

**Seventy-ninth session**

Agenda item 13

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration****Report of the Secretary-General****Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, drawing on the United Nations Network on Migration, to report to it biennially on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the activities of the United Nations system in this regard and the functioning of the institutional arrangements. The report is focused on progress made since the previous report of the Secretary-General in 2021 ([A/76/642](#)). It also responds to the request by the Assembly in its resolution [76/266](#) of 7 June 2022, by which it endorsed the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, for the Secretary-General to propose a limited set of indicators to assist in the review of progress in the implementation of the Compact and a strategy for improving disaggregated migration data (para. 70) and to provide actionable recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress (para. 76). The present report builds on the written inputs from and consultations with Member States, stakeholders and United Nations entities. The drafting of the report was overseen by the Network's Executive Committee.

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



I. Introduction

1. Human mobility is central to today's major global transformations. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration has proven to be invaluable in guiding national and collective approaches to migration governance, including in response to challenges such as climate change, the post-pandemic recovery and accelerating efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. This framework for international cooperation is needed now more than ever, as reflected by participating States and stakeholders at the International Migration Review Forum held in May 2022.

2. At the Forum, participating States renewed their commitment to the Compact, emphasizing the importance of cooperative approaches to meet the challenges and harness the opportunities of migration. They acknowledged that facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration not only protects migrants but also promotes development. The critical contribution of migrants and migration to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was reiterated at the Summit of the Future in 2024 and in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit), held in 2023.

3. Since the previous report (A/76/642), many States and stakeholders have strengthened their rights-based and people-centred migration governance, thus offering promising practices for others. In the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/266, Heads of State and Government and high representatives committed to accelerate the implementation of the Compact, in line with its 360-degree vision, guiding principles and comprehensive approach, recognizing that greater efforts are needed to develop ambitious national responses. They further requested recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress to prevent loss of life in transit and the development of a limited set of indicators to assist Member States in conducting inclusive reviews of progress related to the implementation of the Compact. The United Nations Network on Migration has responded to these requests in section III and the annex to the present report.

4. Efforts to save the lives and protect the human rights of migrants must be rapidly scaled up. Current safe and regular migration pathways have failed to respond to migration trends, often pushing migrants towards hazardous and irregular routes, leaving them vulnerable to violence, exploitation, abuse and even death.¹ Notably, over the past decade, 2023 has been the deadliest year for migrants on these routes.² Adverse drivers of migration and development challenges continue to compel people to move within and across borders. Migration issues cut across the humanitarian and development spectrum and must be considered in relevant instruments and forums, including the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forum and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Demographic changes, economic shifts and labour market trends will affect labour migration dynamics. Labour migration can serve as a climate adaptation

¹ Marie McAuliffe and Linda Adhiambo Oucho, eds., *World Migration Report 2024* (Geneva, International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2024).

² Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, "A decade of documenting migrant deaths: data analysis and reflection on deaths during migration documented by IOM's Missing Migrants Project, 2014–2023", 2024.

strategy and contribute to a just transition,³ while technological advancements are creating new employment opportunities and reshaping recruitment practices. These developments will not, however, meet their potential unless labour migration pathways are rights-based, regular and well-governed. The adoption of labour migration frameworks and agreements is encouraging, but the effective implementation thereof will be key to preventing abusive practices such as unfair recruitment, exploitation and trafficking in persons. These issues contribute to the prevalence of forced labour among migrant workers, which is three times higher than among national workers.⁴

6. We cannot achieve the goal of “leaving no one behind” without upholding and protecting the human rights of all migrants and their families, irrespective of their status. Dehumanizing and divisive narratives on migrants and migration have featured in many recent elections, with migrants cast as scapegoats for broader societal problems and fears. The Global Compact for Migration offers a powerful counter-narrative through which migrants are recognized as rights holders and their significant and diverse contributions to our communities are emphasized. The Compact serves to promote balanced, evidence-based dialogue and decision-making and advocate for rights-based and people-centred approaches to migration governance as the most effective means of delivering the best outcomes for all. An overview of global data and trends is provided in box 1.

Box 1

Global data and trends

- There were an estimated 281 million international migrants at the end of 2020, representing 3.6 per cent of the world’s population.^a
- Almost 68,000 deaths or disappearances during migration have been recorded since 2014, including some 8,500 in 2023, although many more go unrecorded.^b
- In 2019, there were an estimated 169 million migrant workers worldwide, including 70 million women.^c
- Remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached an estimated \$656 billion in 2023, surpassing foreign direct investment and overseas development assistance.^d
- There were 35.5 million international child migrants in 2020.^e
- Data from 150 countries show that there were 450,000 victims of trafficking between 2003 and 2021 (60 per cent of whom were women). Children account for 35 per cent of all identified victims of trafficking.^f

³ IOM, “Harnessing labour migration to respond to the climate crisis: policy recommendations for labour migration as an adaptation strategy and contribution to green transitions”, January 2024.

⁴ International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM and Walk Free, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* (Geneva, 2022).

- By the end of 2023, 117.3 million people were displaced globally, of which 68.3 million were internally displaced due to conflict and violence,^g including 28.1 million children.^h

^a Marie McAuliffe and Linda Adhiambo Oucho, eds., *World Migration Report 2024*. According to the Statistical Commission, the operational definition of “international migrants” includes refugees and others in need of international protection.

^b See <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/data>.

^c International Labour Organization, *ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology* (Geneva, 2021).

^d Dilip Ratha and others, *Remittances Slowed in 2023, Expected to Grow Faster in 2024* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2024).

^e United Nations Children’s Fund, “9 facts about children on the move: 2024 update”, 2024.

^f *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022* (United Nations publication, 2022).

^g The figure does not include persons who are internally displaced as a result of climate change and disasters.

^h Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, “Global trends: forced displacement in 2023”, June 2024.

II. Progress on implementation

7. States are increasingly integrating migration as a cross-cutting issue in national development plans and other relevant frameworks. The Global Compact for Migration was referenced in 21 per cent of the voluntary national reviews prepared by States for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023, which is an increase from 9 per cent in 2022, and the discussion of migration in voluntary national reviews has become more frequent and substantive. The United Nations Network on Migration published a tool to support the integration of the Compact into voluntary national reviews, voluntary local reviews and voluntary subnational reviews of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. The number of States involved in the “champion countries” initiative grew to 35. They worked together to deepen and expand the implementation of the Compact, generating promising practices, facilitating peer learning, strengthening regional and cross-regional dialogue and ensuring migration was well reflected across United Nations forums.

9. The present section provides an overview of the promising practices for advancing the implementation of the 23 objectives and guiding principles contained in the Compact. It is structured into five thematic areas reflecting the inputs from States and the 360-degree approach in the Compact. Further examples are available through the Migration Network Hub Repository of Practices.

A. Enhancing regular migration pathways and minimizing adverse drivers

10. Migration should be a choice, not a necessity. In the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, Heads of State and Government and high representatives committed to enhance and diversify the availability of safe and regular migration pathways, which are flexible and respond to human rights, development and humanitarian needs and other considerations, including labour market realities, and to uphold the principle of the best interests of the child, family life and

reunification and the protection needs of victims of trafficking in persons and gender-based violence, as well as migrants in other situations of vulnerability. They also reiterated the need for enhanced cooperative efforts to address structural factors that compel people to migrate, including the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, underdevelopment and a lack of access to quality education and sustainable livelihoods.⁵

11. While progress has been made in adopting measures to regularize migrants, such measures often grant only temporary stay status with limited access to labour markets and basic services (A/HRC/53/26). In 2022, 22 countries in the western hemisphere endorsed the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, thus committing to expand regular migration pathways. Canada and the United States of America launched the Safe Mobility Initiative in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala, offering pathways for migration through family reunification, humanitarian parole, special sponsorship options, refugee resettlement and labour opportunities grounded in fair recruitment and respect for labour rights. Colombia and Ecuador have regularized the status of thousands of Venezuelan migrants, while Australia has introduced protections against visa cancellations and a short-term visa that includes work rights to enable migrant workers to remain in the country and exercise their labour rights.

Climate and human mobility

12. Every year, disasters and loss of livelihoods as a result of both sudden and slow-onset hazards compel millions of people to move.⁶ Policy coherence between the Compact and global policy frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, is critical. Governments and stakeholders have increasingly recognized and prioritized the link between human mobility and climate change. At the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Parties decided to operationalize the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and include human mobility in its scope. In addition, the need for coherence between just transition frameworks and labour mobility schemes was stressed at the 111th session of the International Labour Conference, held in June 2023.⁷ Migrant workers in sectors such as construction and agriculture are particularly exposed to heat stress and other climate-related occupational hazards, resulting in avoidable workplace-related deaths and violations of the fundamental right to a safe and healthy workplace.⁸

13. The CLIMB Database, hosted on the Migration Network Hub, features over 1,600 policy instruments containing provisions relevant to human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. States have facilitated admission and stay for persons displaced by disasters and climate change, including through the use of regular migration categories, such as temporary residence and work permits, as well as the provision of exceptional migration measures, including humanitarian visas and temporary protection status, the relaxing of visa requirements and fees, including through free movement agreements, the use of special certificates or other supplemental documentation, such as transhumance

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 76/266, paras. 27, 29, 58 and 59.

⁶ Daria Mokhnacheva, *Implementing the Commitments Related to Addressing Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation* (Geneva, Platform on Disaster Displacement, 2022).

⁷ See ILO, document ILC.111/Record No.7A.

⁸ Natasha Scott and others, *Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in a Changing Climate: Global Report* (Geneva, ILO, 2024).

agreements, and planned relocations.⁹ In 2022, Argentina created a three-year humanitarian visa for persons displaced by disasters in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

14. Anticipatory action based on early warning systems must be expanded to reach more communities at risk, including migrants. Furthermore, progress towards universal access to early warning systems under the Secretary General's Early Warnings for All initiative must be accelerated. Continued investment is needed in community-led resilience-building that empowers individuals and communities to prepare for and respond to the challenges posed by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

15. States have adopted multiple frameworks that are aimed at addressing climate and human mobility, including the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Declaration on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations.

16. States have mainstreamed human mobility into national climate change, disaster risk reduction and development plans. In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, for instance, the impacts of climate change on human mobility pathways are addressed in their national climate adaptation plans. Panama included a protocol for the care of migrants in the context of disasters as part of its regional disaster response drill in 2023. However, while human mobility was referenced to in 85 per cent of national adaptation plans submitted via the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change NAP Central hub as of February 2024, only 66 per cent of the plans contained specific provisions to address mobility. The Task Force on Displacement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is finalizing technical guidance on integrating human mobility and climate change linkages into national climate change planning processes.¹⁰

17. Rural communities remain exceptionally vulnerable to climate impacts. Rural dimensions should be considered when integrating human mobility into climate adaptation policies. In India, through the migration multi-partner trust fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) commenced a three-year joint programme to enhance the resilience of migrant and vulnerable households in coastal and drought-prone areas. In collaboration with FAO, Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania are implementing a project to foster youth employment in rural areas and promote sustainable rural livelihoods, reducing the need to migrate.

Labour migration and decent work

18. Migration pathways that respond to labour market needs must be rights-based,¹¹ underpinned by decent work for all and guided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) general principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment and guidance on temporary labour migration and the United Nations Network on Migration *Guidance on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements* and its guidance note

⁹ United Nations Network on Migration, "Regular pathways for admission and stay for migrants in situations of vulnerability", July 2021.

¹⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Teaser 6: technical guide on integrating human mobility and climate change linkages into relevant national climate change planning processes".

¹¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Human rights and temporary labour migration programme in and from Asia and the Pacific".

on regular pathways for admission and stay for migrants in situations of vulnerability. In 2022, ILO constituents agreed that the right to a safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental right that applies to all workers without exception, including migrants in irregular situations.¹²

19. States continued to ratify international labour standards and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and many adopted or revised labour migration policies. Morocco and Tunisia developed national labour migration policies that are closely aligned with national employment policies, benefitting from the engagement of social partner. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) 2023 “Protocol on employment and labour” enhances rights-based labour migration governance and regulatory systems in Southern Africa. The Philippines created the Department of Migrant Workers to consolidate government agencies that have been mandated to protect the rights and welfare of overseas Philippine workers. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia signed protocols establishing free access to the labour market in the Open Balkans.

20. Eliminating recruitment costs is key to ensuring fair and ethical recruitment, in line with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the 2024 *Global Study on Recruitment Fees and Related Costs* by ILO, there is increased awareness about the illegitimacy of charging recruitment fees, with most of the 110 countries surveyed regulating or prohibiting recruitment fees for migrants. However, recruitment fees and costs, together with wage underpayment, continue to generate \$37 billion in annual illegal profits from international migrants in forced labour.¹³ To address the issue of unfair recruitment, Sri Lanka developed a code of conduct for licensed recruitment and Bangladesh revised its Overseas Employment and Migrants Act to establish regulations governing subagents and established a task force and mobile courts to identify and charge recruitment agents and intermediaries engaging in unfair practices.

21. Migration pathways that tie a worker’s migration status to their employer exacerbate power imbalances and deter migrant workers from reporting exploitation and joining unions. In 2023, the United States adopted a policy protecting migrant workers who raise concerns about violations in the workplace from deportation. In 2024, Australia enacted a law decriminalizing undocumented workers and establishing that workplace protections apply to all workers, regardless of their migration status.

22. The contributions that migrants make to their host countries are enhanced when they can develop their skills and qualifications and have them recognized. In Pakistan, the Government and Employers Federation launched the National Skills Passport in 2023 to create opportunities for entrepreneurship, higher learning and upward employment mobility. In 2022, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland launched the Recognition Arrangements Grant Programme to provide financial support for work towards the agreement of recognition arrangements for professional qualifications. Countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation have developed a South Asian Qualification Referencing Framework to facilitate the mutual understanding of skills and qualifications and enhance the recognition of migrant workers’ skills in destination countries.

23. The European Union launched the Talent Partnerships initiative with Bangladesh, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan and Tunisia to match skills and needs between the European Union, its member States and partner countries. Skills mobility

¹² ILO, document ILC.110/Resolution I.

¹³ ILO, *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*, 2nd ed. (Geneva, 2024).

partnerships, if designed through social dialogue, robust skills planning and consideration of the work conditions in countries of origin and destination, using quality data and with a people-centred approach that involves investing in vocational training, can help employers and destination countries to meet skill shortages and contribute to development in origin countries.

B. Rights-based border management and protecting migrants in vulnerable situations

24. There is a worrying tendency to externalize migration governance and intensify border controls, coupled with increasing securitization and deterrence measures that often expose migrants to risks of human rights violations. These trends have led to pushbacks at borders, arbitrary detention, discrimination, containment in designated areas, limited access to basic services and the criminalization of migrants, human rights defenders and those providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.¹⁴

25. Advances towards non-custodial alternatives to immigration detention made during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have been reversed in many States, with some using electronic monitoring of migrants in ways that exceed the principles of necessity and proportionality. Other States, however, have adopted alternatives to immigration detention that are compliant with human rights and offer replicable practices. Colombia, for example, prohibits the detention of children and has regularized the status of a large number of migrants. Türkiye has adopted a law on alternatives to immigration detention. Thailand has made progress in evaluating the implementation of its whole-of-government memorandum of understanding on alternatives to immigration detention. Some countries, including Belgium and Canada, have invested in case management systems and are working with migrants who reside in the community to achieve case resolution. Evidence from these models demonstrates high levels of compliance, which is often achieved through partnerships between Governments, United Nations entities and civil society organizations.¹⁵

26. Nevertheless, concern remains over the growing number of migrants in vulnerable situations who face heightened risks of human rights violations. Vulnerability may result from various factors, including the reasons for people leaving their countries of origin, the circumstances in transit, at borders and at their destination, as well as personal attributes, such as age, gender, ethnicity, disability, health or migration status or a combination of these and other factors. To protect these individuals, legislation and migration policies and practices must be consistent with obligations under international human rights treaties, utilizing the Principles and Guidelines, Supported by Practical Guidance, on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations, which are grounded in those obligations. Migrants in irregular situations are disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and marginalization and are often denied access to rights and essential services and employed in unregulated sectors without workplace protections.¹⁶ In response, initiatives, such as the Regularization of Long-Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme introduced in Ireland in 2022, are aimed at supporting their social integration and labour market mobility.

¹⁴ [A/HRC/54/81](#).

¹⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Evaluation of the Refugee and Migrant Advice Service's Alternative to Detention Pilot (Geneva, 2023) and Eiri Ohtani, *Alternatives to Detention: Building a Culture of Cooperation – Evaluation of Two-Year Engagement-Based Alternative to Immigration Detention Pilot Projects in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Poland* (European Programme for Integration and Migration, 2020).

¹⁶ [A/HRC/54/81](#), para. 17.

27. Strengthened legal identity infrastructure and processes, including through digital innovation, are vital for safe and regular migration, given that they facilitate access to services and reduce the risk of statelessness. In Jordan, the births of all foreign newborns are registered, irrespective of the legal status of their parents. In 2024, the Philippines introduced electronic apostilles to enhance access to civil registry documents for Filipinos worldwide. States have also enhanced consular services by facilitating access to information and assistance, including in emergency situations, the issuance of identity documents and capacity-building for consular officers. Honduras rolled out mobile “mega consulates” in the United States to support Honduran migrants, including with birth registration. Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening consular services and the capacity of crisis management departments to assist migrants in need. Argentina developed a guide to addressing gender-based violence for its consular network to respond to cases of violence where migrant status is an intersecting factor that increases vulnerability.

Children

28. Without safe migration pathways and child-sensitive support mechanisms for integration or reintegration, children are at risk of being denied access to education and healthcare and may face violence and exploitation, including trafficking, child labour and early marriage. The inclusion of all children, regardless of their migration status, in national child protection, education, health and social protection systems is crucial and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁷ States have implemented the child-sensitivity guiding principle in the Compact. In Germany, children are not held in pre-deportation detention. Ireland has prohibited the immigration detention of children by law and, in Guinea, unaccompanied children are placed with foster families instead of being kept in detention centres or shelters. States, such as Egypt and Morocco, have included migrant children in their national child protection systems and are expanding family- and community-based alternative care for unaccompanied children and non-custodial community-based reception for children with families. In Mexico, the State of Tlaxcala eliminated the need for an apostille for the enrolment of migrant children in public schools and, under the national child protection system in Burkina Faso, mobile teams and one-stop facilities provide migrant children with healthcare, psychosocial assistance and counselling in remote and border regions.

29. Some States have made progress on the child-sensitive returns and reintegration front. El Salvador implemented a sustainable reintegration programme, including social protection, healthcare, psychosocial support and education, for returnee children and their families. In Luxembourg, a multidisciplinary committee is convened to analyse a child’s best interests before a return decision, enabling an unaccompanied child or their representative to be heard. Mexico launched a national care model for children and adolescents on the move and facilitated the incorporation of returnee children into the school system. In addition, a child protection memorandum of understanding was signed between Mexico and the United States in 2023 to improve transborder protection for unaccompanied children.

¹⁷ Christina Torsein and Timothy Williams, *Technical Note: Inclusion of Children in the Context of Migration into National Child Protection Systems* (Geneva, IOM; New York, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 2024).

Returnees

30. Utilizing the existing guidance of the United Nations Network on Migration,¹⁸ measures must be strengthened for the safe, dignified and rights-based return and readmission and sustainable reintegration of migrants, including through clear and mutually agreed procedures that uphold international human rights obligations. Returns must be accompanied by sustainable reintegration measures, at the individual, community and structural levels, that recognize differentiated needs based on intersecting factors including age, gender, rural contexts and labour market opportunities.¹⁹

31. Local governments in Senegal established orientation and support desks for prospective and returning migrants in rural municipalities. Through the migration multi-partner trust fund, the Philippines partnered with United Nations entities in implementing the Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance programme. In addition, IOM and the European Union launched migrant protection, return and reintegration programmes in sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, through which a route-based approach to aiding vulnerable and stranded migrants is adopted, to offer protection and assistance and facilitate assisted voluntary returns and reintegration in partnership with target countries (see box 2).

Box 2

Adopting a route-based approach

Migrants and refugees along the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa routes face harsh conditions and protection risks, including trafficking in persons, arbitrary arrest and detention, xenophobic attacks and forced returns. The Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021–2024 is an interregional, inter-agency plan that is steered by Governments with support from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations system and other stakeholders. It provides a route-based comprehensive framework for joint humanitarian and development programmes for migrants, to enable the coordination of life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection, improve access to essential services and support development to address adverse migration drivers along these routes.

Gender

32. Migration experiences and patterns are influenced by deeply entrenched gender inequalities. Access to decent jobs and education is still severely limited for millions of women and girls. This, combined with limited access to regular migration pathways, increases the likelihood of women moving through low-skilled labour migration pathways that offer insufficient protection or turning to dangerous irregular migration routes. Sexual and gender-based violence remains prolific in the context of trafficking in persons, with women three times more likely than men to be subjected

¹⁸ United Nations Network on Migration, “Ensuring safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration”, March 2021; and United Nations Network on Migration, “For safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration”, December 2021.

¹⁹ IOM and UNICEF, “A child rights approach to the sustainable reintegration of migrant children and families”, in *Reintegration Handbook: Practical Guidance on the Design, Implementation and Monitoring of Reintegration Assistance* (Geneva, IOM, 2019); Samuel Hall, *Global Lessons Learned on Sustainable Reintegration in Rural Areas* (Rome, FAO, 2023); and ILO, *Guidelines on Labour Market Reintegration upon Return in Origin Countries* (Geneva, 2023).

to physical or extreme violence by traffickers.²⁰ Migrant women domestic workers are particularly vulnerable, especially when domestic work is unrecognized in national labour laws. As of May 2024, out of the 82 countries that completed a Migration Governance Indicators assessment, only 23 per cent had a migration strategy that addresses the different needs of migrant women.

33. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer migrants and migrants from other sexual and gender minorities face distinct risks of human rights violations and marginalization due to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Factors such as criminalization, social exclusion and the deprivation of rights often contribute to their decision to migrate and also increase their vulnerability to trafficking. They face risks of physical and sexual violence in transit, including in immigration detention. Entry at borders may be denied when a person's gender identity does not match their official documentation and there is an increased risk of separation at borders and denial of healthcare and other services for non-heterosexual couples and their families. They also continue to experience higher rates of unemployment and poverty and are, therefore, at a significant disadvantage in the labour market and more likely to work in the informal economy.²¹

34. States strengthened laws, policies and services to uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination and make progress in the implementation of the gender-responsive guiding principle contained in the Compact. Malaysia amended its Employees' Social Security Act to include migrant domestic workers under employment injury schemes; Spain extended residence permits to foreign survivors of sexual violence; and Canada introduced a requirement for federal departments to apply a gender-based analysis when developing policies, programmes and legislation to ensure that they address the intersecting experiences of migrants, particularly women and girls. In Bangladesh, 60 recruitment agencies are licensed to screen, match, recruit and place women migrant workers using criteria to ensure gender-sensitive recruitment. Ethiopia strengthened its migration policies, laws, programmes and services from a gender perspective with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including the collection, analysis and publication of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics on migration.

Victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants

35. Between 2022 and 2023, there was a 58 per cent increase in the number of smuggled migrants or attempted smuggling cases in the Mediterranean.²² In addition, organized criminal gangs are trafficking people into online scam operations in South-East Asia, forcing them into criminal activity.²³ The ringleaders of smuggling and trafficking networks are rarely successfully prosecuted. Victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants must never be criminalized, but rather supported through child-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches, and States should invest in understanding the intersections of organized crime and technology and the linkages between migration, forced labour and trafficking in persons.

36. In 2023, the European Commission launched a Call to Action for a Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, in which it called for greater cooperation

²⁰ *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022* (United Nations publication, 2022).

²¹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), "Migration experiences of people with diverse SOGIESC", December 2023.

²² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "The migrant smuggling market on the Central Mediterranean: UNODC observatory on smuggling of migrants update #2", October 2024.

²³ OHCHR, "Online scam operations and trafficking into forced criminality in Southeast Asia: recommendations for a human rights response", 2023.

between countries, international organizations and service providers (including digital providers) on prevention, response and alternatives to irregular migration, and ASEAN adopted a declaration on combating trafficking in persons caused by the abuse of technology. The International Criminal Police Organization, with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, supported authorities from over 33 countries to conduct Operation Turquesa V along trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling routes to Canada and the United States, leading to 257 arrests and the rescue of 163 potential victims. There have also been efforts to counter trafficking in persons and improve support for victims and survivors at the national level. Bahrain established an Office for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses in Cases of Trafficking in Persons. Ecuador and Peru established a Binational Immediate Response Team to enhance protection for trafficking victims and support coordination between law enforcement agencies, including through the provision of residence permits to remain in either country or assistance to return home safely.

C. Access to services, inclusion, socioeconomic integration and meaningful participation

37. Many migrants are excluded from social protection and face obstacles that affect their access to rights and services, including discrimination based on nationality or migration status, language and cultural differences, excessive costs, administrative hurdles, fear of deportation, limits on free movement and a lack of information about entitlements. Migrant workers and their children and families account for millions of the 4.1 billion people worldwide who do not have access to social protection.²⁴

Access to basic social and health services

38. Although the right to health is universal, the findings of a 2024 IOM study show that migrants had the same access to government-funded health services as nationals in only half of the 100 countries assessed.²⁵ Through its refugee and migrant health system reviews, the World Health Organization (WHO) supported Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Jordan, Thailand and Uganda to ensure that health systems promote and protect migrants, refugees and vulnerable host populations. In 2023, the Rabat Declaration was adopted by 49 States to accelerate efforts to improve the health of migrants, refugees and host communities. Progress has been observed in at least 63 countries since the adoption of the WHO global action plan on promoting the health of refugees and migrants, 2019–2030, including in Cambodia with its National Policy and Strategic Plan on Migrant Health 2022–2030. Through the migration multi-partner trust fund, a joint programme was established to strengthen the resilience of health systems and migrant populations to climate change and disaster risks in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. In 2024, the seventy-seventh World Health Assembly prioritized the health of migrants and refugees for the first time in the general programme of work of WHO, with specific indicators to track equal access to essential and emergency healthcare. The European Commission developed a comprehensive mental health strategy in 2023 for consideration of the specific needs of migrant populations and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the Ministry of Health of the Sudan agreed to facilitate a roster of doctors who provide free health services to migrants referred by Red Crescent Society Humanitarian Service Points.

²⁴ Mira Bierbaum and others, *World Social Protection Report 2020–22: Social Protection at the Crossroads – In Pursuit of a Better Future* (Geneva, ILO, 2021).

²⁵ Estefania Guallar Ariño, Roberto Roca Paz and Adriana Vides Lobos, *Migration Governance Insights: Informing People-Centred Migration Policies* (Geneva, IOM, 2024).

39. Education is fundamental to the life trajectories of young migrants, helping to foster their capacity to integrate and contribute meaningfully to societies and reach their full potential. Many States have enhanced efforts to include migrant children in their national education systems.²⁶ Thailand provides access to education for all children, regardless of their migration status, with around 100,000 children affected by migration registered in and attending government-run schools. In addition, Colombia has included over 600,000 migrant children in its education system and Luxembourg provides free education to all migrant children, irrespective of their migration status.

Social protection and socioeconomic integration

40. The disproportionate exclusion of migrants and their families from social protection heightens the risks of poverty and marginalization. In Southern Africa, 12 countries developed national action plans to support the implementation of the SADC guidelines on the portability of social security benefits for migrant workers and ASEAN countries adopted a declaration on the portability of social security benefits for migrant workers. In Oman, the employment injury, maternity and sickness benefits coverage was extended to migrant workers on the same terms as nationals and, in Tunisia, the Social Security Agency examined access to social protection for Tunisian migrant workers abroad, with training provided for staff on fast tracking claims for migrant workers and their dependants.

41. National, regional and local efforts have been made to strengthen the socioeconomic integration of migrants and to foster social cohesion. Colombia established centres that operate with local authorities in nine cities to assist migrants and returnees through the provision of advice and referrals. Peru has developed a national strategy for the socioeconomic integration of the refugee, migrant and host population. Portugal established an Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum to strengthen the reception and integration of migrants and refugees, thus streamlining documentation processes, with a focus on family reunification, and improving access to services.

Meaningful participation

42. Meaningfully engaging migrants in policymaking and decision-making processes is essential to generate sustainable outcomes. In “Our Common Agenda policy brief 3: meaningful youth engagement in policymaking and decision-making processes”, the Secretary-General recognized that young people are key to delivering on the 2030 Agenda and recommended strengthening youth engagement in decision-making at all levels, including in migration governance. The United Nations Network on Migration involved young people in many of its activities, including the Global Youth Consultation on Ending Child Immigration Detention organized by the Migration Youth and Children Platform, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Detention Coalition. The European Commission implemented the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021–2027, in which it is recognized that the participation of migrants in decision-making processes can be empowering and ensure that inclusion policies reflect real needs.

43. Migrant workers continue to face formal and informal barriers to realizing their fundamental right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. To address this situation, as of 2022, Algeria has allowed non-national employers and workers to

²⁶ See UNICEF, “Education, children on the move and inclusion in education: lessons learned and scalable solutions to accelerate inclusion in national education systems and enhance learning outcomes”, February 2022.

form organizations and become members of the executive boards of trade unions. Guinea-Bissau adopted a new Labour Code that extends freedom of association protections to foreign workers.

Countering harmful migration narratives

44. Fear-driven anti-migration narratives remain prevalent and are used to justify marginalization and the exclusion of migrants from basic services and civic engagement. Such narratives can lead to violence against migrants and human rights defenders and have corrosive effects on wider society.²⁷

45. In 2024, the champion countries discussed deconstructing and reconstructing migration narratives to counter xenophobia, racism and discrimination and exchanged promising practices on building balanced, evidence-based narratives. They stressed the role of the media in shaping perceptions, countering negative stereotypes and showcasing migrant contributions. In this regard, States, United Nations entities and stakeholders have engaged in training activities for the media on accurate and rights-based reporting on migration. Spain adopted a strategic framework for citizenship and inclusion and against racism and xenophobia for the period 2023–2027 and established the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) rolled out its Stand Up for Migrants campaign (#StandUp4Migrants) and toolbox, including in Australia and Malaysia and in Central America, to challenge and reframe harmful migration narratives and offer guidance on shifting narratives. Furthermore, OHCHR launched guidance for stakeholders on using behavioural science to inform narrative change interventions.

D. Harnessing migration to accelerate sustainable development

Sustainable Development Goals and localization

46. Migration and migrants are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the six transitions identified as accelerators. Migrant workers play a critical role in sustainable food systems. Digital connectivity can improve the transparency and efficiency of migration processes, promote faster and cheaper remittance transfers and foster financial inclusion. Investment in education, decent jobs and social protection will strengthen migrant contributions and include them in sustainable development. Women migrants in particular make important contributions to sustainable development, as they remit a larger proportion of their earnings than men, bring with them skills, innovation, cultural diversity and beliefs that help to challenge traditional assumptions about gender roles and transfer their knowledge and skills.²⁸

47. States are increasingly recognizing the connection between migration and sustainable development. Since 2023, Germany has helped to establish centres for migration and development in nine countries to provide advice to prospective migrants and returnees, while the Better Regional Migration Management programme of the United Kingdom operates across East Africa and the Horn of Africa to make migration safer and more productive, contributing to poverty reduction. In collaboration with ILO, Morocco and Spain implemented the Women as Financially Independent Rural Actors project to strengthen the capacity of seasonal women migrant workers to engage in sustainable income-generating activities upon return.

²⁷ [A/HRC/54/81](#), para. 11.

²⁸ UN-Women, “Special Rapporteur’s report on ‘revisiting migrants’ contributions from a human rights-based approach: a discussion on facilitating and hindering factors”, 2024.

48. Local actors must be empowered in their efforts to support migrants and refugees. Through the Mayors Mechanism Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, 70 pledges were delivered at the International Migration Review Forum and, in 2023, over 120 pledges at the Global Refugee Forum and Global Forum on Migration and Development. However, many participating cities reported not being invited by Governments or regional organizations to join discussions of the implementation or review of the Compact.²⁹

49. Financing remains a barrier for local actors, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, but there has been progress in the localization of resources through development and migration funds. For example, there were implementation agreements with local governments for 75 per cent of the programmes under the migration multi-partner trust fund in 2022, and city organizations were included in the Steering Committee of the fund. The IOM and United Nations Development Programme Joint Programme on Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development was implemented across 11 countries to foster sustainable interventions, including 25 national and local development plans, policies and laws integrating migration, empowering over 80 local and regional authorities and creating opportunities for more than 20,000 migrants and community members.

Remittances and diaspora contributions

50. Ensuring that remittances serve to promote the financial inclusion of migrants and their families in countries of origin and destination is key to maximizing their development impact, including through enhanced digitalization and linkages with tailored financial services. The Central Bank of the Gambia and the Central Bank of Uganda included remittances in their national financial inclusion strategies. The International Fund for Agricultural Development partnered with the European Union, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden to promote rural development through the Financing Facility for Remittances, deliver programmes in Africa and Central Asia to promote cheaper, faster and safer remittance transfers and enhance the financial inclusion of the rural poor. The cost of remittance transfers must be reduced, as the average cost of sending \$200 in remittances in 2022 was still over double the Sustainable Development Goal target of 3 per cent.³⁰

51. If well-structured, coordinated and supported, the human and financial capital of the diaspora can be a powerful instrument to contribute to development goals, crisis responses and the mobilization of domestic resources. At the first Ugandan Diaspora Agribusiness Conferences and Investor Award, the contributions of diaspora “agripreneurs” to agrifood employment opportunities was recognized. In addition, the Philippines spearheaded a campaign to improve the financial literacy of the diaspora. The members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, under the presidency of Ghana, organized the first Migrants4Climate Award to identify innovative initiatives led by, or with, migrants and the diaspora.

E. Enhancing data, international cooperation and partnerships

Data and evidence

52. Research and evidence are critical in responding to protection gaps and reaching those excluded from official statistics, including migrants in the most vulnerable

²⁹ Mayors Mechanism, “Cities and regions localising the global migration and refugee compacts”, June 2023.

³⁰ Elisa Mosler Vidal, *Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda: IOM Flagship Report for the SDG Summit* (Geneva, IOM, 2023).

situations. The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, which has a cross-sectoral membership that includes 25 States, generated better data on the needs of migrant and displaced children. Mexico launched a registry for children on the move, through which child protection authorities collect data on the drivers of migration, transit conditions and risk and protection factors, with a view to providing disaggregated information. Serbia commenced a joint programme, through the migration multi-partner trust fund, to strengthen capacity on migration data collection. The Arab Maghreb Union published its first report on labour migration statistics in 2023, while SADC initiated the establishment of a Labour Market Observatory, the focus of which is on labour migration and skills.

53. In 2022, the Platform on Disaster Displacement developed a framework and indicators to assist in monitoring of the implementation of commitments under the Compact related to human mobility and disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Disaster displacement indicators developed by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and IOM were piloted in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mozambique and the Philippines, to standardize data collection on disaster displacement and improve evidence-based policymaking. In 2023, UNICEF and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre published new data on climate displacement and children to support mitigation measures.³¹ WHO developed a global research agenda on health, migration and displacement in consultation with over 180 stakeholders across various regions, which includes an implementation guide and toolkit to adapt the agenda to national contexts, to provide evidence to inform policymaking and implementation.

Partnerships

54. The complexities of human mobility cannot be addressed without increased cooperation, including by sharing accurate and timely information and adopting whole-of-government approaches. El Salvador created a National Coordination Mechanism on Human Mobility comprising over 45 government institutions. South Africa developed an interdepartmental protocol for the multidisciplinary management of unaccompanied and separated migrant children. Portugal introduced a network of “one-stop shop” response services for migrants at the national and local levels to provide coordinated support for migrants.

55. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial to address migration in all its dimensions, as reflected in the whole-of-society guiding principle contained in the Compact. Strengthened partnerships with the private sector can mobilize innovative financing mechanisms and leverage insights and resources for skills development and decent job creation for migrants. Diverse stakeholders bring different voices and needs to dialogues and processes relating to migration, which should be encouraged and facilitated by States and the United Nations system. Civil society organizations in Ghana established a platform to coordinate their contribution to the implementation of the Compact. In 2023, Canada launched a Strategic Immigration Review that included dialogues with migration thought leaders, businesses, Indigenous representatives, youth councils and migrants, and a public online survey. In 2024, Colombia launched a civil society round table on migration to facilitate stakeholder participation in the national migration system.

³¹ UNICEF, *Children Displaced in a Changing Climate: Preparing for a Future Already Underway* (2023).

Complementarity between the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees

56. States and stakeholders have reiterated the strong interlinkages between the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, particularly in the context of mixed movements. While recalling that migrants and refugees are distinct groups governed by separate legal frameworks, both Compacts are mutually reinforcing not only in common thematic areas, but also in different areas that reflect their distinct aims and separate legal and policy frameworks. Expanding safe and regular migration pathways, and promoting rights-based, safe and dignified return and readmission and sustainable reintegration processes, can prevent and address situations of vulnerability but also alleviate pressure on asylum systems. The approach taken by humanitarian actors of providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees based on needs allows equal access to life-saving services in mixed movements. The Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection reflects a collective commitment to enhance protection for migrants and refugees and foster cooperation for safe, orderly, humane and regular migration. The “route-based approach” builds on this complementarity to provide more effective and predictable responses to challenges faced by refugees and migrants. The United Nations Network on Migration, IOM and UNHCR are encouraged to jointly develop guidance on the complementary implementation of the two Compacts.

57. Numerous pledges made at the International Migration Review Forum, as well as pledges on protection at sea for refugees and migrants, trafficking and alternatives to immigration detention made during the 2023 Global Refugee Forum and the pledge of the United Nations Network on Migration on the complementarity between the Compacts, will benefit migrants, refugees and host communities. The Network’s work on alternatives to detention encouraged pledging to end the immigration detention of both migrant and refugee children. FAO pledged to ensure that data collection in the context of forced displacement is inclusive of all displaced populations. The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees reflects the commitment of local and regional governments to implement both Compacts in unison.

III. Additional mandates

A. Indicators to support the review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

58. In paragraph 70 of the Progress Declaration, Heads of State and Government and high representatives requested the Secretary-General to propose in the present report a limited set of indicators to review progress related to the implementation of the Compact, drawing on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant frameworks. They also requested a strategy for improving disaggregated migration data at the local, national, regional and global levels. The United Nations Network on Migration established a dedicated workstream to address these requests, led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM and comprising 16 members of civil society organizations, academia and United Nations entities.

59. The Network mapped existing indicator frameworks and indicators, assessing their relevance to the 23 objectives contained in the Compact. Building on existing frameworks and data-collection processes, including the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework and the work of the United Nations Expert

Group on Migration Statistics, the final proposal consists of 27 core indicators and 83 additional indicators that are grouped by objective.³² The indicators are accompanied by key background information and statistics on international migration.

60. The indicators were developed on the basis of consultations with States and stakeholders, including five regional consultations in 2023, two global consultations in 2024 for Member States and stakeholders, with over 360 participants, including 61 States, and two online surveys. Nearly 50 States, international organizations and stakeholders responded to the first survey, while 25 responded to the second survey.

61. The proposed indicators are a voluntary tool that can be used at the discretion of Member States. The Network stands ready to provide technical guidance and other assistance to Member States to apply the proposed indicators in their national contexts.

62. In the Compact, Member States are encouraged to conduct regular and inclusive national reviews of progress and may, therefore, use the proposed indicators to help to assess their progress towards implementing the objectives and cross-cutting principles contained therein and to guide further action based on their own context. Member States may also include these indicators in voluntary national reviews to enhance coherence between policies and commitments related to the Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. These indicators mark an important development in efforts to improve the reliability, timeliness, and accessibility of data to support the implementation of the Compact. In addition, the key background information and statistics on international migration that accompany the proposed set of indicators are crucial for reviewing progress, supporting the harmonization of concepts, definitions and methodologies for their collection and sharing information.

64. Many of the core indicators are part of established indicator frameworks, with data available for many countries and regions, and they are often accompanied by guidance on metadata, concepts and sources that could facilitate States' efforts to pilot the indicators. Where lacking, relevant data could be collected, disaggregated and analysed.

65. The comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data³³ helps to ensure that the proposed set of indicators are fit for purpose to support the implementation of the Compact, in line with the 2030 Agenda. The strategy identifies sex, age and migratory status as some of the critical characteristics for which such indicators could be disaggregated, where applicable and relevant.

B. Strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and preventing loss of life in transit

66. Since 2014, almost 68,000 migrants are known to have died or gone missing along land and sea routes,³⁴ with the true number likely far higher. The scale of this tragedy and the frequency of preventable deaths and disappearances constitute an intolerable and solvable humanitarian crisis.

67. In paragraph 76 of the Progress Declaration, Heads of State and Government and high representatives requested actionable recommendations on this issue.

³² United Nations Network on Migration, "Workstream 'Measuring progress: GCM indicators': comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data at the local, national, regional and global levels", September 2024.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ See <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>.

Developed in consultation with States and stakeholders, the recommendations are contained in the annex to the present report and are focused on prevention, searching for and identifying migrants, support for families, accountability and justice and data and foresight. The recommendations are built on existing commitments and recommendations, drawing from an expanding body of practices.

68. For the purposes of these recommendations, humanitarian assistance is considered as a means of preventing deaths and disappearances, including in situations where movements surpass the capacity of receiving countries to respond. In the light of the absence of mechanisms that are specifically dedicated to addressing mixed movements, the recommendations should also apply to refugees and other persons in need of international protection, without prejudice to their specific rights under international law, reinforcing the complementarity between the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

IV. United Nations system institutional arrangements

69. The United Nations Network on Migration continued to coordinate United Nations system-wide support for Governments to implement the Global Compact for Migration, including through tools, guidance and platforms for dialogue and knowledge exchange at the local, national, regional and global levels.

A. Capacity-building mechanism

70. In the Compact, Heads of State and Government and high representatives decided to establish a capacity-building mechanism in the United Nations to support efforts of Member States to implement the Compact. The capacity-building mechanism consists of the Demand-driven Facility, the migration multi-partner trust fund and the Migration Network Hub, all of which support States to deliver on the commitments of the Compact.

71. Through the Demand-driven Facility, the United Nations Network on Migration supports implementation at the national level. The Network established regional inter-agency and multi-stakeholder facilitation teams to support United Nations country teams and to strengthen United Nations support for the roll-out of the Compact. Country networks embedded in United Nations country teams have provided technical assistance to authorities to integrate the Compact into their policies. Ecuador, Malawi, Mali, Sierra Leone and Türkiye are undertaking this process, and El Salvador, Ghana and Kenya have developed national implementation plans in which specific steps are referenced to advance the implementation of the Compact.

72. Through the migration multi-partner trust fund, which is now in its fifth year of operation, 21 joint programmes have been supported. In 2023, the \$20 million funding target was reached, with over \$57 million mobilized since the inception of the fund. The joint programmes funded cover all thematic areas and regions, with the participation of 16 United Nations entities and a wide range of partners. In 2023, the fund became the first-ever United Nations pooled financing mechanism for which a child-sensitivity marker was adopted. In 2023, the Steering Committee of the fund also adopted a guidance note on engagement with civil society, migrants and communities and increased its focus on climate and mobility, which offers an opportunity for collaboration with other climate change funding mechanisms. Strengthening multi-country programming and an enhanced focus on health, saving lives and child protection were identified as priorities by the Steering Committee of the fund in 2023.

73. The Migration Network Hub continues to bring together the United Nations Network on Migration and stakeholders to share knowledge to strengthen implementation. It includes a Repository of Practices, which contains over 300 peer-reviewed practices and hosts the Demand-driven Facility and the CLIMB Database.

B. Follow-up and review

74. States participated in the first-ever International Migration Review Forum held in May 2022 under the auspices of the General Assembly. Some States included local authorities and other stakeholders in their delegations, in line with the whole-of-government and whole-of-society principles of the Compact. To accelerate implementation, States and stakeholders made 303 specific pledges through the Pledging Initiative.

75. The second round of regional reviews is ongoing and constitutes a pivotal opportunity to review the implementation of the Compact, focusing on regional cooperation, trends and dynamics and commitments in the Progress Declaration. They have been organized by the regional commissions and regional networks and organizations, such as the League of Arab States and the African Union, with the participation of relevant stakeholders. The outcomes of the regional reviews will serve to inform the International Migration Review Forum to be held in 2026 and will be reported on in the next biennial report of the Secretary-General on the Compact.

C. Network structure, tools and guidance

76. In total, 7 regional and 85 country networks have been established to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Compact, including through the roll-out of guidance, tools and spaces for dialogue and peer learning. For example, in 2022, the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Latin America and the Caribbean established a Civil Society Open and Permanent Dialogue Mechanism and the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific launched the *Immigration Detention and Alternatives to Detention in the Asia-Pacific Region* report.

77. The Network made progress on collaborative efforts on priority topics. For example, in addition to those outlined in section III, it held a route-based peer learning exchange in North and Central America, during which its checklist for safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration was rolled out. It also developed a policy brief covering gaps in responses and options for action to counter migrant smuggling and continued to roll out its *Guidance on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements*, which has been integrated into training at the ILO International Training Centre.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

78. Six years after its adoption, the Compact continues to prove its relevance in highlighting the vital importance of migration. It is imperative to respect and protect the human rights of all migrants and the pressing need to strengthen cooperation at all levels in delivering on the promise of well-governed migration remains vital.

79. States have embraced the goals of the Compact and are working with the United Nations system, through the United Nations Network on Migration, to integrate its objectives and principles into their national planning. Through the

follow-up and review cycles called for in the Compact, new priorities and partnerships on migration are being established by the international community.

80. Nonetheless, significant challenges remain. Migrants continue to be subject to human rights violations and abuses along their journeys. Xenophobic and dehumanizing discourse continues to undermine collective efforts to strengthen humane and rights-based migration governance.

81. Throughout the present report, recommendations have been provided to ensure that progress is made towards the objectives of the Compact. In this regard, and to advance the implementation of the Compact, the following recommendations are made for consideration by Member States.

A. Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

82. States are urged to accelerate the implementation of the Compact, including by replicating and scaling up promising practices and following additional guidance in the Progress Declaration and the resources of the United Nations Network on Migration. States are encouraged to consult and contribute promising practices to the Migration Network Hub.

83. States are encouraged to integrate the Compact into policy frameworks, including by establishing robust national implementation plans. These plans should be developed, implemented and monitored through consultative processes that bring together partners from across Government and other stakeholders.³⁵ The Network can provide support through the Demand-driven Facility.

84. The migration multi-partner trust fund is the only pooled resource that covers migration in all its aspects. Mandated by the General Assembly, it has demonstrated the positive impact of such a resource on the ground. The demand, however, outstrips the capacity. States are encouraged to increase financial support for the implementation of the Compact through contributions to the fund.

85. States are urged to make formal pledges to strengthen evidence-based discourse on migration, including to strengthen data collection and sharing via the Migration Network Hub.

B. Strengthening follow-up and review

86. States are urged to participate actively in the follow-up and review mechanisms of the Compact and to fully implement the actions recommended in the Progress Declaration to accelerate implementation and the pledges made within the framework of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.

87. States are urged to include representatives of local government and other stakeholders in their national delegations to ongoing regional reviews and the 2026 International Migration Review Forum, reflecting their commitment to implement the whole-of-government and whole-of-society guiding principles contained in the Compact.

88. States are encouraged to use the proposed limited set of indicators outlined in the present report when developing national action plans for the Compact and

³⁵ United Nations Network on Migration, *Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Guidance for Governments and All Relevant Stakeholders* (Geneva, 2023).

other related reviews and to utilize the indicator framework as a basis for reviews of the implementation of the Compact for the 2026 International Migration Review Forum and to make efforts to disaggregate data by sex, age and migratory status.

89. States are urged to develop plans to implement the recommendations on missing migrants and migrants in distress contained in the annex to the present report and to report on progress made in implementing the recommendations during the 2026 Forum.

Annex

Recommendations for Member States on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress with the aim of preventing loss of life in transit

Prevention of migrant deaths and disappearances

1. Migrant deaths and disappearances are preventable. The main direct causes of migrant deaths are drowning, accidents, violence, harsh environments and a lack of access to healthcare, shelter, food and water. Migrant disappearances are often due to the inability to communicate with families or the lack of identification of the dead. Policy choices, and limited access to safe and regular pathways, also affect the number of deaths and disappearances. The following recommendations are made for consideration by Member States:

(a) Establish independent review bodies to assess and mitigate the impact of laws, policies and practices on the risk of migrants dying or going missing;

(b) Revise or repeal laws and policies that criminalize or obstruct the provision of humanitarian assistance to migrants, irrespective of their status;

(c) Adopt a humanitarian and precautionary approach to identifying and responding to possible distress situations on land and at sea and interpret “distress” broadly and in good faith;

(d) Prevent family separation, including at borders, during rescue operations and disembarkation, and reunite separated families wherever possible and without delay;

(e) Strengthen search and rescue capacity at sea and on land, in line with international law and the principle of humanity;

(f) Adopt agreements to improve the coordination of search and rescue operations between States, including as provided by international maritime law;

(g) Implement post-search and rescue procedures, including at disembarkation and border points and along land routes, in a humane, predictable and rights-based manner, with attention to specific vulnerabilities, and enhance the capacity of first responders;

(h) Ensure that government emergency response systems, particularly in situations of large movements, can provide needs-based humanitarian assistance and protection;

(i) Use the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster to inform preparedness and response plans for situations of distress, even in the absence of conflict or disasters;

(j) Adopt measures to separate humanitarian assistance from immigration enforcement, ensuring that migrants in distress, irrespective of their status, receive assistance without negative consequences;

(k) Improve the coordination of humanitarian assistance for migrants in distress;

(l) Provide unhindered access and safe operational spaces, including through humanitarian service points, for humanitarian actors to deliver assistance in line with humanitarian principles;

(m) Allocate funding to humanitarian actors to deliver principled, needs-based assistance to migrants, irrespective of their status.

Searching for and identifying migrants who have died or gone missing

2. Searching for and identifying missing migrants, whether alive or dead, requires national measures and cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries. The following recommendations are made for consideration by Member States:

(a) Develop national systems for the collection, centralization and systematization of case data on unidentified human remains;

(b) Systematically mobilize disaster victim identification responses to mass casualty events involving migrants;

(c) Set up processes for families, co-travellers and others to register cases in an accessible, safe and confidential manner; use the information for humanitarian purposes only, unless otherwise agreed with those who provide it; and follow a standardized approach for registering missing migrant cases, in accordance with International Committee of the Red Cross guidance;

(d) Appoint national focal points on missing migrants for transnational cooperation on searches and policy;

(e) Increase bilateral cooperation between key countries of origin and disappearance, as a stepping stone towards route-based cooperation on, for example, access to biometric databases and the exchange of information that is relevant in the search for and identification of missing migrants;

(f) Leverage regional and subregional bodies to facilitate cooperation among States and other actors on searching for and identifying missing migrants along routes, such as through common policies, information-sharing and the exchange of practices.

Provision of support to affected families

3. The families of missing migrants face the socioeconomic, psychological, administrative and legal consequences. The disappearance of a relative may affect their access to property, inheritance and parental or social welfare rights. The following recommendations are made for consideration by Member States:

(a) Provide families with access to critical legal documentation, such as certificates of absence, that can help them to address challenges relating to marital status, the control of property and the guardianship of children;

(b) Support the role of civil society and other stakeholders as important intermediaries between families and States.

Justice, accountability and redress

4. The investigation and monitoring of allegations of migrant deaths and disappearances and prompt, effective remedies and reparations are crucial. The following recommendations are made for consideration by Member States:

(a) Provide justice, accountability and redress for migrants and their families, even in the absence of a formal criminal complaint;

(b) Conduct independent, impartial and thorough investigations, with the participation of families, into cases of endangerment to the lives or safety of migrants during their journey and where they were subjected to rights violations by State or non-State actors.

Data and foresight

5. Gaps in available data, monitoring and reporting generate flawed perceptions of the problem and undermine effective responses. The following recommendations are made for consideration by Member States:

(a) Collect, systematize, centralize and publish anonymized data on migrant deaths and disappearances and use standardized criteria to categorize migrants in mortality records and standardized protocols to record disappearances;

(b) Regularly report these data through the Missing Migrants Project of the International Organization for Migration;

(c) Share migration forecasting data across government levels, to allow for preparedness measures that optimize humanitarian assistance.
