



Migration and the SDGs in the Arab Region

Capacity Building Workshop by the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region

Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel

Cairo, Egypt, 16-17 July 2018

Concept Note

I. Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted unanimously by the United Nations' 193 Member States in September 2015. With its adoption, migration was included for the first time in the global development framework, recognizing well-managed migration's integral role in and contribution to sustainable development. The focus on **People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace** and **Partnership** provides a development path for the next fifteen years. Central to the 2030 Agenda is the commitment of States "to leave no one behind", to "reach the furthest behind first" and to address inequalities, inequities and discrimination, both within and between states.

The SDGs are now driving policy planning and implementation across borders and across sectors, recognizing the interlinkages between migration and development and the fundamental contributions of migrants. Most notably, SDG target 10.7 "**Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies**" serves as the centrepiece linking migration to sustainable development, in addition to a number of other migration-related targets on decent work and labour migration, trafficking in persons, resilience, and data disaggregation.

In addition to the SDGs, in 2016, UN Member States also unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, undertaking for the first time to developing a framework for cooperation on international migration to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular, benefitting both migrants and societies. The New York Declaration initiated the consultative process which will result in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The countries of the Arab region are actively contributing to the formulation of these compacts, which participating States aim to formally adopt in December 2018.

The Arab region presents both opportunities and challenges in regard to migration and development. With significant migrant populations, the region is challenged to ensure these populations are not left behind, while maintaining opportunities for national populations. The size of the migrant population in the region has increased by 150 per cent, from under 15 million in 1990 to nearly 35 million by 2015,

representing 14 per cent of global international migrants.¹ 48 per cent of these are women. Migrant workers in the region constitute around 12 per cent of the world's total labour migrants. They contribute to both the economies of countries of origin and destination. In 2014, 30 per cent of global remittances originated from the region, while Arab countries received close to USD 50 billion in remittances in 2016 from nearly 26 million migrants from Arab States living abroad, who also provide valuable links in terms of trade, investment and culture. Mixed migration flows transiting North Africa and the Middle East challenge policy makers to govern migration effectively while addressing the drivers of these movements.

II. Capacity Building Workshop on Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region

In the context of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the forthcoming GCM, the co-chairs ESCWA, IOM and LAS, in cooperation with the other members of the Working Group (WG) on International Migration in the Arab Region, propose to organize a two-day capacity building workshop on migration and sustainable development, conducted by technical experts dedicated to the officials in the concerned ministries working in the field of migration and SDGs in the Arab Region.

The objective of the workshop is to strengthen government capacities in achieving various SDG goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 10.7 that pertains to migration. The workshop will introduce the 2030 Agenda at the global, regional and national levels. It aims to unpack the SDGs and examine how migration is integrated in different thematic areas, such as decent work, migrants in crisis, and migrants' rights and health, including those of women and girls, the impact of climate change and urban development issues. The workshop will also aim to assist Member States in ascertaining their national priorities, reviewing existing policies in light of regional and global commitments and frameworks, and developing subsequent plans of action in the area of migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda. There will be a focus on the need for national planning, whilst highlighting the value of local level follow-up in partnership with national-level leadership. Special emphasis will be placed on the efforts and good practices taken by Member States in implementing adequate policies and ensuring data availability to measure progress in achieving the SDGs. The translation of national plans and policies to local levels will also be discussed.

The workshop is in line with the overarching goal of the Regional Working Group that seeks to coordinate the complementary efforts of a range of relevant actors in the Arab region and promote joint research, data availability, and adequate interventions on migration and development. Participants in the workshop will benefit from Working Group members' expertise as they share their tools, mechanisms and experiences on mainstreaming migration-related SDGs and targets into national policies, plans, and monitoring frameworks.

¹ ESCWA, 2017 Situation Report on International Migration, (*forthcoming*).

III. Workshop Structure

The workshop will be structured over two days and will be designed to allow for interactive participation of relevant government agencies, and the application of practical tools to help identify and refine national priorities, develop policies, review available sources of data, and guide next steps.

Participants: Ideal participants for this workshop will be mid-level representatives from Member States' migration-related and other relevant institutions.

Each session of the workshop shall include a thematic and practical component:

Thematic Sessions: The workshop facilitator will provide a short brief on the relevant SDGs. He then will invite expert presentations by WG member agencies. Integrated within these presentations will be substantive interactions with the participants. Participants may be invited to contribute to the interactive discussions and foster peer learning through presenting their States' ongoing efforts, good practices, opportunities and challenges with a particular focus on the themes of the workshop.

Practical Sessions: A practical session will follow each thematic session. Participants will benefit from learning tools and resources that will be tailored to the objectives of the meeting. The facilitator will be responsible for developing the training material for group exercises.

IV. Proposed Agenda

Day One

Opening session

Session 1: Introduction of the SDGs-Migration Nexus

The first session will provide an overview of the regional trends, patterns and drivers of migration in the Arab region. It will also introduce the 2030 Agenda and the intersectionality of migration with its various goals and targets.

MODULE A: MIGRATION AND THE PRINCIPLE OF LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Module A highlights the importance of a multi-sectoral, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach to migration in national and sectoral development policies to ensure that the guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind is met. The thematic session will begin with presenting the migration-related SDGs and will focus on key nexus areas between migration and the SDGs. The practical session will allow for group exercises focused on policies and reforms needed to ensure upholding of migrants' rights.

Depending on WG agency participation, this session could be divided into two, distributing the different topics between them. Additional possible topics include: employment and decent work, education,

universal health coverage, food security, poverty reduction, social protection, inclusive rural and urban development.

Session 2: Thematic Session

Presentations from Working Group Member agencies might include:

Migrant Health and the SDGs

- Safeguarding health and wellbeing, including sexual and reproductive health, of migrants and host communities
- Providing health aid to affected populations in conflicts and war zones
- Regional efforts in promotion of migration health in the Arab World
- Promoting resilient health systems as the path to achieving universal health coverage

Gender and Migration

- Migration, gender equality and Sustainable Development Goals
- Opportunities, challenges and risks for women and girls' migrants

Well-Managed Migration and Migrant Rights

- A human-rights based approach to migration governance
- The protection of migrants in vulnerable settings

Session 3: Practical Session

- Training module
- Group exercise

MODULE B: MIGRATION, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK, REMITTANCES, AND SDGs

Module B will focus on the nexus of migration, employment and decent work and sustainable development. The thematic session will provide an overview of patterns, trends and challenges facing labour migration in the region. It will unpack the employment and decent work-related SDGs and targets and discuss some specific issues: including fair and ethical recruitment, employment at all skill levels, labour market needs, ensuring decent work, addressing irregularity, reducing the cost of remittances and the importance of remittances in countries of origin and destination. The session will present tools and guidelines on labour migration governance, such as the ILO's Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, and Fair Migration Agenda. The practical session will focus on defining national priorities in the area of labour migration, means of operationalizing those priorities into national action plans, challenges of monitoring the achievement of those priorities, and enhancing international cooperation on labour migration.

Session 4: Thematic Session

Decent Work and Migration targets

- Migration and Rural/Urban decent work-related SDGs.
- Findings of the WG 2017 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region.

- Assisting tools – ILO: Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, and Fair Migration Agenda; ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment: IOM: International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS)
- Changing age structures in the Arab region and the policies that can enable States to harness the Demographic Dividend

Session 5: Practical Session

- Defining national priorities for both origin and destination countries of migrant workers.
- Interactive question and answer on country actions– for example have they integrated rural and urban labour migration SDG targets into national strategies? What are the challenges to developing national policies and indicators for monitoring progress?
- Group exercise example: creating sample action plans for next steps – possible format: break into groups and compose, then present to the group

Day Two

MODULE C: Migrants in Crisis and SDGs

Module C will pay special attention to migrants in crisis, including those affected by political instability or climate change. Expert presentations will focus on combatting trafficking in persons and the protection of its victims. It will also highlight the impact of migration due to climate change and its myriad effects. The thematic session will also present some tools that participants can use, including IOM's Migration Crisis Operational Framework. The practical session will allow for group exercises focused on policies and interventions needed to protect migrants, particularly the most vulnerable, in crisis situations.

Session 6: Thematic Session

SDGs in emergencies, conflicts and crises

- IOM MCOF as a tool to assist governments to better govern migration in crisis situations through the three stages of crisis (before, during and after)
- Addressing vulnerabilities of migrants caught in crisis

Environment, Climate Change and Urban & Rural Migration

- Key trends in climate, environment-induced migration in the Arab region
- Drivers, consequences for food security and rural development and policy priorities.
- Rural poverty, social protection, and inclusive rural development
- Mainstreaming migration into National Urban Policies.
- Existing efforts and persistent gaps that need to be addressed in the region (to meet target 11 and target 13 of the SDGs)

Combatting Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

- Definition of Trafficking and an overview of existing legal instruments on trafficking. Distinguishing Trafficking in Persons from Smuggling of Migrants.
- Efforts on combatting Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons
- Arab national strategies/frameworks to address SoMs and TiPs

Session 7: Practical Session

- Training module
- Group exercise

MODULE D: MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS:

Good migration governance, incorporating partnerships, is key to meet the SDG targets and achieve sustainable development. To this end, States need to adopt a holistic, integrated, multi-sectoral, participatory (through whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches), and vision-driven approach to development planning and migration policies. Module D will build participants' capacities on understanding the demography of their countries and the need to integrate migration in long-term development planning. It will introduce development planning and the relevant institutions and actors, and highlight some of the challenges and opportunities facing mainstreaming migration in development planning as well as generation of disaggregated data required for monitoring and evaluation. A group exercise will engage participants in a collective reflection on some national development plans from the region to assess to what extent they address migration, and explore means to ensure that migration is fully mainstreamed in development plans, strategies and policies ensuring no one is left behind.

Session 8: Thematic & Practical Wrap-Up Session

- **Mainstreaming migration into long-term development planning**
- Group exercise to engage participants in a collective reflection on national development plans from the region
- To what extent do they address migration?
- Is migration fully mainstreamed in development plans, strategies and policies?

V. Main Sustainable Development Goals and Targets related to Migration

Target 3.7: *By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.*

Target 3.8: Universal Health Coverage

Target 4.b: *By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, Small Island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries*

Target 5.2: *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation*

Target 5.3: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation*

Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Target 8.7: *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*

Target 8.8: *Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.*

- 8.8.1: Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status
- 8.8.2 Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

Target 10.7: *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.*

- 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination
- 10.7.2: # of countries implementing well managed migration policies.

Target 10.c: *Reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.*

- 10.c.1: remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted.

Target 11.a: *Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning*

Target 11.3: *By 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries*

Target 11.5: *By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations*

Target 16.2: *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children*

- 16.2.2: # of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population

Target 17.18: *By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries...to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context*

VI. Tools and Resources

- The Working Group's 2017 *Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region* focuses on the 2030 Agenda and will act as a learning tool for the workshop.
- IOM's forthcoming handbook on SDGs and migration will also be presented as a tool, along with a tailored training manual.
- IOM's Migration Governance Framework, welcomed by IOM Member States in 2015, will be presented as a framework for guiding the development of good migration governance systems, while the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration (2006) and the ILO Fair Migration Agenda (2014) will be presented as of particular relevance to the governance of labour migration.
- To guide effective response to migration during times of crisis, which is a key objective of IOM's Migration Governance Framework and particularly relevant to the Arab region, tools will include IOM's Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), and the government-led Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative.
- Monitoring progress on target 10.7 will be explored, including through IOM's monitoring tool – the Migration Governance Index (MGI) – developed with the Economist Intelligence Unit, which evaluates national migration governance structures.
- UN Habitat to present recent Guide Book for City Leaders on Migration and Inclusive Cities.

Other useful resources which will be presented to Member States include ILO's General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment (2016), and IOM's International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) – which will assist Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders (e.g. labour recruiters and employers) in developing and implementing fair and ethical recruitment processes.