

REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING ON PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL
COMPACT FOR SAFE ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION (GCM) IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Member states recognise that in the region, poverty remains a key driver of human mobility including of irregular migration. Thus, sustainable solutions for irregular migration lie in addressing the economic status of citizens in

Recommendations:

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- Member states encouraged to regard migration as a positive contributor to development while at the same time giving due attention to security considerations
- Member states encouraged to develop clear standard operating procedures on identification, support and referral for migrants with protection related concerns

Objective 8 of the GCM: Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

Member states reported having established dedicated institutional arrangements that address the problem of missing migrants.

Recommendations:

- Member states encouraged to work alongside embassies as well as Ministries of Foreign Affairs and relevant agencies, in cases where embassies are not available
- Member states encouraged to establish a joint taskforce to address issue of missing migrants, and to coordinate linkages with relevant international institutions such as Interpol

Objective 9 of the GCM: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

Members states noted the lack of harmonised legislation on smuggled persons in the region poses a key challenge. In some states, smuggled persons are regarded as victims, while in other states they are regarded as criminals.

Recommendations:

- Member states encouraged to make coordinated efforts at harmonising laws, policutional arrang

Objective 12 of the GCM: Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

Member states acknowledged that addressing protection issues in migration requires a holistic approach. As such member states have made commendable efforts at various levels. However, member states indicated funding to be a major constraint to ensuring effective protection.

Recommendations:

- Member states encouraged to increase capacity building for all border staff
- Member states encouraged to establish clear national referral mechanisms, for instance in the case of identification and protection for unaccompanied and separated child migrants
- Member states encouraged to strengthen regional information sharing mechanisms specifically for migrants. This will aid instances of cross border return interventions
- Member states encouraged to seek support from partners such as IOM, Red Cross and Red Crescent to assist with cross border tracing and return for migrants
- Member states encouraged to increase funding allocation in addition to increase resource mobilization efforts to support screening, assessment and referral interventions

Objective 13 of the GCM: Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

The prevalence of irregular migrants in transit was reported by several member states. These member states reported that these migrants are held in detention centres, separate from convicted offenders in prisons.

Members discussed this objective in relation to objective 9.

Recommendations:

- Member states urged to harmonise laws, policy and practice around the handling of migrants in irregular situations

Objective 14 of the GCM: Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

Member states jointly highlighted the important role that consular offices played in the protection and assistance of migrants during the COVID 19 situation.

Recommendations:

- Member states urged to increase financial and human capacity in the consular offices

Objective 15 of the GCM: Provide access to basic services for migrants

Member states shared be(7s-92 re6.0.05f*em))JTIT0249456.7 0.2 ref* EMC /P /MCID 12-BDC q0.00008883(-)-1

Objective 16 of the GCM: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

Member states discussed implementation of this objective in conjunction with objective 16 above.

Recommendations:

- Member states urged to ensure that migrants are not discriminated upon or omitted in social services and programmes

Objective 17 of the GCM: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

Member states acknowledged that implementing this objective is a key component of achieving an all-inclusive approach to service delivery to migrants.

Recommendation:

- Member states urged to ensure that the 'people-centredness' of GCM is upheld

Objective 18 of the GCM: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

Members reported various actions under this objective. For example, establishing national qualifications authorities, and harmonising national qualification frameworks to the SADC qualification framework.

Recommendation:

- Member states encouraged to align their qualification assessment frameworks to the regional SADC qualification framework and work towards mutual recognition of qualifications.
- Member states to consider utilising the UNESCO qualification passport
- Member states urged to consider establishment of a regime to recognise informal skills, as majority of labour migration in the region is in the informal sector

Objective 19 of the GCM: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

Member states reported to have implemented various interventions to enhance various diaspora engagements, such as incentives for returning diaspora and enacting national diaspora engagement policies. A number of member states have also implemented diaspora mapping exercises as part of efforts to understand the location, needs and size of diaspora communities to inform evidence-based diaspora engagement.

Recommendations:

- Member states encouraged to conduct a skills audit to identify the categories of skills available within the diaspora in order to deliberately leverage the available skills
- Member states encouraged to clearly inform members of the diaspora on the mechanisms and pathways available for them to effectively contribute to the wealth generation and development of their countries of origin

Objective 20 of the GCM: Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

Member states reported a number of measures that were undertaken to ease transfer of remittances. For instance, some states recognised money exchange as an essential service during the COVID 19 pandemic to allow migrants to transfer remittances.

Recommendations:

- Member states urged to consider strategies to reduce transaction costs so that migrants can have increased incentive to remit funds back home

Objective 21 of the GCM: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

Member states highlighted that bilateral engagement is key in facilitating safe, dignified and faster returns, in addition to providing support upon reintegration.

Recommendations:

- Member states urged to put in place strategies, policies and programs on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR)
- Member states encouraged to coordinate with countries of origin to find durable solutions to facilitate safe and dignified returns, readmissions and sustainable reintegration

Objective 22 of the GCM: Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

Member states reported having put in place labour migration policies and social protection policies that also address portability of social benefits.

Recommendations:

- Member states encouraged to ratify relevant international instruments in addition to implementing labour migration policies.
- Member states encouraged to enter into bilateral aBT/F2 11.04f7 1 182.06 320.69 Tm0 G(enco)-(4)3(rag)0