have maintained their usual pace in recent months, with Lebanese expats transferring money through official and non-official channels to support their families in Lebanon. Transfer fees, however, remain the highest, according to the World Bank.<sup>17</sup>

On the other hand, outgoing remittances have witnessed a significant drop for several reasons. First, the number of migrant workers in Lebanon has significantly decreased since the end of 2019, as a result of events took place, Beirut port explosion and economic crisis, all of which have limited Lebanese people's capacity to hire migrants. Second, migrant workers residing in Lebanon are now less capable of sending remittances to their families abroad.

Finally, in **Morocco**, measures are underway to digitalize the services for opening new bank accounts to further reduce the rates of remittance transfers for Moroccans living abroad (MREs).

## 21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

Countries such as **Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia** reported on this objective. **Egypt** returned Egyptians stranded abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Iraq organized programmes to

return and integrate its internally displaced persons. Like **Tunisia, Iraq** also cooperates with receiving countries to facilitate the return of its citizens abroad who are irregular migrants. **Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya** have focused on the voluntary return of victims of trafficking and irregular migrants.

Re-admission of Tunisian irregular migrants abroad is being facilitated through Tunisia's cooperation and bilateral ties with many countries, especially France, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany. **Tunisia** has developed a National Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Roadmap to facilitate the integration process of returning Tunisian migrants and has held a series of workshops with relevant stakeholders. A National Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Mechanism, "TOUNESNA", has been established within the Office of Tunisians Abroad with the aim of boosting economic and social reintegration of Tunisian migrants returning from the European countries involved in the mechanism (Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland).

The Moroccan government favors the implementation of sustainable solutions, namely the national program of voluntary return to the country of origin, including reintegration projects, on the one hand, or the regularization of the residence situation and integration into the national socio-economic fabric, on the other hand;

## 22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

A few countries such as **Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia** reported on this objective. Receiving countries provided types of social security benefits to migrants such as unemployment insurance (Bahrain) and unsettled complaints by migrant workers (Kuwait). **Egypt**

16 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data>.

17 Transferring money from Australia, the United Kingdom and Germany, for instance, remains one the most expensive in the world, with commission rates amounting to 12%, 13% and around 12.5% respectively. <https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/Migrationanddevelopmentbrief31.pdf>.

has bilateral agreements with several countries to ensure the portability of social security entitlements.

Additionally, Tunisia, through international agreements, seeks to strengthen international cooperation on social protection and security. Particularly, with countries with Tunisian diasporas as well as by adapting the legal systems of social security to respond to the aspirations of Tunisians abroad and in line with the conditions of their residence.

Finally in Morocco, a host of bilateral conventions on social security with several foreign countries hosting Moroccan nationals have been signed. Furthermore, more social security agreements with countries of origin for migrants in Morocco are under examination.

### **23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration**

Countries such as **Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia** have all been actively exploring opportunities for international cooperation and many have entered into global or bilateral agreements that govern safe, orderly and regular migration. Efforts included bilateral (e.g. with adjacent neighbouring countries), regional/multi-lateral (e.g. with the EU) and global agreements on a range of labour migration and counter-trafficking efforts. To avoid repetition, more specific details on regional collaboration are provided in the following section.

Additionally, Morocco makes international and regional cooperation a pillar of its commitment to migration, and this is manifested at the regional level.

## 3. Regional collaboration

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### A. Bilateral collaboration

Bilateral collaboration efforts largely focused on border management partnerships with neighbouring countries. In order for countries like Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to meet their commitments with neighbouring countries, the Government of Algeria for example organizes periodic meetings between the Algerian *walis* of the border provinces and their counterparts in neighbouring countries. This neighbourhood mechanism helps to assess bilateral decisions and actions on issues and matters of mutual interest to both countries.

In addition, labour migration to and from Arab States (e.g. Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar) was a core element in bilateral cooperation agreements in order to achieve a holistic view addressing citizen's socio-economic challenges. In Morocco and Tunisia, good bilateral partnerships were developed with European States and Canada.

Bahrain believes that sustaining the growth of the economy requires establishing partnerships with stakeholders, particularly at the regional and international level in order to respond to the changing needs of the labour market for qualified technical labour in various specializations. This led it to conclude bilateral agreements with a number of other States, including India, Indonesia, Kenya, Libya and Russia.

Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jordan's Ministry of Labor was working towards identifying alternative labour markets and concluded an agreement with Germany, which could be replicated with other destination countries. Further policy and legislative measures as part of more targeted bilateral cooperation in the area of temporary labour with

countries of origin of migrant workers in Jordan, however, are needed to ensure a more holistic approach to Jordan's labour migration needs in accordance with international human rights and labour standards and the GCM.

Finally, The State of Kuwait ratified 19 international labor agreements and signed 21 bilateral memoranda of understanding with labor-sending countries.

### B. Multilateral collaboration

Multilateral collaboration efforts, mostly involving United Nations agencies, were well reported by several countries including Bahrain and Kuwait, who notably fund and helped create regional training and other migration management interventions. Arab States have sought migration-related partnerships through regional bodies such as LAS, the African Union and others.

For example, the Comoros is actively participating in the development of policies, strategies and frameworks allowing the implementation of the Global Compact by regional and sub-regional organizations such as the African Union, ESCWA, the South African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

Despite the fact that Libya abstained from the vote on the GCM and the fact that it is a non-binding document, Libya nevertheless attended all thematic workshops and capacity-building workshops conducted by LAS, IOM and ESCWA in Cairo in December 2019, followed by regional review. By following up on the activities related to the GCM, Libya aims to observe and remain aware of developments in the implementation of the GCM objectives by those that voted for the GCM, as well as the

positive and negative aspects and the lessons learned from implementing the GCM. Libya also aims to benefit from all this information to be able to continuously update and re-evaluate its position concerning the GCM.

In January 2018, King Mohammed VI presented the African Agenda on Migration at the 30th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. The vision was to make migration “a lever for co-development, a pillar of South-South Cooperation and an instrument of solidarity”. The Royal Initiative created the African Migration Observatory under the aegis of the African Union in Rabat in 2018, with the aim of developing, analysing and exchanging information between African States and establishing a good governance in the management of African migration. Morocco also made valuable contributions to the continental consultations on migration policy in Africa 2018–2030 and the Pan-African Forum on Migration in 2018. Morocco also co-chaired GFMD for the years 2017 and 2018 with Germany and hosted the intergovernmental conference for the GCM in 2018.

Meanwhile, Tunisia is working to ratify international labour conventions and charters that enshrine the right to social security and has concluded 23 bilateral agreements in the area of social security with the most prominent European States employing Tunisian labour and some Arab States, following the social security agreement between the Arab Maghreb Union Countries in 1992, the Association Agreement with the European Union in 1995 and the issuance of the European Council resolution implementing Article 65 thereof, which enables citizens of countries fully involved in association agreement with the European Union and legal residents of one of its countries to enjoy all of their social security entitlements. Other efforts relevant to this objective include Tunisia’s participation in the North Africa Migration Academic Network (NAMAN) dealing with the production and dissemination of knowledge, launching the Migration Summer School in cooperation with the National Institute for Labor and Social Studies and IOM to expand knowledge on migration issues, introducing an

MA degree in Research on International Migration at the National Institute for Labor and Social Studies.

### C. Observations and reflections on regional collaboration

The Arab region continues to deal with the political unrest, armed conflicts and economic challenges that have long underpinned its migration realities. 2020 has been an extremely challenging year as the world continues to deal with the still-unfolding COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on all levels of society, the economy and politics. Most countries continue to serve as both sending and transit sites for migrants, while other countries mainly receive labour migrants. In this context, the GCM is serving as a welcome accelerator for States’ efforts to better manage migration challenges. Common affliction by the COVID-19 pandemic, interdependence on labour migration and spill over from the region’s humanitarian crises has further emphasized the need for regional and global partnerships.

The good progress in recognizing, engaging with and utilizing regional and international cooperation mechanisms and partnerships can be utilized to further strengthen national capacities to address the GCM across a range of objectives. IOM and other United Nations agencies at the country level, national United Nations Networks on Migration, ESCWA and LAS partnerships and joint efforts to support Member States should continue to focus on strengthening regional collaboration as well as possibly expand it to address other reasonable domains of migration challenges.

In this light, the findings of this regional report can be used as a guide from which relevant partners can map out opportunities for technical assistance and proactively approach Member States to discuss and elaborate possibilities for further support. This kind of proactive engagement will ensure that GCM’s international partners are responsive to the kind of challenges and opportunities raised by States in this report. Hence,



instead of reporting challenges and opportunities through the report, countries may begin to see such GCM reporting as an engagement tool that facilitates and enhances partners' technical support, while retaining full

ownership and initiative with the States themselves to determine what kind of technical assistance they wish to receive and how they wish to receive it.

## 4. Means of implementation

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The extent to which the GCM can be implemented and can lead to policy harmonization with the SDGs hinges to a great deal on countries' national capacities and financial and human resources as well as on a regional and international policy climate fostering partnerships, synergies and common understandings of the GCM. This section reviews regional and national efforts to mobilize means of implementation to achieve the GCM objectives. It further takes stock of resources that are lacking and challenges in implementation of the GCM and accounts for the additional resources that Arab States need to sustain implementation of the GCM in coming years. Lastly, it maps key structural and endemic challenges that are likely to delay implementation of the GCM.

### A. Existing means of implementation and resources

When it comes to mobilizing means of implementation and resources to achieve the GCM objectives, Arab States have noted a variety of facilitative measures and structures that have guided implementation of the GCM. Those resources span various areas such as engaging in collaborative governance on migration at global, interregional, regional and bilateral levels; building national capacity with the support of Regional and National United Nations Networks on Migration, LAS and United Nations agencies; allocating specific budgets to convene consultative rounds at both local and national levels and follow up on the GCM provisions; and harnessing and fostering cross-national and cross-societal partnerships to boost the GCM.

### 1. Collaborative partnerships

A key resource identified by all national reports as pivotal to implementation of the GCM hinges on the multiplicity of international and regional networks, partnerships and collaborations developed to assist the process. Indeed, the GCM policy implementation process in the Arab region has not arisen in a vacuum. Rather, as underscored, a favourable and encouraging policy climate, in which several international and regional stakeholders joined hands to mobilize resources and provide political support, guided the process leading to the adoption of the GCM and its aftermath. A case in point are the numerous consultative meetings and rounds that have converged to facilitate its adoption and implementation. In 2017 and 2018, the majority of Arab States participated in the sessions of the GFMD, held respectively in Berlin and Marrakesh. One of the key objectives of the GFMD sessions was to facilitate negotiations on the GCM, mobilizing resources and facilitating support for the process.<sup>18</sup> In July 2017, LAS as a Secretariat for the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) held an extraordinary meeting in collaboration with IOM and UNHCR in which Arab States adopted key messages that reflected the regions' priorities to be included in the GCM. Two months later, IOM, ESCWA and LAS convened a regional consultative meeting in which stakeholders discussed their perceptions and expectations of the GCM and sought to forge a common understanding of its implications for the region. The meeting culminated in an agreement on the Arab States' key priorities, which revolved around promoting rights-based labour mobility as well as migrant protection and harnessing the nexus

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18 See Situation Report on International Migration 2019: The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Context of the Arab Region (unescwa.org).

between migration and development. A summary of this regional consultation was submitted to the United Nations Secretariat as part of the outputs from regional consultations in preparation for the GCM.

Within this climate, policy consultative processes helped to build collective action and discuss strategies that could be used to implement the GCM, as well as integrate the goals of multiple stakeholders and build capacity in the region. In the national reports, several Arab States thus focused on the constructive synergies they have forged with United Nations entities, in particular with IOM in devising national migration governance strategies and collaborating on data collection and integrated border management.

**Lebanon** for instance identified international synergies building consensus on the GCM as key resources for the compact's implementation. In May and June 2020, notwithstanding the country's overlapping crises, Lebanon's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigration held consultative meetings with IOM with a view to facilitating Lebanon's participation in the 2020 Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), two key platforms which the Global Compact was at the heart of.

Similarly, cognizant of the centrality of international and regional collaboration for the GCM process, **Tunisia** organized in July 2018 prior to the GCM adoption an informal regional dialogue with representatives from 17 States, the European Union, the African Parliament, United Nations specialized agencies, international organizations and civil society organizations.

In the same vein, **Morocco** identified regional and international partnerships as key to harnessing the momentum of the GCM. In March 2020, Morocco hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the 5+5 Dialogue on Migration. The Ministerial Conference culminated in the dissemination of a declaration endorsed by the 5+5 Dialogue countries on a regional action plan for the

implementation of the provisions of the Compact. This collaborative process laid the ground for several partnerships.

**Egypt** identified participation in regional and international avenues as a key vector for advancing conversations on the GCM. Examples include the Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration 'Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region' held in Cairo in December 2019 and the Capacity-building Workshop on Migration Governance in the Arab Region also held in Cairo in December 2019 organized by IOM, ESCWA and LAS. Egypt has also made strides in leading conversations on regional migration governance. A case in point is Egypt's hosting of the International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) held in January 2020 with the participation of more than 800 international representatives.

**Libya** identified GCM-related thematic and capacity-building workshops that IOM, ESCWA, ILO and LAS conducted as key platforms that have encouraged its engagement in the Global Compact though it is a non-signatory State.

In addition to the importance of collaborative synergies on the GCM process, States identified further the technical and expert support that international organizations namely the IOM and other United Nations agencies provided as key to either paving the way for adoption of the GCM or for following up on the provisions of the GCM.

In their national reports, **Mauritania and Iraq** highlighted the importance of building a nationally driven migration governance strategy and developing Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) in cooperation with the IOM and other United Nations agencies.

**Iraq** particularly emphasized the implications of IOM-supported capacity-building in the executive ministries for following up on the provisions of the GCM. In this

regard, the MoMD harnessed the technical support it has received from IOM for several purposes including staff training, policy formulation and development of referral mechanisms.

While **Morocco** draws extensively on the State budget through the sub-budgets of the Government departments involved in the integration of migrants and the support of Moroccans living abroad, it has also sought to optimize the technical and financial support provided by international partners. From this perspective, aligning national and international resources and means of implementation has allowed the Moroccan Government to multiply partnerships with civil society, convene more consultative rounds and undertake capacity-building projects at the heart of the GCM.

In the same vein, **Tunisia** has built on its partnerships with several stakeholders such as IOM, the EU and African-based regional networks for a variety of purposes: local capacity-building, technical training and production of knowledge and evidence-based policies on migration

## 2. Harnessing national and local expertise

In addition to harnessing the technical and financial support of international and regional partners, in their national reports several Arab States related the importance of harnessing national and local expertise and infrastructures to advance the GCM. In that regard, they stressed the importance of drawing on existing human expertise, administrative infrastructures and material resources to propel the process.

**Iraq** recognizes the goal of building national capacity as critical for driving the compact. In this light, the Government has sought to identify officials in the MoMD and establish cross-sectoral working groups with other government institutions tasked with implementing the compact.

**Morocco** drew extensively on its general budget to implement a variety of initiatives ranging from convening consultative meetings to liaising with relevant government departments on the GCM provisions.

To implement some of the GCM objectives such as improving migrant protection and addressing the adverse drivers of migration, **Algeria** has mobilized significant human, financial and material resources with the aim of providing migrants in situations of irregularity with free health and social services. According to its national report, more than 100,000 irregular migrants have accessed public health services. By boosting bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Niger, the Algerian Government has also provided assistance to more than 40,000 Nigerian migrants including vulnerable groups such as women and children. In that regard, the Algerian Government ensured that they returned home in conditions of safety and dignity.

**Egypt** has extensively relied on existing resources at national and local levels to enhance capacity-building in data collection and analysis, and in creating platforms such as the Migration Data Analysis Unit (MDAU) under the auspices of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), which aims to address the main gaps and needs with regards to collecting accurate and disaggregated data on migration. It has further made use of previously existing mechanisms such as the Migration Affairs Committee for the purpose of submitting the National Review Report.

## 3. Cross-national, cross-societal and civic society partnerships

Means of implementation, which are crucial in driving the GCM process, consisted of leveraging and encouraging cross-national, cross-societal and civic society partnerships.

In **Lebanon**, one best practice that was identified was building cross-national synergies between municipalities and civil society partners. In various consultative rounds,

stakeholders deliberated on the development of a centralized national strategy tasked with achieving safe, orderly and regular migration and harmonizing the Compact with the SDGs through a gender-focused and child-sensitive perspective.

Similarly, in **Morocco**, several consultative rounds with civil society and municipalities helped to push the process forward. Civil society networks also provided valuable resources to following up on provisions of the GCM, especially in times of crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, civil society organizations were able to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic on migrants and refugees by mobilizing financial and in-kind resources from private donors, reflecting the spirit of community solidarity during crises.

In **Tunisia**, the country's five-year development plan (2016-2020), which among various objectives gives primacy to the nexus between migration and development.

## B. Scarcity of resources gaps and challenges

Notwithstanding the spectrum of resources that Arab States have drawn on to propel the GCM forward, they have also reported a myriad of gaps and challenges. The following are an illustrative set of these gaps.

### 1. Limited financial and human resources

Several Arab States highlighted the importance of acquiring additional financial resources to build capacity and expertise in various ministries as well as to provide training to relevant stakeholders. In practical terms, implementing a “whole of government” and “whole of society” approach requires devolving and allocating responsibilities to local stakeholders in line with the provisions of the GCM, creating synergies among administrative institutions and increasing human competences that could drive implementation of the

GCM. Still, such tasks require financial means and cross-sectoral strategies.

In **Iraq**, notwithstanding efforts to create inter-ministerial synergies, the MoMD currently lacks the financial resources to comprehensively follow up on the GCM objectives and build technical expertise in various ministries.

**Lebanon** needs additional resources to build human capacity, effectively introduce automation in the concerned ministries, secure the necessary equipment and training for staff workers in the relevant ministries and maximize the participation of civil society.

**Morocco** has stressed the importance of acquiring additional resources to build the capacity of local stakeholders in the area of migration and fund local pilot projects to achieve the Compact's objectives, as well as to network, collect and share experiences at the national, regional and international levels. In order to mobilize local actors in the GCM process, it is further crucial, according to the Moroccan national report, to earmark additional resources to civil society and migrant associations so as to allow them to develop tailored projects and targeted approaches geared towards migrant inclusion and development.

The lack of financial resources, underfunded budgets and gaps in technical expertise have various implications for following up on the 23 GCM objectives as interrelated, cross-sectoral and mutually constitutive components. Some States thus underlined that budget deficits and gaps in knowledge and technical expertise simultaneously undermine the objectives of collecting evidence-based policies on migration, advancing on effective integrated border management, reducing irregular migration and combating human trafficking.

### 2. Weak capacity to collect, centralize and share migration data

States such as Iraq and Mauritania perceive the process of collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data as an important prerequisite for generating evidence-based policies that could assist in shaping a national migration governance strategy. Collecting data, filling in knowledge gaps and overcoming data deficits on migration arise further as essential to curbing trafficking and smuggling as well as addressing irregular migration. In the light of rudimentary data collection systems, **Bahrain** has struggled with the process of updating the personal data of migrant workers.

In that regard, several States concur that lacking statistical infrastructures and weak administrative exchange among ministerial platforms on migration data are hindrances to developing well-governed migration policies, and thereby following up on implementation of the GCM. For **Lebanon**, building the capacity of the Central Bureau of Statistics and devising mechanisms for various national stakeholders, namely ministries and official departments, to exchange administrative data and information is crucial to monitoring implementation of the GCM. Lebanon's Ministry of Justice thus stresses the importance of data collection in cases of immigrants and displaced persons before Lebanese courts, especially criminal courts. This includes, for example, collecting accurate and disaggregated data on the number of detainees, convicts and prisoners and the types of crimes, nationalities, sex, types of sentences, etc. In this view, data collection is crucial to combating trafficking in persons and following up on cases once they are closed and sentences implemented.

### 3. Limited research infrastructure on migration

Additional resources that could be deployed to facilitate implementation of the GCM encompass the development of research infrastructures to inform evidence-based policymaking and harness the nexus between migration and development. Morocco for

example notes the importance of conducting specific research studies on migration in the main cities and regions hosting migrants in Morocco and on Moroccans living abroad. Egypt advocates for the development of stronger research networks in order to create a solid and well-functioning exchange flow of data and information across countries. The African Migration Observatory in Morocco serves as a leading example as to how research infrastructures may be developed.

### 4. Need for increased intra-regional coordination and collaboration

Additionally, States have encouraged the creation of solidarity and data-sharing networks in implementation of the GCM. Various initiatives were suggested. Lebanon encouraged the creation of regional focal points allowing governments to continuously exchange information and best practices on migration governance. **Morocco** suggested the deployment of exceptional resources for crisis management and health emergencies at the regional and international levels that could buttress implementation of the GCM. It also suggested creating intra-regional and international solidarity funds to manage crises and emergencies and mitigate their impact on migrants and refugees. **Egypt** calls for enhancing the role of LAS and the African Union (AU) in coordinating implementation of the GCM and calls for exchanging best practices and knowledge across countries in the region.

### 5. Exogenous shocks: political instability, conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic

In addition to these gaps and lacking resources, States have stressed the existence of longer-term, protracted and multi-layered challenges that could delay the implementation of the GCM. Hindrances thus not only

hinge on scarce financial resources, gaps in data collection on migration and overstretched capacities but also cumulative shocks, political volatility and regional economic disparities. In this regard, it is worth noting that the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in lockdowns and confinements, has unfolded amid crumbling economies, geopolitical tensions and domestic and international conflicts. These cumulative crises have interfered with States' capacity to follow up on the GCM in various ways.

As the case of **Lebanon** suggests, some States faced major delays in convening consultative meetings that were crucial to discussing implementation of the GCM. Lebanon is also a case in point as to how concomitant crises have slowed down implementation of the GCM and thrust other priorities ahead of the GCM objectives. Lebanon's financial crash and the Beirut blast of 4 August 2020 have inflicted major financial and human losses and delayed Lebanon's capacity in following up fully on implementation of the GCM. The breakdown of the health system amid rising infections and dwindling economic opportunities has massively impacted migrant workers' and refugees' livelihoods. Against this backdrop, Lebanon has yet to finalize the establishment of the national mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the GCM. Establishing this mechanism would, according to the Government, allow the institutionalization of communication between the relevant ministries and relevant stakeholders including representatives of civil society. It would also help to define Lebanon's priorities in the GCM and mobilize regional and international support to that end.

**In Iraq**, various geopolitical and economic pressures have added major strains on the Government's capacity to navigate the GCM process. Those shocks include domestic conflicts, mass displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic that has recently brought many economic activities to a halt and added major governance strains. In this regard, Iraq has identified a mix of ingrained challenges limiting its ability to follow up on the GCM objectives. Those range from State-building challenges

and pronounced regional disparities that act as push factors prompting Iraqis to leave the country while dealing a blow to the attempt to twin migration governance with development. Within this climate, and amid a variety of strains, the Government faces key challenges when it comes to harnessing the opportunities of return migration for local development.

In the context of the ongoing pandemic, **Jordan** identified the protection of vulnerable migrants as a key challenge that would undoubtedly add strains on its policymaking apparatus. Also, following downturns in the global economy, Jordan's garment sector, which usually attracts migrant workers, has been hit hard. Adding to this, Jordan expects that the economic crisis caused by the health emergency and the fall in oil prices will instigate inward migration, overstretching the country's local capacities. For instance, Jordanians working abroad, most notably in the Gulf countries, will most likely return to Jordan after having lost their jobs, causing an increase in the unemployment rate as Jordan's labour market is currently unable to absorb all incoming Jordanians. Against this backdrop, Jordan identified the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns as key hurdles that have put a halt on the initiation of nationwide implementation of the GCM.

For its part, **Algeria** is grappling with various multi-layered challenges that could delay its implementation of the GCM objectives. Its national report thus cites obstacles such as organized cross-border crime, human trafficking, drugs, illegal gold mining, demographic challenges in neighbouring countries, climate change and the spread of contagious diseases as key impediments. Most importantly, Algeria is at a difficult crossroads in migration management as the country is increasingly the final destination of a number of migrants rather than a transit country.

**Egypt** frames political instability and conflict-induced displacement in the region as key challenges that place key societal, political and economic strains on it as a host State. In that regard, it calls for enhanced global

governance mechanisms that would ensure coherent policies spanning the bridge between origin, transit and destination countries.

Though many Arab States have made strides since adopting the GCM in improving migration governance in accordance with rights-based criteria, concurrent crises and volatility risk undermining some of these achievements. In **Qatar**, COVID-19 lockdowns and the economic crisis triggered by dwindling oil revenues have massively impacted migrants' rights, mobility and livelihoods. In the light of **Jordan's** continuous lockdowns, migrants have experienced food insecurity and restricted access to resources. For **Egypt**, the pandemic has imposed various strains on the Government's policymaking apparatus and overstretched its capacities. Thus, the Government had to develop swift policy responses to assist Egyptian migrants stranded worldwide in the light of lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Also, the pandemic slowed down Egypt's negotiations on resettlement opportunities for refugees hosted in the country. Moreover, migrants set to be voluntarily repatriated experienced various delays because of the irregularity of flights and travel restrictions.

Additionally, it is important to note that the implementation of all 23 GCM objectives is to a large extent contingent on the varying priorities and nationally driven challenges of Arab States, which in turn are driven by national imperatives and local factors. **Iraq, Lebanon and Libya** have seen their national capacities grow thinner with the daunting challenges of conflict-induced displacement and transit migration. In that regard, they are currently prioritizing immediate and swift solutions to protracted refugee solutions and situations of migrant irregularity. **Algeria** is most interested in tackling the adverse drivers of migration by participating in development projects in countries such as Niger and Mali, and concluding **bilateral agreements** with neighbouring countries. In yet another perspective, Gulf States such as **Qatar** have placed emphasis on developing regulations on labour migration and protection in the last years. Nevertheless, the threat of economic downturns and the fall in oil prices might slow down some of their ambitious policy programmes.



## 5. Conclusion

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This report has monitored the progress that Arab States have made towards achieving the GCM objectives and has also identified the gaps in the implementation of the GCM across the Arab region. In so doing, it has set the context for the policy and enabling environment that has influenced and been influenced by the adoption and implementation of the GCM in States across the region. In addition to taking stock of the institutional and migration governance strategies that Arab States have set up to facilitate implementation of the Compact, it has provided a brief review of the regional policy climate. More specifically, it has delineated key trends in migration policy development in the Arab region and identified certain policy priorities that several Arab States have focused on in the process leading up to the GCM and in its aftermath. The 13 National Reports submitted by Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia show that the following trends have characterized the policy and enabling environment shaping implementation of the GCM:

- Notwithstanding the prevalence of compounded crises spanning the pandemic, economic downturns and regional upheavals, Member States have sought to harmonize the GCM within pre-existing migration governance frameworks, national governance mechanisms and data collection systems. They have also sought to integrate the GCM objectives within broader frameworks such as the SDGs or their national strategies for development.
- The GCM has boosted migration-related agenda setting and migration policy development. In the wake of the GCM, several States have adopted nationally tailored strategies with a view to taking stock of their migration-related realities and to

exploring strategic ways to harmonize the GCM with national priorities.

- Member States have established specific focal points to monitor and report on implementation of the GCM. They have further crafted various local, national, regional and international synergies to advance conversations on migration governance and the Global Compact. In several cases, Arab States have endeavoured for the participation of different stakeholders including grassroots and civil society actors.

Delving more thoroughly into the implementation of the GCM, the section on the 23 GCM objectives contained a probing examination into the extent to which several States have gone about integrating these objectives with their national priorities. Where possible, the report highlighted some of the promising practices as a way to encourage peer learning. However, the Report does not claim that it presents an exhaustive list of such practices and instead encourages readers to revert to the voluntary GCM reviews submitted by the Member States for the full picture. The Report also builds only on what was presented in the Member States' voluntary GCM reviews and therefore does not attempt a normative evaluation of the efficiency or the impact of those practices and examples.

Furthermore, the voluntary GCM review reports submitted by the Arab Countries articulate how a migration perspective has been taken into account when it comes to developing plans countering the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as designing longer-term national strategies and policies. Most States established platforms for implementing the GCM. However, the voluntary GCM review reports varied noticeably in the comprehensiveness of their reporting on the 23

objectives. This variation can be understood in the light of the specific migration context in each country and the capacity and preparedness of States to prepare their respective voluntary GCM reviews.

Against this backdrop, the report has further monitored the existing means of implementation as well as the missing resources that are set to shape States' capacity to implement the 23 GCM objectives. It has shown that States have extensively drawn on their national resources and the wealth of their local initiatives to create initiatives in line with the GCM, especially when it comes to generating evidence-based policies. However, several challenges are worth noting. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, countries in the region have struggled to secure the necessary and sustainable resources to manage migration holistically as envisioned by the GCM. Most have been hosting migrants in transit for considerable periods of time and almost all face concomitant geopolitical pressures and socio-economic

constraints in addition to endemic unemployment and security challenges.

Moreover, several countries have been grappling with protracted displacement amid strained and overstretched resources. It is therefore understandable that most countries require considerable investments in the institutional infrastructure needed for coordinating, managing and responding to migration challenges within and across their borders. It is also understandable that objectives such as collecting accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies and managing borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner may require substantial resources and investment in long-term capacity-building initiatives. Also, the participatory approach that the GCM calls for (and that foresees developing cooperation in migration governance across societal and local sectors) undoubtedly requires financial means and capacities that many Arab States currently reeling under economic strains do not have.

# Opportunities

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Against this backdrop, and drawing on the voluntary GCM review reports that several Arab States have developed, the report identified the following opportunities that call for a multi-level and reinforced coordination among national, regional and international partners to boost implementation of the GCM.

## **Member States can further enhance their efforts by:**

- Aligning GCM implementation efforts with national migration strategies and existing State policy frameworks with a view to developing a holistic and comprehensive GCM approach and achieving sustainable development.
- Strengthening their efforts to align the GCM with previously developed migration governance strategies.
- Boosting technical capacity for generating, utilizing and disaggregating data to develop evidence-based policies. Streamline the multitude of authorities often dealing with migration mandates.
- Encouraging national partnerships that allow civil society organizations and municipalities to develop local integration and migrant protection programmes.
- Developing sustainable national strategies that would enable countries to leverage migration to increase economic growth.
- Establishing national counter-trafficking referral mechanisms to ensure effective coordination and cooperation.

## **Regional stakeholders and other partners can further enhance their efforts by:**

- Intensifying regional data sharing and solidarity networks and optimizing experience sharing.
- Boosting research efforts which analyze best practices on the linkages between migration governance and sustainable development.

- Providing technical support to assist countries in monitoring and implementing the GCM.
- Strengthening cooperation and coordination between LAS, IOM, ESCWA, and Members of the UN Network on Migration as well as other relevant bodies to ensure the implementation of the GCM at the regional level.

## **International stakeholders and other partners can further enhance their efforts by:**

- Efficiently allocating resources enabling partnerships between Governments and civil society.
- Multiplying regional avenues for sharing best practices and understandings of the GCM.

Encouraging the establishment and consolidation of solidarity networks that would allow Arab States to reduce the adverse effects of compounding crises on the governance of migration.

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# Annex 1. Guiding template for the review of the implementation of the GCM

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## **First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region**

### **Guiding template for the review of the implementation of the GCM**

This template is in line with the UN Network on Migration proposed framework to assist Member States in conducting reviews of GCM implementation at the national level, in preparation for regional reviews. It is intended to provide an outline and elements that Member States could consider when preparing the national review. The template serves to promote consistency and comparability between reviews across regions. This review is voluntary in nature, and countries have the flexibility to adapt it to their national context and priorities.

#### **I. Methodology (*should not exceed 500 words*)**

Describe the methodology followed to prepare the national review of the GCM:

- a. Did you establish a mechanism responsible for coordinating the review? Which entities were represented in the coordination mechanism? Does it have a chair?
- b. If you did not establish a specific mechanism, who was responsible for the review?
- c. Which government entities were involved in the review process?
- d. Did you consult with local-level authorities during the review process (such as municipalities or governorates)?
- e. Did you engage with different non-governmental stakeholders (such as the private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, academia, migrant communities, etc.)? if yes, who did you engage with and how?
- f. What data was available to you to conduct the review? What difficulties did you face in obtaining the data?
- g. Were you able to review all of the objectives, or did you choose to focus on specific objectives that you consider a priority in your country? Why are they a priority?

- h. Did you receive any support from the UN country teams, and/or the UN Network on Migration to prepare for the national review?

II. Policy and enabling environment (*should not exceed 1500 words*)

- a. Has the government collaborated with different stakeholders in implementing the GCM (such as in developing migration-relevant policies, designing and implementing migration-relevant projects, encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogue, etc.)? If yes, please list the stakeholders involved (e.g recruiting agencies, migrant organizations ...).
- b. Has the government integrated GCM implementation into SDG implementation and other relevant processes? If so, how?
- c. What migration-relevant policies have you developed since the adoption of the GCM in December in 2018? Did you reform existing policies in line with the GCM? Which ones? (please provide title and date of policies) What challenges and barriers did you face in developing or reforming those policies? Did you adopt any specific policies that targeted migrants in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- d. Can you elaborate on any policies and/or provisions in policies you have developed or incorporated in relation to specific category of migrants, such as women migrant workers, child migrants, and undocumented migrants?
- e. Did you have to adopt new policies or measures as a result of regional migration dynamics, policies or measures?
- f. Did you adopt any institutional reforms to respond to the GCM (did you establish new bodies or mechanisms, or restructure existing ones? Did you change working procedures?)
- g. Are there any relevant regional, sub-regional and cross-regional strategies, frameworks, and implementation plans? How have you contributed to implementing them? What are the main gaps and challenges you face in implementing them?

III. Progress on GCM objectives (*should not exceed 2000 words*)

- a. Did your government develop implementation plans for the GCM? What is the status of implementation of the 23 objectives of the GCM?
- b. What steps has the government taken to integrate the GCM guiding principles into migration governance frameworks and GCM implementation plans?
- c. What success, challenges and gaps do you face in reaching GCM objectives? What potential risks do you foresee? How could they be addressed? Have you taken any mitigation measures? (please highlight any trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, including as impacted by regional dynamics).
- d. What are some promising practices and lessons learned that may be relevant for other countries in the region (or across regions)? Please highlight innovative policies or promising practices related to any of the objectives, especially those targeting categories of migrants who are more vulnerable. Where possible, information should be based on statistical as well as qualitative data.

IV. Means of implementation *(should not exceed 500 words)*

- a. How are you mobilizing means of implementation to ensure the achievement of the GCM objectives (for example, allocating budgets, building partnerships, collecting data, and building capacities)?
- b. What challenges do you face in mobilizing means of implementation?
- c. What additional resources do you need? Do you have a plan to mobilize them?

V. Next steps *(should not exceed 500 words)*

- a. Based on the outcomes of this review, what areas do you consider a priority? what steps are you planning to enhance the implementation of the GCM?
- b. How will the results of the review be disseminated? What additional actions will you take in preparation for the first IMRF that will be held in 2022?

## Annex 2. Member States reporting by GCM objective

GCM objective		Member States reporting <sup>a</sup>												
		ALG	BAH	COM	EGY	IRQ	JOR	KUW	LEB	LIB	MAU	MOR	QAT	TUN
1	Collect and utilize accurate disaggregated data for evidence-based policies		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	Minimize adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin	X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X	X
3	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration	X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X	X
4	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation	X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X	
5	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration		X		X			X				X		X
6	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work		X		X			X	X			X	X	X
7	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration		X		X		X	X	X			X	X	
8	Save lives and establish coordinated		X		X			X	X	X		X		

GCM objective		Member States reporting <sup>a</sup>												
		ALG	BAH	COM	EGY	IRQ	JOR	KUW	LEB	LIB	MAU	MOR	QAT	TUN
	international efforts on missing migrants													
9	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants		X		X			X	X			X		X
10	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner	X		X		X			X	X		X		
12	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral		X		X	X		X					X	
13	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives		X		X			X	X	X		X	X	
14	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle		X		X	X		X	X			X		
15	Provide access to basic services for migrants	X	X		X		X	X	X			X	X	
16	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion		X		X			X				X	X	
17	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration		X		X			X	X			X	X	



GCM objective		Member States reporting <sup>a</sup>												
		ALG	BAH	COM	EGY	IRQ	JOR	KUW	LEB	LIB	MAU	MOR	QAT	TUN
18	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences		X		X			X	X			X	X	X
19	Create conditions for migrants and citizens living abroad to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
20	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants		X		X			X	X			X	X	X
21	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration		X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X
22	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits		X		X			X				X		X
23	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration	X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X		X

Source: National voluntary GCM review reports submitted by Member States