

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Regional Review – 2020

The Arab Republic of Egypt

Introduction & Methodology

- 1- Following the endorsement of the GCM, the Government of Egypt (GoE) adopted a series of measures with a long-term vision. These measures ranged from the establishment of several mechanisms and bodies to adopting policies which aim to improve migration governance.
- 2- In November 2019, the Prime Minister issued a decree 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), Ministry of Manpower (MoM), Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP) to ensure policy coherence and mainstreaming migration at all policies. The National Committee reports on a regular basis its work to the Prime Minister. To date, the Committee has drafted three publicly available reports in January, March, and July 2020.
- 3- The review illustrates the whole-of-government and whole-of-society dimensions that have been considered during all initiatives implemented. Likewise, it has taken a human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach into account, in accordance with the GCM's Guiding Principles, paragraph 15 (f), (g) and (h). The review helped identify certain gaps that will be tackled by the government in the coming period.
- 4- The engagement and information regarding the national review has been coordinated through MoFA. The Ministry, led by the department responsible for Migration, Refugees and Combating Human Trafficking, oversaw the communication with relevant external stakeholders, whether bilaterally or through the multiple committees and institutional bodies that report to the GoE. Furthermore, MoFA relied on the existence of groups and mechanisms formed by stakeholders such as the Mixed Migration Working Group (MMWG) and the inter-ministerial Committee that was formed to facilitate the engagement of stakeholders.

Policy and enabling environment

- 5- Egypt deals with migration issues from a comprehensive and holistic approach, that is closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Sustainable Development Goals, specifically amplifying Goal 10.7.: 'Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies'. What is more, the GoE has its own national strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030, that builds on the 2030 Agenda in the aim to achieve sustainable development, social justice and a balanced, geographical and sectoral growth. Egypt Vision 2030 is aligned with those of the SDGs objectives. Although migration is not explicitly mentioned in the SDS, it referred to taking into consideration the vulnerable and marginalized groups in the society, which by extension includes migrants and refugees.
- 6- The GoE also strengthened mechanisms for collecting disaggregated, high-quality, timely and

reliable data in line with the SDGs 10: Reduced inequalities and GCM Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals, in order to enhance the availability of migration-related data that can support the creation of evidence-based policies and strategies.

- 7- Regarding COVID-19 impact and response measures, migrants have faced challenges due to the unprecedented type of the crisis for both individuals and institutions. Accordingly, the GoE put in place a series of measures to alleviate pressure on migrants. Some examples are the provision of medical health to migrants on an equal footing with Egyptians and applying flexibility in visa expiration dates, in addition to allowing migrant children to enroll in the schools for the academic year 2020-2021 without valid resident permits. These efforts fall under objective 5 of the GCM: enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- 8- Imposing exceptional restrictions on the mobility of many Egyptian migrants left international students, seasonal workers and many others stranded and required swift intervention and coordinated action from the government as it will be highlighted later in the report. The resettlement opportunities for refugees hosted by Egypt to other countries have also been affected, and the number of migrants voluntarily repatriated to the countries of origin has been affected by the irregularity of flights as well as the travel restrictions.
- 9- The GoE has, in the last two years, proved its willingness to push and integrate migration matters further on the regional and international scene. Some examples are; the Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration 'Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region' in Cairo on the 3rd and 4th of December 2019; the Capacity-building Workshop on Migration Governance in the Arab Region also in Cairo on the 5th December 2019; held with Migration Focal Points from Arab States including Egypt, co-organized by IOM, ESCWA and the League of Arab States; the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development held on December 2019 to discuss the achievement of sustainable development in Africa, with forced displacements and migration governance as one of the topics included. Other examples of international events were the successful hosting of the International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) held in January 2020 in Cairo with the participation of more than 800 international representatives. Additionally, Egypt is an active member on seven Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms (ISCMs) on migration at the regional and global level. These are the Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) that was hosted in Cairo in September 2019, the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM), the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU HoAI), the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process) and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Progress on GCM objectives

- 10- Since the endorsement of the GCM, the GoE has intensified its endeavors in the governance of migration, in addressing the challenges associated with today's migration, and strengthening the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. Egypt approaches migration issues with a comprehensive strategic view covering all stages of migration; considering its status as a country of origin, transit, and destination. With Egypt as transit and destination country. Cooperation with the countries of origin of irregular migrants has been an essential component of the national policy to address root causes or irregular migration through supporting development-stability nexus in these countries or building the technical capacities of law enforcement agencies particularly in African countries.

Furthermore, as Egypt is also a country of origin, the GoE emphasizes on the necessity to youth's skills upgrading and enhancing their employability in accordance with the needs of national and global markets and encourages inter-governmental coordination regarding labour migration and

mobility. In addition, the government prioritizes international cooperation for facilitating migrants' access to labour markets in a fair and ethical manner that impedes their exploitation and positively utilizes their skills to contribute to development.

Status of the implementation of all GCM 23 objectives:

1. *Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as basis for evidence-base policies.*

- ✓ Egypt believes in the importance of having timely and reliable data to support human mobility and labor markets demands based on a rights-based approach, in addition to understanding drivers of irregular migration.
- ✓ The GoE established the Migration Data Analysis Unit (MDAU) at Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), in 2017 with an aim to carry out research and cater for migration data gaps. MDAU focuses on producing an analysis of key migration statistics collected by the government to support the development of evidence-based policy and enhance migration governance.
- ✓ A presidential decree to establish a national data base of expatriates was issued in September 2018 to guide the decisions regarding migration governance and to track migrants abroad to ensure they are registered with respective embassies.
- ✓ Examples of MDAU capacity building efforts included the following collaborations: In February 2019, senior officials from different government counterparts including MoSEEEA, NCCPIM&TiP, the Institute of Statistical Studies and Research (ISSR), among others, attended workshops at CAPMAS on irregular migration data. These workshops were organized in collaboration with IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDAC). The workshops tackled the methodologies on data collection and analysis for policy development, theories and definitions of irregular migration, international sources for migration data, and data trends in the MENA region.
- ✓ In September 2019, CAPMAS specialists were trained on the technicalities and the methodologies of designing data on Household International Migration Survey (HIMS) for Egypt, with the aim of overcoming data shortage problem on international migration nationally and regionally.
- ✓ Egypt hosted the fifth African Forum on Migration, in September 2019, that focused on migration data in the continent and emphasized the importance of harmonizing methodologies and definitions, as well as building capacities of national statistical institutions in the area of migration data and statistics.
- ✓ In January 2020, Egypt hosted the second International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS), the largest global forum dedicated for migration statistics, which aimed to mobilize expertise from a wide range of disciplines such as statistics, economics, demography, sociology, geospatial science, and information technology. It further aimed to support and improve the collection and analysis of migration data worldwide, by bringing together a broad range of participants to share and to discuss new data initiatives and examples of success in the field of migration data. The Forum was attended by António Vitorino, Director General of IOM and explored innovative ways to measure population mobility and to generate timely statistics.
- ✓ The NCCPIM&TiP designed a map to identify Egyptian governorates with the highest rates of irregular migration including exit/departure and sending governorates, in order to focus on enhancing awareness and economic development in these governorates and measure the impact of the efforts and activities in them.

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

origin.

- ✓ The government is keen to ensure that the decisions of migration are neither taken out of choice nor desperation. Therefore, the Egypt Vision 2030 adopted by the government aims at creating job opportunities and achieving sustainable development.
- ✓ From 2017-2018, the GoE implemented a set of projects at the least developed governorates to generate income, create job opportunities, and to support vulnerable communities through environmentally sustainable interventions that both provide basic access to medical services, and access to temporary employment opportunities.
- ✓ Led by the Ministry of Manpower (MoM), since 2018, several Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) have been refurbished and equipped in governorates with populations at higher risk of migration, to provide with alternatives and higher employability levels.
- ✓ NCCPIM&TiP is working on identifying and collecting job opportunities and entrepreneurship for youth and publishing them in their webpage, as part of creating alternatives for all the people who are losing their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ NCCPIM&TiP is monitoring the implementation of initiatives by MSMEDA to provide alternatives to youths by training them, increasing their skills, and creating job opportunities.
- ✓ The National Committee established a working group consisting of the concerned authorities to discuss ways to provide job opportunities in the public and/or private sector; to enable access to information on such openings through publishing on its website and line ministries.
- ✓ The National Committee cooperated with the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) in creating and supporting job opportunities for small entrepreneurs in a way that contributes to protecting them from various forms of exploitation. Efforts included organizing exhibitions for selling products by youth.
- ✓ Egypt adopted a number of national initiatives, campaigns and projects such as “A decent life”, “Takaful and Karama”, and “100 million health care” for the vulnerable groups, with the aim of improving the economic and social level of Egyptian families.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the government continues to work on the implementation of mega projects in main sending governorates of irregular migration, mainly focused on creating jobs.

3. Provide accurate and timely information to all stages of migration.

- ✓ Egypt is enhancing the registration of Egyptians abroad in the embassies and consulates to ensure accessibility to consular help and update information.
- ✓ All embassies and consulates abroad received training and guidelines on identifying and providing help to victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants.
- ✓ The MoM provides pre-departure awareness and the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) established an application of social media to connect the expats with the ministry.
- ✓ As part of its 2016-2021 national strategy, training courses are provided by the NCCPIM&TiP as well as awareness raising activities on safe migration practices, risks associated with irregular migration and positive alternatives to irregular migration.
- ✓ In May 2018, NCCPIM&TiP launched a musical campaign in counter smuggling efforts, shedding light on the suffering of migrants’ families. The song used reached more than 10.5 million people. During the same year, NCCPIM&TiP also implemented community outreach programs on irregular migration, which targeted children aged 12-18 in the six highest sending governorates.
- ✓ NCCPIM&TiP also delivered a series of workshops aims at enhancing the capacity of Egyptian NGOs and grassroots organizations on raising awareness of irregular migration in the governorates

with the highest number of migrants.

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

- ✓ The Egyptian consulates and embassies abroad are responsible for issuing and renewing all identity documents for the Egyptian migrants abroad.
- ✓ Passports Sector at the Ministry of Interior issues “smart residence cards” using advanced technological systems by which permissions for foreigners to stay in the country are being issued. The smart card enables migrants to access governmental and non-governmental services easily and conveniently.
- ✓ The GoE, in collaboration with IOM, maintains a close relation with foreign embassies and consulates to ensure that migrants have valid documentation, including facilitating the issuance of new passports and travel documents.

5. *Enhance availability and flexibility on pathways for regular migration.*

- ✓ Egypt signed several bilateral agreements to enhance legal pathways for labor mobility.
- ✓ Education reform takes place to ensure the connection between skills and labor market needs.
- ✓ The ministries of education and higher education are working to ensure recognition of skills to minimize skill loss and gaps of skills.

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

- ✓ Egypt is signatory to most international conventions that includes fair and ethical standards of recruitment. The Ministry of Manpower is mandated by law to inspect all enterprises to make sure that the workers and employees enjoy their rights and that their contracts recognize the entitlements stipulated in the national legislation.
- ✓ The NCCPIM is mandated to strengthen the capabilities of labor inspectors at the Ministry of Manpower on international labor standards, the protection of workers, especially women and vulnerable groups such as of migrants and people of determination.
- ✓ A legislative review of the Egyptian legal frameworks governing recruitment was conducted. It concluded the conformity between laws on recruitment and the international standards of ethical recruitment.
- ✓ The Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) has started collaborations with different international organizations, prominent Egyptian private sector entities and representatives to hold sessions on knowledge exchange on corporate responsibility, ethical recruitment, and sound business practices regarding workers’ protection.

7. *Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.*

- ✓ The legal framework in Egypt criminalizes the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. It emphasizes the importance of extending all support to the victims and the protection of victims.
- ✓ The GoE allocated shelters to host vulnerable Egyptian women and girls at-risk and Victims of Trafficking (VoTs). The shelter is an inter-ministerial effort that will help realize the national strategy to prevent and respond to protection needs of the victims. The shelter supports the rehabilitation efforts of the government towards the victims and strengthen the national protection framework.
- ✓ The Ministry of Social Solidarity has sought out to build capacity of over 100 social workers and their supervisors on trafficking in persons, the training will support the social workers to better identify and respond to needs of victims and those at-risk of trafficking.

- ✓ In 2018, the National Council for Childhood & Motherhood (NCCM) and the National Council for Women (NCW) expended its hotline response to become more accessible to victims and those at-risk of trafficking. This included a full capacity building programme to ensure the hotlines and their operators are well-equipped to respond to needs of callers. This step is expected to strengthen the government's identification efforts to reach more of those in need.

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

- ✓ Egypt succeeded in halting irregular migration from its shores to Europe since September 2016 by strengthening its border management mechanisms, in addition to building capacities of rescue operations.
- ✓ H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi launched the 'Survival Boats' Initiative that aims to contribute to the ongoing national efforts to stop irregular migration from Egypt.
- ✓ In 2019 Egypt hosted an Expert meeting on Search and Rescue Practices, which was attended by key international stakeholders from Austria and Italy, as well as government representatives from Egypt and other countries in the MENA region. The workshop enabled exchange of best practices between key national actors and fostered and harmonized national capacities to coordinate search and rescue operations in the region.

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

- ✓ Egypt ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in 2004 and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2005), supplementing UNTOC.
- ✓ The Egyptian law no. 82/2016 on combating smuggling of migrants and irregular migration, punishes the perpetrators of this crime and ensures providing help to the victims. The NCCP&TIP developed a National Strategy on Combating Illegal Migration for the period (2016-2026), as well as biannual Plans of Actions.
- ✓ Egypt is a member of the Khartoum Process and has held its first chairmanship upon establishment. Egypt is amongst the core countries of the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative under the Khartoum process.
- ✓ Egypt hosted the in September 2018 the African-European Conference on Judicial Cooperation in Sharm El-Sheikh, where participating parties declared strong commitment to sharing information, best practices and enhancing judicial cooperation in prosecuting trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling crimes.
- ✓ Throughout 2019, the Ministry of Interior provided, in cooperation with IOM, trainings on law enforcement to ensure laws on these crimes are properly enforced and the perpetrators are prosecuted.
- ✓ Egypt hosted in November 2019 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 migration routes (through central and western Mediterranean).

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

- ✓ The GoE has been a constant promoter of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) since its ratification back on 5 March 2004.

- ✓ Since 2016, the GoE is implementing the 2016-2021 National strategy for Combating Trafficking in Persons, in line with the Law No. 64 of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking and the Law No. 82 for 2016 on combating irregular migration and smuggling of migrants.
- ✓ Since 2017, the NCCPIM&TiP conducted more than 92 trainings to enhance the capacity of Egyptian agencies working on combating trafficking in persons & smuggling of migrants. These trainings aimed at strengthening the understanding of trafficking and protection of victims and shed light on the ethical considerations when reporting on victims of trafficking.
- ✓ Since 2019, the NCCPIM and National Council on Woman have been working to expand their hotline response, in order to be more accessible to victims and those at-risk of trafficking. This includes a full capacity building programme to ensure the hotlines and their operators are well-equipped to respond to the needs of the callers. Such a step is expected to strengthen the government's identification efforts to reach more of those in need.
- ✓ The GoE, in cooperation with IOM Egypt and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), provided training courses to law enforcement officials, NGOs and civil society representatives on Counter-Trafficking laws and mechanisms, Countering Trafficking in Persons, and Providing Protection for Victims in Egypt.
- ✓ In cooperation with IOM, the Government of Egypt has started preparations for one shelter for female Victims of Trafficking as well as strengthened and expanded the hotline network for referral of trafficking cases. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the NCCPIM&TiP in coordination with IOM Egypt, developed a number of national awareness raising campaigns on human trafficking and adopted.
- ✓ NCCPIM&TiP conducted Training of Trainers to enlarge its networks of experts for the aims of sustainability.
- ✓ The Aware Migrants campaign launched by the Italian government in 2016 with the aim of raising awareness among potential African migrants about the dangers they will be exposed to across the Sahara and the Mediterranean through accounts of former immigrants, and has been translated into the languages of the African Union and local African languages

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

- ✓ Positive progress has been made on border control, especially at the Mediterranean shores since 2016.
- ✓ According to the Ministries of Defense and Interior, as well as the European Border Control Agency (FRONTEX), no irregular immigration boats were recorded from the Egyptian borders since September 2016.

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

- ✓ NCCPIM&TiP is currently reviewing, in cooperation with IOM, the national investigation guidelines "Guidelines on Collecting Evidence, Investigation and Prosecuting Crimes of Human Trafficking and Victim Protection within the Context of the Law" this is being done in cooperation with the relevant authorities. Validation workshops/trainings will be conducted upon the finalization of the revision of the national guidelines.

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

- ✓ The Egyptian law on irregular migration does not penalizes the migrant, and according to its 2010 and 2016 laws, it differentiates between the smuggler/trafficker and migrant. The Egyptian government in cooperation with IOM, works to promote the voluntary return of migrants. However, more effort in this regard needs to be exerted given the increase of migration influx

from Africa to Egypt.

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

- ✓ All Egyptian migrants receive consular support and services regardless of their legal statuses. Employees in the embassies and consulates are trained to provide all needed help to the migrants from Egypt.
- ✓ Migrants in Egypt can access their embassies in Cairo when they wish for routine or emergency support.

15. Provide access to basic services for migrants.

- ✓ The Egyptian Government provides primary health care to all foreign residents.
- ✓ Almost 65,000 Arabic-speaking immigrants and refugees' children are offered free pre-university education.
- ✓ In light of the consequences of COVID-19 and the difficulties it has caused, especially in renewing residency permits, the Minister of Education decided to exempt children from the prerequisite of having a valid residency permit for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- ✓ Article 15 of the executive regulations of Law 82 of 2016 stipulates that relevant ministries and national bodies take appropriate measures to guarantee migrants' rights such as the right to life and physical, moral and psychological integrity; and the right to preserve their personal inviolability and identity; and the right to inform them of the relevant administrative, legal and judicial procedures, access to information related to it, especially with regard to legal aid, Provided that this is done in a language that can be understood, taking into account the type and gender of the smuggled migrant, while ensuring special attention to women and children; and the right to request contact with the diplomatic or consular representative of their countries and inform him of their status to receive possible assistance in this regard.
- ✓ Including migrants in the 100 Million Healthy lives Initiative for the early detection and treatment of Hepatitis C, recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a positive initiative.
- ✓ Access to preventive health services (masks and protective equipment) and food services to migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic was provided, with support from international organizations.
- ✓ The new law of Health Insurance included migrants to benefit from health insurance.
- ✓ Further, The GoE welcomes the efforts of national and international organizations that focus on increasing access to basic services including health care, housing and education and improving livelihood opportunities to migrants and Egyptian hosting communities.

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

- ✓ Egypt is a signatory to the international Convention on migrants and their families.
- ✓ The GoE does not impose restrictions on the movement of migrants. It has cooperated with IOM in a series of community events to promote social cohesion and wellbeing of citizens, with a focus on youth. An example of these events was in the linkages between trafficking and sports targeting youth at risk of irregular migration.

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

- ✓ Egypt is a signatory to almost all fundamental human rights instruments that emphasizes the

elimination of all forms of discrimination. The Egyptian Constitution and legal framework stipulate equality, criminalizes any act of hatred or discrimination, and protects the victims-

- ✓ NCCPIM&TIP, among other national bodies, delivered campaigns to raise awareness in an ongoing basis on migration-related topics such as counter trafficking and its different forms, promotion of available reporting mechanisms.
- ✓ The National Council for Women established a helpline to report any crimes committed against women in Egypt regardless of being a citizen or a migrant.
- ✓ The GoE has encouraged the participation of private sector representatives in roundtables to discuss challenges and opportunities of migration, with the aim of informing and fostering discussions to change perceptions on migration.
- ✓ NCCPIM&TIP provided training for media on trafficking in persons.

18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualification and competences.

- ✓ The Ministry of Manpower expanded the development of Vocational Training Centers (VCTs) to enhance the skills and employability of young Egyptians and migrants. Through the refurbishment of multiple VTCs, the GoE has been investing in employment creation for youth in different sectors.
- ✓ National universities signed agreements with international counterparts to grant their graduates dual certificates; one from an Egyptian University and the other from an international university (for example, the Faculty of Law - the French Department, where the graduate is granted a BA from Cairo University and the other from the Sorbonne University).

19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.

- ✓ The Ministry of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs is working on a National Policy on Migration Governance together with the Egyptian Expatriate Engagement Strategy and Action Plan. This document represents Egypt's first national policy on migration governance, providing the framework for a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to migration governance and expatriates engagement in development.
- ✓ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of State for Migration and Egyptian Expatriates cooperate in communicating with the Egyptian communities abroad to ensure their continuous linkage to their motherland.
- ✓ Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Investment are also keen on highlighting available investment opportunities in Egypt, and on maintaining regular communication with Egyptians abroad to strengthen their relationship with the country and to support their cultural, social and economic contribution to sustainable development.
- ✓ As part of national efforts of the GoE in promoting linkages with expatriates abroad, IOM Egypt started collaborating with the Government of Egypt to develop tools to provide information for Egyptian migrants abroad wishing to invest in their country of origin.
- ✓ In addition, Egyptians abroad have the right to vote in parliamentary and presidential elections.

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

- ✓ The Government of Egypt is among the countries with the least cost for remittance transfer. The Central Bank monitors this cost so that it does not exceed 3%.

- ✓ The government of Egypt has been working to ensure financial inclusion and put forward mechanisms for enhancing remittance transaction flows and information transparency, as well as increase access of remittance flows to isolated and vulnerable communities across Egypt.
- ✓ Egypt is one of the first countries to join the International Call to Action: “Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep Them Flowing” when launched in May 2020. This initiative is spearheaded by the Embassy of Switzerland and the Embassy of the United Kingdom, in order to mitigate and combat the negative socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, on migrants and the local economy. The Call to Action is designed to highlight the vital role that remittances play in supporting hundreds of millions of people around the world, and to generate momentum around a number of important measures that can keep remittances flows moving in the crisis. Among the first countries to join the call are Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and Jordan.

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

- ✓ Egyptian government is committed to providing all means of support to its citizens abroad to facilitate their return; Egyptian embassies and consulates cooperate abroad to issue the necessary documents to return to Egypt, if not available.
- ✓ Egypt has also concluded a number of bilateral agreements to facilitate the return of Egyptian migrants abroad.
- ✓ Egypt facilitated the return of Egyptians stranded abroad and Egyptian immigrants during COVID-19 outbreak. The Prime Minister issued a decree to establish a national committee to take all the required measures to facilitate the return of the Egyptian expatriates from abroad, and the Ministry of State for Migration and Egyptian Expatriates adopted the "Welcome Home" initiative that aims at receiving the Egyptian expatriates who lost their jobs, and help them get job opportunities in Egypt.
- ✓ The GoE cooperate with IOM Egypt’s Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme, which has helped it become one of the largest AVRR programmes across North Africa. Together with the AVRR services, pre-departure medical screenings, pre- and post- arrival medical and surgical interventions and medical escorts were provided.
- ✓ The GoE, through IOM’s Family Assistant Programme (FAP), facilitates the reunification of families of vulnerable migrant who are compelled to leave their country.

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

- ✓ Egypt has bilateral agreement with several countries to ensure the portability of social security entitlements.

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

- ✓ Egypt believes that effective migration management requires coordination and cooperation between countries of destination, origin and transit, and is keen to cooperate with other countries and with international institutions to maximize the benefits of migration and reduce potential risks.
- ✓ Egypt is currently a member of five ISCMs. These are the Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFOM), the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM), the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU HoAI), the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process) in which Egypt is a core country, and finally the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

- ✓ In the area of labour migration, for example, four workshops were held in 2019 with focus on labor mobility, including two regional workshops, one on ethical recruitment. In addition, national workshops are planned to support the Government's plan of action for managing labour migration.
- ✓ In May 2018, IOM Egypt and the GoE facilitated a study visit to Belgium for a delegation from relevant governmental stakeholders that aimed at familiarizing the delegation with counter-trafficking coordination arrangements in Belgium and victim protection mechanisms.
- ✓ Egypt hosted the first Regional Forum for Knowledge Exchange and Cooperation among National Coordinating bodies to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling along the Central and Western Mediterranean Migration Routes, where 18 African countries participated.
- ✓ It also held the Africa-Europe Prosecutors conference on International Judicial Cooperation on Investigating and Prosecution of TiP and SoM. 25 general prosecutors participated.
- ✓ NCCPIM&TiP launched and implemented the ITEPA Project, a Joint Egyptian-Italian project to conduct a series of workshops to train police from 22 African countries in combating human trafficking and irregular migration. Other trainings were also given to African officials on combating irregular migration.
- ✓ The GoE established in 2019 a Migration Affairs committee to tackle and coordinate all migration-related matters. The establishment of the committee came as a response to the recommendations of joint UNCT Egypt Report in the context of Egypt's third UPR cycle.
- ✓ The government of Egypt participated in the Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Implementation and Policy Implications for the Arab Region in Cairo on the 3rd and 4th of December 2019 and the Capacity-building Workshop on Migration Governance in the Arab Region also in Cairo on the 5th December 2019; held with Migration Focal Points from Arab States including Egypt, co-organized by IOM, ESCWA and the League of Arab States.
- ✓ The government of Egypt also actively participated in the two Capacity Building Workshop on the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region on 25 June 2020 and 14 August 2020, together with the representatives from 14 other Arab Member States, co-organized online by IOM, ESCWA and the League of Arab States in cooperation with the Regional UN Network on Migration.

Means of implementation

- a. The mobilization of the means of implementation are varied in nature. These depend on the specificities of the objective in mind and the implementing body. Throughout the implementation phase, the GoE identified the need for an enhancement of capacity in several sectors – data collection and analysis being one of the most crucial and cross-cutting ones. In this light, the government led the creation of 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 migration data by conducting periodic assessments and data collection exercises to produce updated and accurate statistics on migration issues to support the development of evidence-based policy and enhance migration management in Egypt.

As per the information used in the process of implementation, the government has primarily relied on existing sources at the national and local level. It has also made use of the already mentioned mechanisms such as the Migration Affairs Committee for the advancement of the review.

Next steps

- a. At the regional level and drawing from the issues identified during the national review, the GoE

aims at prioritizing a series of key action points. The country envisions a prioritization of a more cohesive set of policies for host countries of migrants, together with strengthening international support. The constant influx of migrants who flee wars and political instability in some neighboring countries and reside in Egypt without seeking protection as refugees can place a societal, political and economic burden for the host nations. The international community and the global efforts to improve migration governance often lack coherent policies that create common ground for understanding differences between origin, transit and destination countries. It stresses the importance to provide countries with higher number of migrants proportionally to the resident population - which are often the ones at the front line of the migratory flows.

Likewise, the role of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the African Union may be enhanced in the coordination of the GCM implementation, and the exchange of best practices, knowledge and information between various countries in the region. A proposal for the latter can be found earlier in this review, where stronger research networks are needed, in order to create a solid and well-functioning exchange flow of data and information across countries. Examples of this have been mentioned such as the African Migration Observatory in Morocco.

Another priority for Egypt is the expansion of regular pathways for migration and labor mobility schemes and opportunities at the regional and global level. This action would also contribute to the intensification of regional counter smuggling and counter trafficking efforts as well as the promotion of fair and ethical recruitment and employment practices. Supportive actions include: Signing the executive contract for the Egyptian German Center for Jobs, Immigration and Reintegration, which will provide pre-departure training and development of vocational and professional capabilities and the German language to absorb Egyptian youth in the German labor market and reintegrate irregular immigrants after returning to their homeland. Also, more focus will be given to enhance the capabilities of officials to collect and analyze external job opportunities and the skills required for work, and work to prepare a training program TOT for a number of the officials to direct pre-departure, in addition to making guidance guides and brochures on labor migration and special travel procedures in each country, through the implementation of the National Committee for a project to strengthen immigration management through institutional support.

Given the transnational nature of migration flows and acknowledging that no country alone can manage them effectively without cooperation with other involved nations, Egypt stresses the importance for the MENA countries, and by extension for the rest of world, to solidify cooperation and participation on migration management notably through capacity buildings and knowledge and lessons learned exchanges.

From the NCCPIM&TiP's side, the plans programmed to further enhance the implementation of the GCM, include a follow up on the implementation of recommendations on the Regional Forum for Knowledge Exchange and Cooperation among National Coordinating bodies to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling along the Central and Western Mediterranean Migration Routes. It also plans to increase the number of trainings, workshops and awareness sessions given to stakeholders, both nationally and at the continental level.