

The below comments and track changes were made by the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts



GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

DRAFT Rev 2

28 May 2018

We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting in Morocco on 10 and 11 December 2018, reaffirming the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and determined to make an important contribution to enhanced cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, have adopted this Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:

PREAMBLE

1. This Global Compact rests on the purposes and principles espoused in the Charter of the United Nations.
2. It also rests on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, core international human rights treaties¹, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, the Slavery Convention and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Paris Agreement², the International Labour Organization conventions on promoting decent work and labour mobility³, as well as on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda.
3. Discussions about international migration at global level are not new. We recall the advances made through the United Nations High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development in 2006 and 2013. We also acknowledge the contributions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development launched in 2007. These platforms paved the way for the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, through which we committed to elaborate a Global Compact for Refugees and to adopt this Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular

¹ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

² Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

³ Migration for Employment Convention of 1949 (No.97), Migrant Workers Convention of 1975 (No.143), Equality of Treatment Convention of 1962 (No.118).

Migration, in two separate processes. The two Global Compacts, together, present international cooperation frameworks that fulfil their respective mandates as laid out in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. We recognize that migrants and refugees may face many common challenges and similar vulnerabilities. They are all entitled to the same human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times. While both may be particularly vulnerable to the risk of violations and abuses of their rights, only refugees are entitled to additional protections under international refugee law.

4. As a contribution to the preparatory process for this Global Compact, we recognize the inputs shared by Member States and relevant stakeholders during the consultation and stocktaking phases, as well as the report of the Secretary-General, "Making Migration Work for All".
5. This Global Compact is a milestone in the history of the global dialogue and international cooperation on migration. It is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013. It builds on the pioneering work of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, including his report of 3 February 2017.
6. This Global Compact presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that builds on the commitments agreed upon by Member States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It fosters international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration, acknowledging that no State can address migration alone, while upholding the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law.

OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

7. This Global Compact expresses our collective commitment to improving cooperation on international migration. Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history, and we recognize that it is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world, and that these positive impacts can be optimized by improving migration governance. The majority of migrants around the world today travel, live and work in a safe, orderly and regular manner. Nonetheless, migration undeniably affects our countries, communities, migrants and their families in very different and sometimes unpredictable ways.
8. It is crucial that the challenges and opportunities of international migration unite us, rather than divide us. This Global Compact sets out our *common understanding, shared responsibilities* and *unity of purpose* regarding migration in a manner that makes it work for all.

Common Understanding

9. This Global Compact is the product of an unprecedented review of evidence and data gathered during an open, transparent and inclusive process. We shared our realities and heard diverse voices, enriching and shaping our common understanding of this complex phenomenon. We learned that migration is a defining feature of our globalized world, connecting societies within and across all regions, making us all countries of origin, transit, destination and return. We recognize that there is a continuous need for international efforts to strengthen our knowledge and analysis of migration, as shared understandings will improve policies. We must collect and disseminate quality data. We must ensure that current and potential migrants are fully informed about their rights, obligations and options. We also must provide all our citizens with access to

objective, evidence-based, clear information about the benefits and challenges of migration, with a view to dispelling misleading narratives that generate negative perceptions of migrants.

Shared Responsibilities

10. This Global Compact offers a 360-degree vision of international migration and recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration while addressing risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit, destination and return. No country can address the challenges and opportunities of this global phenomenon on its own. With this comprehensive approach, we aim to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, while reducing the incidence and impact of irregular migration through international, regional and bilateral cooperation and a combination of measures put forward in this Global Compact. We acknowledge our shared responsibilities to one another as Member States of the United Nations to address each other's needs and concerns over migration, and an overarching obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, while promoting the security and prosperity of all our communities.
11. This Global Compact aims to mitigate the adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people from building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods in their countries of origin, and so compel them to seek a future elsewhere. It intends to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities migrants face at different stages of migration by respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights and providing them with care and assistance. It seeks to address legitimate concerns of communities, while recognizing that societies are undergoing demographic, economic, social and environmental changes that have implications for and result from migration. It strives to create conducive conditions that enable all migrants to enrich our societies through their human, economic and social capacities, and thus facilitate their contributions to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Unity of Purpose

12. This Global Compact recognizes that safe, orderly and regular migration works for all when it takes place in a well-informed, planned and consensual manner. Migration should never be an act of desperation. When it is, we must cooperate to respond to the needs of migrants in situations of vulnerability, and address the respective challenges. We will cooperate to create conditions that allow communities and individuals to live in safety and dignity in their own countries. We must save lives and keep migrants out of harm's way. We must empower migrants to become full members of our societies, highlight their positive contributions, and promote inclusion and social cohesion. We must generate greater predictability and certainty for States, communities and migrants alike. To achieve this, we commit to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly and regular migration for the benefit of all.
13. Our success rests on the mutual trust, determination and solidarity of States to implement the commitments contained in this Global Compact. We unite, in a spirit of win-win cooperation, to address the challenges and opportunities of migration in all its dimensions through shared responsibility and innovative solutions. It is with this sense of common purpose that we take this historic step, fully aware that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a milestone, but not the end to our efforts. We commit to continue the multilateral dialogue at the United Nations through a periodic and effective follow-up and review mechanism, ensuring that the words in this document translate into concrete actions for the benefit of millions of people in every region of the world.

14. We agree that this Global Compact is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of equal relevance:

People-centred: The Global Compact carries a strong human dimension to it, inherent to the migration experience itself. It promotes the well-being of migrants and the members of communities in countries of origin, transit, destination and return. As a result, the Global Compact places individuals at its core.

International cooperation: The Global Compact is a non-legally binding cooperative framework that recognizes that no State can address migration on its own due to the inherently transnational nature of the phenomenon. It requires international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue. Its authority rests on its consensual nature, credibility, collective ownership, joint implementation, follow-up and review.

National sovereignty: The Global Compact reaffirms the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law. Within their sovereign jurisdiction, States may distinguish between regular and irregular migration status as they determine their legislative and policy measures for the implementation of the Global Compact taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work, in accordance with international law, including international human rights law.

Rule of law and due process: The Global Compact recognizes that respect for the rule of law and due process is fundamental to all aspects of migration governance. This means that the State, public and private institutions and entities, as well as persons themselves are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international law.

Sustainable development: The Global Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and builds upon its recognition that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. Migration contributes to positive development outcomes and to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially when it is properly managed. The Global Compact aims to leverage the potential of migration for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impact this achievement will have on migration in the future.

Human rights: The Global Compact is based on international human rights law and upholds the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. By implementing the objectives and commitments herein, we ensure effective respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, across all stages of the migration cycle. We also reaffirm the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants and their families.

Gender-responsive: The Global Compact ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly addressed and they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.

Child-sensitive: The Global Compact promotes existing international legal obligations enshrined in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and upholds the best interests

Commented [Initiativ1]: Rationale: The language seems to indicate that States have the discretion to define the applicability of legislative and policy measures to regular/irregular migrants, irrespective of their human rights obligations, which should apply to all migrants, regardless of their status. It is important to ensure that the guiding principles are consistent with each other.

Commented [Initiativ2]: Several MS asked for an explicit reference to the CRC here.

of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in all situations concerning children in the context of international migration, including unaccompanied and separated children. Authorities responsible for children's rights should have a leading role, with clear decision-making power, on policies, practices and decisions that affect them.

Commented [Initiati3]: CRC General Comment 22 (2017), paras 11 and 14.

Whole-of-government approach: The Global Compact considers that migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone. To develop and implement effective migration policies and practices, a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government.

Whole-of-society approach: The Global Compact promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, National Human Rights Institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance.

OUR COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

15. With the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants we adopted a political declaration and a set of commitments. Reaffirming that Declaration in its entirety, we build upon it by laying out the following cooperative framework comprised of 23 objectives, implementation, as well as follow-up and review. Each objective contains a commitment, followed by a range of actions considered to be relevant essential policy options and best practices for the implementation of the commitments therein. To fulfil the 23 objectives, we will draw from these actions to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration along the migration cycle.

Commented [Initiati4]: Rationale: There should be a clear link between the commitment and the policy options underneath, which are also negotiated as part of the Compact, and agreed between Member States. Only all the actions taken as a whole contribute to a 360 degree vision on migration that seeks to move away from the piecemeal approach that we have today. Otherwise this undermines the credibility of the Compact as an action-oriented document by reducing it to very broad commitments contained in the chapeau under each objective.

Objectives for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

- (1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
- (2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- (3) Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration
- (4) Provide all migrants with proof of legal identity, proper identification and documentation
- (5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
- (6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
- (7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
- (8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
- (9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
- (10) Prevent and combat trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
- (11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
- (12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate determination and referral

- (13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
- (14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
- (15) Provide access to basic services for migrants
- (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
- (17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
- (18) Invest in skills development and facilitate recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
- (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
- (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
- (21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
- (22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
- (23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

OBJECTIVES AND COMMITMENTS

OBJECTIVE 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

16. We commit to strengthen the global evidence base on international migration by improving and investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable, comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other relevant characteristics, while upholding privacy rights, protecting personal data and ensuring full compliance with child protection safeguards, including when collecting biometric data. We further commit to ensure this evidence fosters research, guides coherent and human rights based policy-making and well-informed public discourse, and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments over time.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Elaborate and implement a comprehensive strategy for improving migration data at local, national, regional and global levels, with the participation of all major stakeholders, under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission, by harmonizing methodologies for data collection, and strengthening analysis and dissemination of migration-related data and indicators
- b) Improve international comparability and compatibility of migration statistics and national data systems, including by further developing and applying the statistical definition of an international migrant, elaborating a set of standards to measure migrant stocks and flows, and documenting migration patterns and trends, characteristics of migrants, as well as drivers and impacts of migration

Commented [Initiati5]: There is broad MS support for this addition.

Commented [Initiati6]: See: Call to Action [Protecting Children on the Move Starts with Better Data](#) by UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, Eurostat and OECD.

- c) Develop a global programme to build and enhance national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination to share data, address data gaps and assess key migration trends, that encourages collaboration between relevant stakeholders at all levels, provides dedicated training, financial support and technical assistance, leverages new data sources, including big data, and is reviewed by the United Nations Statistical Commission on a regular basis. All actors concerned with collecting migration data must be trained in ethical standards and age-appropriate methods that take into account children's rights and needs.
- d) Collect, analyse and use data on the effects and benefits of migration, as well as the contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development, with a view to inform the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related strategies and programmes at the local, national, regional and global levels
- e) Support further development of and collaboration between existing global and regional databases and depositories, including the IOM Global Migration Data Portal, with a view to systematically consolidate relevant data in a transparent and user-friendly manner, while encouraging inter-agency collaboration to avoid duplication
- f) Establish and strengthen regional centres for research and training on migration or migration observatories to collect and analyse data in line with United Nations standards, including on best practices, the contributions of migrants, the overall economic, social and political benefits and challenges of migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return as well as drivers of migration, with a view to establishing shared strategies and maximizing the value of migration data, in coordination with existing regional and subregional mechanisms
- g) Improve national data collection by integrating migration-related topics in national censuses, starting in the census of the 2020 round, such as on country of birth, country of birth of parents, country of citizenship, country of residence five years prior to the census, most recent arrival date and reason for migrating, to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of results, disaggregated and tabulated in accordance with international standards, for statistical purposes
- h) Conduct household, labour force and other surveys to collect information on the social and economic integration of migrants or add standard migration modules to existing household surveys to improve national, regional and international comparability, and make collected data available through public-use of statistical microdata files
- i) Enhance collaboration between State units responsible for migration data and national statistical offices to produce migration-related statistics, including by using administrative records for statistical purposes, such as border records, visa, resident permits, population registers and other relevant sources, while upholding privacy rights and protecting personal data
- j) Develop and use country-specific migration profiles, which include disaggregated data on all migration-relevant aspects in a national context, including those on labour market needs, demand and availability of skills, the economic, environmental and social impacts of migration, remittance transfer costs, health, education, occupation, living and working conditions, wages, and the needs of migrants and receiving communities, in order to develop evidence-based migration policies
- k) Cooperate with relevant stakeholders in countries of origin and destination to develop research, studies and surveys on the interrelationship between migration and the three dimensions of sustainable development, the contributions and skills of migrants and diasporas, as well as their ties to the countries of origin and destination

Commented [Initiati7]: See: Call to Action [Protecting Children on the Move Starts with Better Data](#) by UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, Eurostat and OECD, page 6: *Children's data must be kept confidential, and their privacy maintained. All actors concerned with collecting migration and asylum data must be trained in ethical standards and age-appropriate methods that take into account children's rights and needs.*

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

17. We commit to create conducive political, economic, social and environmental conditions for people to lead peaceful, productive and sustainable lives in their own country and to fulfil their personal aspirations, while ensuring that desperation and deteriorating environments do not compel them to seek a livelihood, safety and dignity elsewhere through irregular migration. We further commit to ensure timely and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to build upon and invest in the implementation of other existing frameworks, in order to enhance the overall impact of the Global Compact to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first, as well as the Paris Agreement⁴ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- b) Take into consideration the recommendations of the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, including by supporting the Platform on Disaster Displacement
- c) Take into consideration the recommendations of the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster (MICIC Guidelines)
- d) Invest in programmes that accelerate States' fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of eliminating the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, including through poverty eradication, food security, health and sanitation, education, inclusive economic growth, infrastructure, urban and rural development, employment creation, decent work, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, resilience and disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention and resolution of armed conflict and all forms of violence, non-discrimination, rule of law and good governance, access to justice and protection of human rights, as well as creating and maintaining peaceful and inclusive societies with effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- e) Establish or strengthen mechanisms to monitor and anticipate the development of risks and threats that might trigger or affect internal and onward cross-border migration movements, strengthen early warning systems, develop emergency procedures and toolkits, launch emergency operations, and support post-emergency recovery, in close cooperation with and support of other States, relevant national and local authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, and civil society
- f) Strengthen joint analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements, including those resulting from sudden- and slow-onset natural disasters, environmental degradation, the adverse effects of climate change, as well as other precarious situations, while ensuring the effective respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants

Commented [Initiati8]: We welcome the references to SDG 3 (healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages) and SDG 4 (inclusive and equitable quality education), as well as the references to all forms of violence, non-discrimination and protection of human rights.

Ideally, we would welcome additional reference to two SDG targets that relate to two key adverse drivers of child migration: SDG 16.2 (*end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children*) and SDG 16.9 (*provide legal identity for all, including birth registration*).

⁴ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

- g) Invest in sustainable development at local and national levels in all regions allowing all people to improve their lives and meet their aspirations, by fostering sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, including through private and foreign direct investment and trade preferences, to create conducive conditions that allow communities and individuals to take advantage of opportunities in their own countries and drive sustainable development
- h) Invest in human capital development by promoting entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development programmes and partnerships, productive employment creation, in line with labour market needs and in cooperation with the private sector, with a view to reducing youth unemployment, avoiding brain drain and optimizing brain gain in countries of origin, and harnessing the demographic dividend
- i) Strengthen collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, including by promoting joint analysis, multi-donor approaches and multi-year funding cycles, in order to develop long-term responses that strengthen community-based and national systems and improve humanitarian protection and assistance, resilience and coping capacities of populations, as well as economic and social self-reliance, and by ensuring these efforts take migration into account
- j) Develop adaptation and resilience strategies to sudden-onset natural disasters and to slow-onset environmental degradation related to the adverse effects of climate change, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, taking into account the potential implications on migration
- k) Integrate displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies and promote cooperation with neighbouring and other relevant countries to prepare for early warning, contingency planning, stockpiling, coordination mechanisms, evacuation planning, reception and assistance arrangements, and public information
- l) Harmonize and develop approaches and mechanisms at subregional and regional levels to address the vulnerabilities of persons affected by sudden- and slow-onset natural disasters and other migrants in vulnerable situations, by ensuring they receive appropriate humanitarian protection and assistance wherever they are, and by promoting lasting solutions that increase resilience and self-reliance, taking into account the capacities of all countries involved

Commented [Initiati9]: Such as education, healthcare, child protection, social protection and justice systems.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration

18. We commit to strengthen our efforts to provide, make available and disseminate accurate, timely, accessible, and transparent information on migration-related aspects for and between States, communities and migrants by taking into account all stages of migration. We further commit to use this information to develop migration policies that provide a high degree of predictability and certainty for all actors involved.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Launch and publicize a centralized and publicly accessible national website to make information available on regular migration options, such as on country-specific immigration laws and policies, visa requirements and conversion criteria, visa application formalities, employment permit, family reunification and requirements, professional qualification requirements, credential assessment and equivalences, training and study opportunities, and living costs and conditions, in order to inform the decisions of migrants

- b) Promote and improve systematic bilateral, regional and international cooperation and dialogue to exchange information on migration-related trends, including through joint databases, online platforms, international training centres and liaison networks, while upholding privacy rights and protecting personal data
- c) Establish open and accessible information points along relevant migration routes that can refer migrants to child-sensitive and gender-responsive support, counselling and protective services, offer opportunities to communicate with consular representatives of the country of origin, and make available relevant information, including on human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to ~~international or humanitarian~~ appropriate protection and assistance, options and pathways for regular migration and secure status, and possibilities for return, in a language and format the person concerned understands
- d) Provide newly arrived migrants or returning migrants, respectively, with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal advice on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining of work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as on access to basic services
- e) Promote multi-lingual, age- and gender-responsive and evidence-based information campaigns and organize awareness-raising events and pre-departure orientation trainings in countries of origin, in cooperation with local authorities, consular and diplomatic missions, the private sector, academia, migrant and diaspora organizations and civil society, in order to promote safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as to reduce the risks associated with incidence of irregular migration

Commented [Initiativ10]: We welcome the reference to referrals in this paragraph.

OBJECTIVE 4: Provide all migrants with proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

- 19. We recognize the right of all individuals to a legal identity and commit to provide all our nationals with proof of birth registration, nationality and travel documents, allowing national and local authorities to ascertain a migrant's legal identity upon entry, on stay, and for return, as well as to ensure effective migration procedures, efficient service provision, and improved public safety. We further commit to ensure migrants' access to adequate documentation and civil registry documents, including birth, marriage and death certificates, at all stages of migration, as a means to empower migrants to effectively exercise their human rights.

Commented [Initiativ11]: Revised formulation of chapeau is clearer, although reference to commitment to end statelessness could be brought back.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Improve systems for the registration of all our citizens, with a particular focus on reaching unregistered persons and our nationals residing in other countries, including by providing relevant identity and civil registry documents, strengthening capacities, and investing in information and communication technology solutions, while upholding privacy rights and protecting personal data
- b) Harmonize travel documents in line with the specifications of the International Civil Aviation Organization to facilitate interoperable and universal recognition of travel documents, as well as to combat identity fraud and document forgery, including by investing in digitalization, and strengthening mechanisms for biometric data-sharing, while upholding privacy rights and protecting personal data
- c) Ensure adequate, timely, reliable and accessible consular documentation to our nationals residing in other countries, including identity and travel documents, making use of information and communications technology, as well as community outreach, particularly in remote areas

- d) Provide access to individual documents for migrant women and children, including by ensuring that criteria for obtaining citizenship, passports or visas are non-discriminatory and do not result in an increased risk of vulnerabilities throughout the migration cycle
- e) Strengthen measures to reduce statelessness, including by registering migrants' births, allowing women the same right as men to confer their nationality to their children, and providing nationality to children born in another State's territory, especially in situations where a child would otherwise be stateless, in accordance with the human right to a nationality
- f) Review and revise requirements to prove nationality at service delivery centres to ensure that migrants without proof of nationality or legal identity are not denied their human rights
- g) Institute registration cards, containing basic information, that can be used to participate in community life, interact with authorities, conduct business, as well as to access relevant services, and are available to all persons residing in a particular country or city, while not constituting entitlements to citizenship or residency

OBJECTIVE 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

- 20. We commit to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that reflects demographic and labour market realities, facilitates labour mobility at all skills levels, optimizes education opportunities, **upholds the right to family life** reunites families, and provides safety to migrants in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Develop human rights-based, gender-responsive **and child-sensitive** bilateral, regional and multilateral labour mobility agreements with sector-specific standard terms of employment in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, drawing on relevant ILO standards, guidelines and principles, in compliance with international human rights and labour law
- b) Facilitate regional and cross-regional labour mobility through international and bilateral cooperation arrangements, such as free movement regimes, visa liberalization or multiple-country visas, and labour mobility cooperation frameworks, in accordance with national priorities, local market needs and skills supply
- c) Review and revise existing options and pathways for regular migration, with a view to optimize skills matching in labour markets, address demographic realities and development challenges and opportunities, in accordance with local and national labour market demands and skills supply, in consultation with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders
- d) Develop flexible rights-based and gender-responsive labour mobility schemes for migrants at various skills levels, including temporary, seasonal, circular, and fast-track programmes in areas of labour shortages, in accordance with local and national labour market needs and skills supply, by providing flexible, **non-discriminatory and child-sensitive** visa options, such as permanent and temporary work visa, multiple-entry visa, student visa, business visa, visitor visa, as well as visas for investors and entrepreneurs, allowing flexible visa status conversions
- e) Promote effective skills matching in the national economy by involving local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector and trade unions, in the analysis of the local labour market, identification of skills gaps, definition of required skills profiles,

Commented [Initiati12]: We welcome clearer language in subparagraphs d & e, which address several key issues for children that are distinct but related, namely:

- Every child's right to be registered immediately after birth (CRC article 7 and ICCPR article 24(2))
- Every child's right from birth to a name and to acquire a nationality (CRC article 7)
- Every child's right to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations (CRC article 8)
- Measures to prevent childhood statelessness among migrants, which include:
 1. Ensure that every child is properly registered at birth
 2. Ensure every stateless migrant child is properly identified and protected (including through a formal statelessness determination procedure)
 3. Adopt safeguards to prevent statelessness at birth (such as the measures proposed in subparagraph b, including non-discriminatory nationality laws)

Commented [Initiati13]: We also welcome reviewed language in sub-paragraphs f & g, as they aim at ensuring effective and safe access to services in practice for all migrants.

Commented [Initiati14]: Labour migration schemes should systematically take into consideration their impact on children's right to family life, including for children left behind.

and evaluation of the efficacy of labour migration policies, in order to ensure market-responsive contractual labour mobility through regular pathways

- f) Foster efficient and effective skills-matching programmes by reducing visa processing timeframes for standard employment authorizations, and by offering accelerated and facilitated visa processing for employers with a track record of compliance
- g) Develop or build on existing national and regional practices of providing options for admission and stay of appropriate duration based on appropriate protection, compassionate, humanitarian or other grounds for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin temporarily or permanently in cases where they face unsurmountable obstacles to return, including due to sudden-onset natural disasters, violence, as well as risk of serious human rights violations, emergency and other precarious situations, such as by providing durable legal status, humanitarian visas, private sponsorships, access to education and protection services for children, and temporary work permits
- h) Cooperate to identify, develop and strengthen solutions, including planned relocation and visa options, for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin, in cases where adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible, due to slow-onset environmental degradation related to the adverse effects of climate change, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise
- i) Facilitate family reunification for migrants at all income and skills levels through measures in migration laws and policies that promote the realization of the right to family unity and family life in the best interests of the child, including by reviewing and revising requirements, such as on income, language proficiency, length of stay, work authorization, and access to social security and services, and paying expeditious attention to family reunification applications and options for regularisation of migration status, at all stages of migration as well as by using a broad definition of family guided by the best interests of the child that acknowledges de facto caretaking and dependency links
- j) Expand available options for academic mobility, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements that facilitate academic exchanges, such as scholarships for students and academic professionals, visiting professorships, joint training programmes, and international research opportunities, in cooperation with academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders

Commented [Initiativ15]: Rationale: This paragraph seems to limit the scope for protecting migrants from return based on humanitarian grounds to situations of sudden onset natural disasters but completely leaves out situations of serious human rights violations such as risks of being victims of organized crime, harmful traditional practices and human trafficking which are common drivers of child migration and would not necessarily fall under the “non refoulement principle or the refugee protection”

OBJECTIVE 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

21. We commit to review existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, and to protect all migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse in order to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Promote signature, ratification, accession and implementation of relevant international instruments related to international labour mobility, labour rights, decent work and child labour
- b) Take into consideration the recommendations of the ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment, the United Nations Guiding Principles on

Business and Human Rights, and the IOM International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS)

- c) Build upon the work of existing bilateral, subregional and regional platforms that have overcome obstacles and identified best practices in labour mobility, by facilitating cross-regional dialogue to share this knowledge, and to promote the full respect for the human and labour rights of migrant workers at all skills levels, including migrant domestic workers
- d) Improve regulations on public and private recruitment agencies, in order to align them with international guidelines and best practices, and prohibit recruiters from charging disproportionate or hidden fees as well as related costs to the migrant worker in order to avoid debt bondage, exploitation and forced or child labour, including by establishing mandatory, enforceable mechanisms for effective regulation and monitoring of the recruitment industry
- e) Establish partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including employers and trade unions, to ensure that migrant workers are provided written contracts and are made aware of the provisions therein, the regulations relating to international labour recruitment, their rights and obligations, as well as on how to access effective complaint and redress mechanisms, in a language they understand
- f) Cooperate with employers, recruiters, their subcontractors and suppliers to build partnerships that enable them to meet their responsibility to respect human and labour rights, prevent abuse and exploitation, including forced and child labour, promote decent work conditions, and enhance supply chain transparency
- g) Strengthen the enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment and decent work norms and policies by enhancing the abilities of labour inspectors and other authorities to better monitor recruiters, employers and service providers in all sectors, ensuring that international human rights and labour law is observed to prevent slavery, servitude, and forced, compulsory or child labour
- h) Develop and strengthen migration and recruitment processes that allow migrants to change employers and modify the conditions or length of their stay with minimal administrative burden, while promoting greater opportunities for decent work and respect for international human rights and labour law
- i) Take measures that prohibit the confiscation or non-consensual retention of work contracts, and travel or identity documents from migrants, in order to prevent abuse, exploitation, extortion and other situations of dependency, and to allow migrants to fully exercise their human rights
- j) Provide migrant workers engaged in remunerated and contractual labour with the same labour rights and protections extended to all workers in the respective sector, particularly by ensuring that migrants can exercise their rights to just and favourable conditions of work, to equal pay for work of equal value, to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including through wage protection mechanisms and membership in trade unions
- k) Ensure migrants working in the informal economy have safe access to effective reporting, complaint, and redress mechanisms in cases of exploitation, abuse or violations of their rights in the workplace, in a manner that does not exacerbate vulnerabilities of migrants that denounce such incidents
- l) Review relevant national labour laws, employment policies and programmes to ensure that they include considerations of the specific needs and contributions of women migrant workers, especially in domestic work and lower-skilled occupations, and adopt specific measures to prevent, report, address and provide effective remedy for all forms of

Commented [Initiativ16]: We welcome this additional reference to child labour.

exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, as a basis to promote gender-responsive labour mobility policies

OBJECTIVE 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

22. We commit to protect and assist migrants, in accordance with our obligations under international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law, by responding to particular, multiple and intersecting situations of vulnerability arising from personal characteristics, the reasons for leaving their country of origin, the circumstances in which they travel or the conditions they face in countries of transit, destination and return. We further commit to uphold the principle of the best interests of the child as the primary consideration at all times in situations where children are concerned in line with existing international obligations enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to apply a gender- and age-responsive approach in addressing vulnerabilities, including in responses to mixed movements.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Take into consideration the recommendations of the Global Migration Group Principles and Guidelines, Supported by Practical Guidance, on the Human Rights Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations
- b) Review relevant policies and practices to ensure they do not create, exacerbate or unintentionally increase vulnerabilities of migrants, such as policies that criminalize the cross-border movement of children or subject them to punitive measures because of their migration status or that of their parents, including by applying a human rights-based, gender- and disability-responsive, as well as an age- and child-sensitive approach
- c) Establish comprehensive policies and develop partnerships to identify, protect and assist migrants in a situation of vulnerability and provide them with specialized care and relevant referrals at all stages of migration, regardless of their migration status, in particular in cases related to children, especially those unaccompanied or separated from their families, women at risk, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, workers facing exploitation and abuse, domestic workers, and persons belonging to minorities or marginalized groups
- d) Develop gender- and age-responsive migration policies to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys, which may include appropriate protection, assistance, medical, psychological and other counselling services, as well as access to justice and effective remedies, especially in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation
- e) Review existing labour laws and work conditions to identify and effectively address workplace-related vulnerabilities and abuses of migrant workers at all skills levels, including domestic and low-skilled migrant workers, and those working in the informal economy, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector
- f) Develop and put into practice ~~Establish~~ robust procedures for the protection of migrant children in order to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is appropriately integrated, consistently interpreted and applied in relevant legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all migration policies and programmes that impact children, including consular protection policies and services, as well as cross-border cooperation frameworks, aiming at identifying and providing sustainable solutions in order to ensure the principle of the best interests of the child is appropriately integrated,

Commented [Initiativ17]: In line with NYD language

Commented [Initiativ18]: Several MS asked for an explicit reference to the CRC here.

Commented [Initiativ19]: This is based on language in NYD paras 33 and 56 – criminalization is one of the key factors compounding migrant children’s vulnerability.

Commented [Initiativ20]: We very much welcome the additional reference to cross-border cooperation frameworks.

Concrete measures that such frameworks could include are: standard protocols and procedures for the handover of guardianship across jurisdictions; strengthening cooperation on family tracing to inform decisions on sustainable solutions for children; developing regional guardianship networks; setting up joint case management systems; and establishing common national or regional standards for child-sensitive reception practices, including for age assessment.

consistently interpreted and applied, in coordination and cooperation with child protection authorities, developed in a child-sensitive manner and together with the child

- g) Protect unaccompanied and separated children at all stages of migration through the establishment of specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification, and provide access to appropriate protection, health services, including mental health, education, legal assistance and the right to be heard in administrative and judicial proceedings, including by swiftly appointing a competent and impartial legal guardian, as essential means to address their particular vulnerabilities and discrimination, protect them from all forms of violence, and provide access to sustainable solutions that are in their best interests
- h) Ensure migrants' access to public or affordable independent legal assistance and representation in legal proceedings that affect them, including during any related judicial or administrative hearing, in order to safeguard that all migrants, everywhere, are recognized as persons before the law and that the delivery of justice is impartial and non-discriminatory, including through child-friendly justice
- i) Develop accessible and expedient procedures that facilitate transitions from one status to another as to prevent migrants from falling into an irregular status in the country of destination, to reduce precariousness of status and related vulnerabilities, as well as to enable individual status assessments for migrants that have fallen out of regular status, without fear of arbitrary expulsion
- j) Build on existing practices to facilitate access for migrants in an irregular status to an individual assessment for regularization, on a case by case basis and with clear and transparent criteria, especially in cases where children, youth and families are involved, as an option to reduce vulnerabilities, as well as for States to ascertain better knowledge of the resident population
- k) Apply specific support measures to address vulnerabilities and assistance needs of migrants caught up in situations of crisis in countries of destination and transit, including by facilitating cross-border and broader international cooperation, as well as by taking migration into account in crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis action
- l) Involve local authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the identification, referral and assistance of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, including through agreements with national protection bodies, legal aid and service providers, as well as the engagement of mobile response teams, where they exist

Commented [Initiativ21]: Language based on paragraph 32 j of CRC General Comment 22.

Commented [Initiativ22]: We welcome the additions to this paragraph.

Commented [Initiativ23]: In accordance with CRC article 19 (1): *States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*

Commented [Initiativ24]: We welcome the revised wording of subparagraphs i & h.

OBJECTIVE 8: Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

23. We commit to cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through joint search and rescue operations, standardized collection and exchange of relevant information, assuming collective responsibility to preserve the human lives of all migrants. We further commit to identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Develop procedures and agreements on search and rescue with the primary objective to protect migrants' right to life that uphold the prohibition of collective expulsion and the principle of non-refoulement, guarantee due process and individual assessments, enhance

reception and assistance capacities, and ensure that the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance for migrants is not considered unlawful.

- b) Review the impacts of migration-related policies and laws to ensure that these do not raise or create the risk of migrants going missing, including by identifying dangerous transit routes used by migrants, by working with other States and relevant [stakeholders, including](#) international organizations to identify contextual risks and establishing mechanisms for preventing and responding to such situations
- c) Enable migrants to communicate with their families without delay to inform them that they are alive by facilitating access to means of communication along routes and at their destination, including in places of detention, as well as access to consular missions, local authorities and organizations that can provide assistance with family contacts, especially in cases of unaccompanied or separated migrant children, as well as adolescents
- d) Establish transnational coordination channels and designate contact points for families looking for missing migrants, through which families can be kept informed on the status of the search and obtain other relevant information, while respecting privacy rights and protecting personal data
- e) Collect, centralize and systematize data regarding corpses and ensure traceability after burial, in accordance with internationally accepted forensic standards, and establish coordination channels at transnational level to facilitate identification and the provision of information to families
- f) Make all efforts, including through international cooperation, to identify and repatriate the remains of deceased migrants to their countries of origin, respecting the wishes of grieving families, and, in the case of unidentified individuals, facilitate the identification and subsequent recovery of the mortal remains, ensuring that deceased migrants are respectfully and properly treated

Commented [Initiativ25]: We welcome the references to the principle of non-refoulement, due process and individual assessments.

OBJECTIVE 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

24. We commit to intensify joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants in order to end the impunity of smuggling networks, while ensuring that smuggled migrants do not become liable to criminal prosecution solely for having been smuggled. We further commit to identify smuggled migrants to protect their human rights, [taking into consideration the special needs of women and children, and protecting and](#) assisting in particular those migrants subject to smuggling under aggravating circumstances.

Commented [Initiativ26]: We welcome the reference to the needs of children.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Promote signature, ratification, accession and implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)
- b) Use transnational and regional mechanisms to share relevant information and intelligence on smuggling routes, modus operandi and financial transactions of smuggling networks, vulnerabilities faced by smuggled migrants, and other data to dismantle the smuggling networks, [enhance joint responses and protect smuggled migrants](#)
- c) Develop cooperation protocols along migration routes that outline step-by-step measures to adequately identify, protect and assist smuggled migrants, in accordance with international law [and child protection standards](#), as well as to facilitate cross-border law enforcement and intelligence cooperation in order to prevent and counter smuggling of

migrants with the aim to end impunity for smugglers, while ensuring that counter-smuggling measures are in full respect for human rights

- d) Ensure that national legislation penalizes smuggling of migrants when committed intentionally and to obtain a financial or other material benefit for the smuggler, and includes enhanced penalties for smuggling of migrants under aggravating circumstances, in accordance with international law
- e) Work towards policies and practices that treat the circumstances of irregular entry and stay as an administrative, rather than a criminal offence, and ensure that in circumstances where criminal prosecution may be considered, there is full respect for and consistency with obligations under international law
- f) Design, review or amend migration policies and procedures to distinguish between the crimes of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons by using the correct definitions and applying distinct responses to these separate crimes, while recognizing that smuggled migrants might also become victims of trafficking in persons and therefore need adequate protection and assistance
- g) Take measures to prevent the smuggling of migrants along the migration cycle in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including by cooperating in the fields of public information, justice **and child protection**, as well as training and technical capacity-building at national and local levels, with a particular focus on countries of transit

OBJECTIVE 10: Prevent and combat trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

25. We commit to take legislative or other measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks. We further commit to enhance the identification and protection of, and assistance to migrants who have become victims of trafficking, **paying particular attention to women and children.**

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Promote signature, ratification, accession and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)
- b) Promote the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and take into consideration the recommendations of the UNODC Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons and other relevant UNODC documents when developing and implementing national and regional policies and measures relating to trafficking in persons
- c) Monitor irregular migration routes which may be exploited by human trafficking networks to recruit and victimize smuggled or irregular migrants, and cooperate at bilateral, regional and cross-regional levels on prevention, investigation, and prosecution of perpetrators, as well as on identification of, and protection and assistance to victims
- d) Share relevant information and intelligence through transnational and regional mechanisms, including on the modus operandi, economic models and conditions driving trafficking networks, strengthen cooperation between all relevant actors, including financial

Commented [Initiativ27]: We welcome the reference to children.

intelligence units, regulators and financial institutions, to identify and disrupt financial flows, and enhance judicial cooperation and enforcement with the aim to ensure accountability and end impunity

- e) Apply measures that address the particular vulnerabilities of women, men, girls and boys, regardless of their migration status, that have become or are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in persons, exploitation and modern slavery by facilitating access to justice and safe reporting without fear of detention, deportation or penalty, focusing on prevention, identification, protection and assistance, and addressing specific forms of abuse and exploitation
- f) Ensure that definitions of trafficking in persons used in legislation, migration policy and planning, as well as in judicial prosecutions are in accordance with international law, in order to distinguish between the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- g) Strengthen legislation and relevant procedures to enhance prosecution of traffickers, avoid criminalization of migrants for being victims ~~for being victims~~ of trafficking in persons, including for acts committed while being trafficked, and ensure specific legislative provision regarding trafficking of children and ensure that the victim has access to ~~receives~~ protection and assistance and that it is not conditional upon cooperation with the authorities against suspected traffickers
- h) Provide migrants that have become victims of trafficking in persons with appropriate protection and assistance, including services ~~measures~~ for physical, psychological and social recovery consistent with their right to rehabilitation, as well as measures that protect them from re-trafficking and that permit them to remain in the country of destination, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, including especially for the purpose of allowing victims access to justice, including redress and compensation while avoiding linking any permission to remain in the country with criminal prosecutions.
- i) Create national and local information systems and training programmes which alert and educate citizens, employers, as well as public officials and law enforcement officers, and strengthen capacities to identify signs of forced labour or trafficking in persons in countries of origin, transit and destination
- j) Invest in awareness-raising campaigns, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, for migrants and prospective migrants on the risks and dangers of trafficking in persons, and provide them with age- and gender-appropriate information on preventing and reporting trafficking activities, including on how to safely report trafficking activities without fear of detention, deportation or penalty.

Commented [Initiativ28]: In practice, victims of trafficking are criminalized for actions that they may have committed while being trafficked, not for the mere fact of *being / having been* trafficked.

Commented [Initiativ29]: We welcome this additional reference, as per Palermo Protocol Article 6, sub-points 3 and 4:
Provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons, in particular, the provision of appropriate housing; counselling and information, medical, psychological and material assistance; and employment, educational and training opportunities, taking into account the special needs of children.

Commented [Initiativ30]: In the case of victims of trafficking in general, and child victims of trafficking in particular, it is crucial to delink access to status / sustainable solutions from cooperation in criminal proceedings to avoid heightening their vulnerability.

OBJECTIVE 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

26. We commit to manage our national borders in a coordinated manner, in full respect of national sovereignty, promoting bilateral, ~~and~~ regional and multilateral cooperation, ensuring security for States, communities and migrants, and facilitating safe and regular cross-border movements of people while preventing irregular migration. We further commit to implement border management policies that are based on the rule of law, respect human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and are non-discriminatory, gender-responsive and child-sensitive.

Commented [Initiativ31]: We welcome this reference.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Take into consideration the recommendations of the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders, including through cross-border collaboration between neighbouring and other States
- b) Enhance international, regional and cross-regional border management cooperation, taking into consideration the particular situation of countries of transit, on proper identification, timely and efficient referral, protection and assistance for migrants in situations of vulnerability at or near international borders, in compliance with international human rights law, by adopting whole-of-government approaches, implementing joint cross-border trainings, and fostering capacity-building measures
- c) Establish appropriate structures and mechanisms for effective integrated border management by ensuring comprehensive and efficient border crossing procedures, including through pre-screening of arriving persons, pre-reporting by carriers of passengers, and use of information and communication technology, while upholding the principle of non-discrimination, respecting privacy rights and protecting personal data
- d) Strengthen oversight and due process at international borders through the establishment of procedures and effective complaint mechanisms, including in cooperation with National Human Rights Institutions, to safeguard that authorities comply with international and national law, in particular by monitoring and evaluating border screening, as well as individualized assessment and interview processes to ensure that all migrants are treated in accordance with international human rights law
- e) Develop technical cooperation agreements that enable States to request and offer assets, equipment and other technical assistance to strengthen border management, particularly in the area of search and rescue as well as other emergency situations
- f) Train frontline and law enforcement actors at borders in child rights and child-sensitive procedures to ensure Ensure that child protection authorities are promptly informed and assigned to conduct individual needs and vulnerability assessments, as well as participate lead in close collaboration with other authorities in procedures for the determination of the best interests of the child, once a child crosses an international border, particularly in the case of unaccompanied or separated children, in a timely manner and in accordance with international law, taking measures to prevent family separation and reunify families when family separation occurs

OBJECTIVE 12: Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate determination and referral

- 27. We commit to increase legal certainty and predictability of migration procedures by developing and strengthening effective, human rights based and protection-sensitive mechanisms for the adequate and timely screening and individual assessment of all migrants for the purpose of identifying and facilitating access to the appropriate determination, protection and referral procedures, in particular where return would exacerbate risks and vulnerabilities, notably those recognized under international law.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Increase transparency, accessibility and affordability of migration procedures by communicating the requirements for entry, admission, stay, work, study or other activities, and introducing technology to simplify application procedures, in order to avoid unnecessary delays and expenses for States, and migrants and their families
- b) Develop and conduct intra- and cross-regional specialized human rights-based and trauma-informed age, gender and culturally-sensitive trainings, including on child protection, for first responders and government officials, including law enforcement authorities, border officials, consular representatives and judicial bodies, to facilitate and standardize identification and referral of, as well as appropriate assistance and counselling, in a child-friendly and culturally-sensitive way, to victims of trafficking in persons, migrants in situations of vulnerability, including children, in particular those unaccompanied or separated, and persons affected by any form of exploitation and abuse related to smuggling of migrants under aggravating circumstances
- c) Establish child-sensitive and gender-responsive referral mechanisms, including improved screening measures and individual assessments at borders and places of first arrival, by applying standardized operating procedures developed in coordination with local authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, international organizations and civil society
- d) Ensure that migrant children are promptly identified at places of first arrival, that family unity is protected, and that anyone reasonably claiming to be a child is presumed to be a child and given the benefit of the doubt ~~treated as such~~ unless otherwise determined through a multi-disciplinary, independent and child-sensitive age assessment, are swiftly referred to child protection authorities and other relevant services, and promptly appointed a qualified, trained and independent legal guardian if unaccompanied or separated
- e) Ensure that information on rights and obligations in migration laws and procedures, including on access to the right to seek asylum or other adequate forms of protection, entry and stay requirements, as well as options for voluntary return and reintegration, are appropriately, timely and effectively communicated, and accessible to all migrants, including in the context of mixed movements, in order to facilitate access to the appropriate determination and referral procedures

OBJECTIVE 13: Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

28. We commit to ensure that any detention in the context of international migration is based on law, non-arbitrary, based on necessity, proportionality and individual assessments, carried out by authorized officials, and for the shortest possible period of time, irrespective of whether detention occurs at the moment of entry, in transit, or proceedings of return, and regardless of the type of place where the detention occurs. We further commit to prioritize non-custodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law based on existing good practices, and to take a human rights-based approach to any detention of migrants, using detention as a measure of last resort only and working to end the practice of child detention

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Use available international or national human rights mechanisms to improve independent monitoring of migrant detention, ensuring that it is a measure of last resort, that human rights violations do not occur, and that States promote, implement and expand alternatives to detention, favouring non-custodial measures and community-based care arrangements, especially in the case of children and families

Commented [Initiati32]: Important to include in the chapeau a reference to the Commitment contained in the current subpara (h), “working to end the practice of child detention”, as the nature of the chapeau is to encapsulate the main points of each Objective.

Formulated like this, the chapeau will comprehensively uphold the human rights standards on immigration detention of adults (as a last resort) and on children (prohibition of detention).

- b) Consolidate a comprehensive repository to disseminate best practices of human rights-based alternatives to detention in the context of international migration, including by facilitating regular exchanges on successful practices among and between States and relevant stakeholders, and develop national or regional initiatives to increase access and availability of alternatives to child immigration detention
- c) Review and revise relevant legislation, policies and practices related to immigration detention to ensure that migrants are not detained arbitrarily, that decisions to detain are based on law, are proportionate, have a legitimate purpose, and are taken on an individual basis, in full compliance with due process and procedural safeguards, and that immigration detention is not used as a deterrent or a form of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment to migrants, in accordance with international human rights law
- d) Provide access to justice for all migrants in countries of transit and destination that are or may be subject to detention, including by ensuring free or affordable legal advice and assistance of a qualified and independent lawyer, child-friendly proceedings, as well as access to information and the right to regular review of a detention order
- e) Ensure that all migrants in detention are informed about the reasons for their detention, in a language and format they understand, and facilitate the exercise of their rights, including to communicate with the respective consular or diplomatic missions, legal representatives and family members, in accordance with international law and due process guarantees
- f) Reduce the negative and potentially lasting effects of detention on migrants by guaranteeing due process, that it is for the shortest period of time, non-punitive, safeguards physical and mental integrity, is separate from criminals, in so far as practicable, and that, as a minimum, access to food, basic healthcare, legal orientation and assistance, information and communication, as well as adequate accommodation is granted, in accordance with international human rights law
- g) Ensure that all governmental authorities and private actors duly charged with administering immigration detention do so in a way consistent with human rights and are trained on non-discrimination, the prevention of arbitrary arrest and detention in the context of international migration, and are held accountable for violations or abuses of human rights
- h) Uphold the protection and respect for the rights and best interests of the child at all times, regardless of their migration status, by ensuring availability and accessibility of a viable range of alternatives to detention that ensure access to education and healthcare, and respect their right to family life and family unity, in non-custodial contexts, ~~favouring community-based care arrangements, that ensure access to education and healthcare, and respect their right to family life and family unity,~~ and by working to end the practice of child detention in the context of international migration

Commented [Initiati33]: The purpose of this suggested addition is to create a 'hook' for the implementation of objective 13 (h) once the GCM is adopted.

Commented [Initiati34]: In line with the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

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

- 29. We commit to strengthen consular protection of and assistance to our nationals abroad, as well as consular cooperation between States in order to better safeguard the rights and interests of all migrants at all times, and to build upon the functions of consular missions to enhance interactions between migrants and State authorities of countries of origin, transit, destination and return, in accordance with international law.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Cooperate to build consular capacities, train consular officers, promote arrangements for providing consular services collectively where individual States lack capacity, including through technical assistance, and to develop bilateral or regional agreements on various aspects of consular cooperation
- b) Involve relevant consular and immigration personnel in existing global and regional fora on migration in order to exchange information and best practices about issues of mutual concern that pertain to citizens abroad and contribute to comprehensive and evidence-based migration policy development
- c) Conclude bilateral or regional agreements on consular assistance and representation in places where States have an interest in strengthening effective consular services related to migration, but do not have a diplomatic or consular presence
- d) Strengthen consular capacities and develop consular protocols in order to identify, protect and assist our nationals in a situation of vulnerability, including victims of human and labour rights violations or abuse, victims of crime, victims of trafficking in persons, migrants subject to smuggling under aggravating circumstances, and migrant workers exploited in the process of recruitment, by providing training to consular officers on human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive actions in this regard
- e) Consolidate a national digital database to register our nationals abroad, in close cooperation with consular, national and local authorities, as well as relevant migrant organizations, to facilitate information, services and assistance to migrants in emergency situations and ensure migrants' accessibility to relevant and timely information, including by establishing helplines, while upholding privacy rights and protecting personal data
- f) Provide consular support to our nationals through advice, including on local laws and customs, interaction with authorities, financial inclusion, and business establishment, as well as through the issuance of consular identity documents that may facilitate access to services, assistance in emergency situations, the opening of a bank account, and access to remittance facilities

Commented [Initiativ35]: We welcome this additional reference to training of consular officers.

OBJECTIVE 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants

30. We commit to ensure that all migrants, regardless of their migration status, can exercise their human rights through access to basic services, including information, shelter, health, education, child protection and justice. We further commit to strengthen migrant-inclusive service delivery systems, notwithstanding that nationals and regular migrants may be entitled to more comprehensive service provision, while ensuring non-discrimination and that any differential treatment must be based on law, proportionate, pursue a legitimate aim, in accordance with international human rights law.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Promote the implementation of the recommendations of the WHO Framework of Priorities and Guiding Principles to Promote the Health of Refugees and Migrants
- b) Enact laws and take measures to ensure that service delivery does not amount to discrimination against migrants on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other grounds irrespective of cases where differential provision of services based on migration status might apply

- c) Ensure that ~~cooperation between service providers and immigration authorities does not exacerbate vulnerabilities of irregular migrants by compromising their~~ all migrants regardless of status can safely access to these services, upholding privacy rights, data protection and professional confidentiality ~~or infringements to privacy rights~~, and that they are not apprehended at places of service delivery, including hospitals, schools and courts
- d) Establish and strengthen holistic and easily accessible service points at local level, that are migrant inclusive, offer relevant information on basic services in a gender- and disability-responsive as well as child-sensitive manner, and facilitate safe access thereto regardless of status
- e) Establish or mandate independent institutions at the national or local level, such as National Human Rights Institutions, to receive, investigate and monitor complaints about situations in which migrants' access to basic services is systematically denied or hindered, facilitate access to redress, and work towards a change in practice
- f) Expand and enhance national health systems, incorporating the needs of migrants in national and local health care policies and plans, including by strengthening capacities for service provision, facilitating affordable and non-discriminatory access, reducing communication barriers, and training health care providers on culturally-sensitive service delivery, in order to promote the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health of migrants and communities overall
- g) Provide inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all migrant children and youth, by strengthening the capacities of education and child protection systems and by facilitating non-discriminatory and safe access to early childhood development, formal schooling in national education systems, non-formal education programmes to for-prepare children to access the ~~for whom the formal system is inaccessible~~, on-the-job and vocational training, technical education, and language training, as well as by fostering partnerships with all stakeholders that can support this endeavour

Commented [Initiati36]: We welcome the language in subparagraphs c & d.

Commented [Initiati37]: It is key that non-formal education is not thought of as an alternative for migrant children, but as a temporary measure aimed at preparing them to access the national education system, including in terms of language skills.

OBJECTIVE 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

31. We commit to foster inclusive and cohesive societies by empowering migrants to become active members of society and promoting the reciprocal engagement of receiving communities and migrants in the exercise of their rights and obligations towards each other, including respect for national laws and customs of the country of destination. We further commit to strengthen the welfare of all members of societies by minimizing disparities, avoiding polarization and increasing public confidence in policies and institutions related to migration, in line with the acknowledgment that fully integrated migrants are better positioned to contribute to prosperity.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Promote mutual respect for the cultures, traditions and customs of communities of destination and of migrants by exchanging and implementing best practices on integration policies, programmes and activities, including on ways to promote acceptance of diversity and facilitate social cohesion and inclusion
- b) Establish comprehensive and needs-based pre-departure and post-arrival programmes that may include rights and obligations, basic language training, as well as orientation about social norms and customs in the country of destination

- c) Develop national short, medium and long term policy goals regarding the inclusion of migrants in societies, including on labour market integration, family reunification, education, non-discrimination and health, including by fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders.
- d) Work towards inclusive labour markets and full participation of migrant workers in the formal economy by facilitating access to employment opportunities for which they are most qualified, in accordance with local and national labour market demands and skills supply
- e) Empower migrant women by eliminating gender-based discriminatory restrictions on formal employment, ensuring the right to freedom of association, and facilitating access to relevant basic services, as measures to promote their leadership and guarantee their full, free and equal participation in society
- f) Establish community centres or programmes at the local level to facilitate migrant participation in the receiving society by involving migrants, community members, diaspora organizations, migrant associations, and local authorities in intercultural dialogue, sharing of stories, mentorship and sponsorship programmes, and development of business ties that improve integration outcomes and foster mutual respect
- g) Capitalize on the skills, cultural and language proficiency of migrants and receiving communities by developing and promoting peer-to-peer training exchanges, gender-responsive, vocational and civic integration courses and workshops
- h) Support multicultural activities through sports, music, arts, culinary festivals and other social events that will facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation of migrant cultures and those of destination communities
- i) Promote school environments that are safe and welcoming and support the aspirations of migrant children and youth by enhancing relationships within the school community, incorporating evidence-based information about migration in education curricula, and dedicating targeted resources to schools with a high concentration of migrant children for integration activities in order to promote respect for diversity and inclusion, and to prevent all forms discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance.

Commented [Initiati38]: We welcome that this paragraph has been kept.

Commented [Initiati39]: Rationale: this is an important addition, given the climate of xenophobia and acts of hatred/violence against migrants, so we also need to make sure that school environments are also safe.

Commented [Initiati40]: This sub-para could ideally be more aligned with SDG 4.7: *By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development*

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

32. We commit to condemn and counter expressions, acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, violence, xenophobia and related intolerance against all migrants, including those based on race, ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, economic position, religion or belief, in conformity with international human rights law. We further commit to promote an open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants in partnership with all parts of society, that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard. We also commit to protect freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with international law, recognizing that an open, responsible and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Enact, implement or maintain legislation that penalizes hate crimes and aggravated hate crimes targeting migrants and train law enforcement and other public officials to identify, prevent and respond to such crimes and other acts of violence that target migrants, as well as to provide medical, legal and psychosocial assistance for victims

- b) Empower migrants and communities to denounce the act of incitement to violence directed towards migrants by informing them of available mechanisms for redress, and ensure that those who actively participate in the commission of a hate crime targeting migrants are held accountable, in accordance with national legislation, and while upholding international human rights law, in particular the right to freedom of expression
- c) Promote independent, objective and quality reporting of media outlets, including internet-based information, including by sensitizing media professionals on migration-related issues and terminology, investing in ethical advertising, avoiding public funding or material support to media outlets that systematically promote intolerance, xenophobia, racism and other forms of discrimination towards migrants
- d) Establish mechanisms to prevent, detect and respond to racial, religious and ethnic profiling of migrants by public authorities, as well as systematic instances of intolerance, xenophobia, racism and all other multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in partnership with National Human Rights Institutions, including by tracking and publishing trends analyses, and ensuring access to effective complaint and redress mechanisms
- e) Provide migrants, especially migrant women, with access to national and regional complaint and redress mechanisms with a view to promoting accountability and addressing governmental actions related to discriminatory acts and manifestations carried out against migrants and their families
- f) Promote awareness-raising campaigns targeted at communities of origin, transit, destination and return in order to inform public perceptions regarding the positive contribution of migrants and migration, based on evidence and facts, and to end stigmatization and xenophobia against migrants
- g) Engage migrants, political, religious and community leaders, as well as educators and service providers to detect and prevent incidences of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination against migrants and diasporas and support activities in local communities to promote mutual respect, including in the context of electoral campaigns

OBJECTIVE 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

33. We commit to invest in innovative solutions that facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers at all skills levels, and promote demand-driven skills development to optimize the employability of migrants in labour markets in countries of destination and in countries of origin upon return, as well as to ensure decent work in labour migration.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Develop standards and guidelines for the mutual recognition of foreign qualifications and non-formally acquired skills in different sectors in collaboration with the respective industries with a view to ensuring worldwide compatibility based on existing models and best practices
- b) Promote compatibility of National Qualifications Frameworks by agreeing on standard criteria, indicators and assessment parameters, and by creating and strengthening national skills profiling tools, registries or institutions in order to facilitate effective and efficient mutual recognition procedures at all skills levels

- c) Conclude bilateral, regional or multilateral mutual recognition agreements or include recognition provisions in broader labour mobility or trade agreements in order to provide equivalence or comparability in national systems, such as automatic or managed mutual recognition mechanisms
- d) Use technology and digitalization to evaluate and mutually recognize skills more comprehensively based on formal credentials as well as non-formally acquired competences and professional experience at all skills levels
- e) Build global skills partnerships amongst countries that strengthen training capacities of national authorities and relevant stakeholders, and foster skills development of workers in countries of origin and migrants in countries of destination with a view to preparing trainees for employability in the labour markets of all participating countries
- f) Promote inter-institutional networks and collaborative programmes for partnerships between the private sector and educational institutions in countries of origin and destination to enable mutually beneficial skills development opportunities for migrants, communities and participating partners, including by building on the best practices of the Business Mechanism developed in the context of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
- g) Engage in bilateral partnerships and programmes in cooperation with relevant stakeholders that promote skills development, mobility and circulation, such as student exchange programmes, scholarships, professional exchange programmes and trainee- or apprenticeships that include options for beneficiaries, after successful completion of these programmes, to seek employment and engage in entrepreneurship
- h) Cooperate with the private sector and employers to make available easily accessible and gender-responsive remote or online skills development and matching programmes to migrants at all skills levels, including early and occupation-specific language training, on-the-job training and access to advanced training programmes, to enhance their employability in sectors with demand for labour based on the industry's knowledge of labour market dynamics, especially to promote the economic empowerment of women [and youth](#)
- i) Enhance the ability of migrant workers to transition from a job or employer to another through documentation and recognition of upskilling
- j) Develop innovative ways to mutually recognize and assess formally and informally acquired skills, including through timely and complementary training to job seekers, mentoring, and internship programmes in order to fully recognize existing credentials and provide certificates of proficiency for the validation of newly acquired skills
- k) Establish screening mechanisms of credentials and offer information to migrants on how to get their skills and qualifications assessed and recognized prior to departure, including in recruitment processes or at an early stage after arrival to improve employability
- l) Develop and promote documentation and information tools, recognized across multiple jurisdictions, providing workers with an overview of their credentials, skills and qualifications, in order to enable employers to evaluate the suitability of migrant workers in job application processes

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

34. We commit to empower migrants and diasporas to catalyse their development contributions, and to harness the benefits of migration as a source of sustainable development, reaffirming

that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Ensure the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by fostering and facilitating the positive effects of migration for the realization of all Sustainable Development Goals
- b) Integrate migration into development planning and sectoral policies at local, national, regional and global levels, taking into consideration other existing policy guidelines and recommendations, including the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, in order to strengthen policy coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation
- c) Invest in research on the impact of non-financial contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination, such as knowledge and skills transfer, social and civic engagement, and cultural exchange, with a view to developing evidence-based policies and strengthening global policy discussions
- d) Facilitate the contributions of migrants and diasporas to their countries of origin, including by establishing or strengthening government structures or mechanisms at all levels, such as dedicated diaspora offices or focal points, diaspora policy advisory boards for governments to account for the potential of migrants and diasporas in migration and development policy-making, and dedicated diaspora focal points in diplomatic or consular missions
- e) Develop targeted support programmes and financial products that facilitate migrant and diaspora investments and entrepreneurship, including by providing administrative and legal support in business creation, granting seed capital-matching, establish diaspora bonds and diaspora development funds, investment funds, and organize dedicated trade fairs
- f) Provide easily accessible information and guidance, including through digital platforms, as well as tailored mechanisms for the coordinated and effective financial, voluntary or philanthropic engagement of migrants and diasporas, especially in humanitarian emergencies in their countries of origin, including by involving consular missions
- g) Enable political participation and engagement of migrants in their countries of origin, including in peace and reconciliation processes, in elections and political reforms, such as by establishing voting registries for citizens abroad, and by parliamentary representation, in accordance with national legislation
- h) Promote migration policies that optimize the benefits of diasporas for countries of origin and destination and their communities, by facilitating flexible modalities to travel, work and invest with minimal administrative burdens, including by reviewing and revising visa, residency, citizenship and family reunification regulations
- i) Cooperate with other States, the private sector and employers organizations to enable migrants and diasporas, especially those in highly technical fields and in high demand, to carry out some of their professional activities and engage in knowledge transfer in their home countries, without necessarily losing employment, residence status, or earned social benefits
- j) Build partnerships between local authorities, local communities, the private sector, diasporas and hometown associations to promote knowledge and skills transfer between their countries of origin and countries of destination, including by mapping the diasporas

and their skills, as a means to maintain the link between diasporas and their country of origin

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

35. We commit to promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances by further developing existing conducive policy and regulatory environments that enable competition, regulation and innovation on the remittance market and by providing gender-responsive programmes and instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families. We further commit to optimize the transformative impact of remittances on the well-being of migrant workers and their families, as well as on sustainable development of countries, while respecting that remittances constitute an important source of private capital, and cannot be equated to other international financial flows, such as foreign direct investment, official development assistance, or other public sources of financing for development.

Commented [Initiati41]: We welcome this addition.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Develop a roadmap to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 per cent and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030 in line with target 10.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- b) Promote and support IFAD's International Day of Family Remittances and the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development as an important platform to build and strengthen partnerships for innovative solutions on cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances with all relevant stakeholders
- c) Harmonize remittance market regulations and increase the interoperability of remittance infrastructure along corridors by ensuring that measures to combat illicit financial flows and money laundering do not impede migrant remittances through undue, excessive or discriminatory policies
- d) Establish conducive policy and regulatory frameworks that promote a competitive and innovative remittance market, remove unwarranted obstacles to non-bank remittance service providers in accessing payment system infrastructure, provide tax exemptions or incentives for remittance transfers, eliminate exclusivity contracts, incentivize the private sector to expand remittance services, and enhance the security and predictability of low-value transactions by bearing in mind de-risking concerns, and developing a methodology to distinguish remittances from illicit flows, in consultation with remittance service providers and financial regulators
- e) Develop innovative technological solutions for remittance transfer, such as mobile payments, digital tools or e-banking, to reduce costs, improve speed, enhance security, increase transfer through regular channels and open up gender-responsive distribution channels to underserved populations, including for persons in rural areas, persons with low levels of literacy, and persons with disabilities
- f) Provide accessible information on remittance transfer costs by provider and channel, such as comparison websites, in order to increase the transparency and competition on the remittance transfer market, and promote financial literacy and inclusion of migrants and their families through education and training
- g) Develop programmes and instruments to promote investments from remittance senders in local development and entrepreneurship in countries of origin, such as through matching-

grant mechanisms, municipal bonds and partnerships with hometown associations, in order to enhance the transformative potential of remittances beyond the individual households of migrant workers at skills levels

- h) Enable migrant women to access financial literacy training and formal remittance transfer systems, as well as to open a bank account, own and manage financial assets, investments and business as means to address gender inequalities and foster their active participation in the economy
- i) Provide access to and develop banking solutions and financial instruments for migrants, including low-income and female-headed households, such as bank accounts that permit direct deposits by employers, savings accounts, loans and credits in cooperation with the banking sector

OBJECTIVE 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe, dignified return and readmission, and sustainable reintegration

36. We commit to facilitate and cooperate for safe, human rights-based and dignified return and readmission, ensuring that our returning nationals are duly received, in accordance with the human right to return to his or her own country and the corollary obligation of States to readmit their own nationals, while upholding the fundamental international human rights law principle of non-refoulement, the best interests of the child and the prohibition of collective expulsion, ensuring due process and effective remedy, and prioritizing voluntary over forced return. We further commit to create conducive conditions for personal safety, economic empowerment, inclusion and social cohesion in communities, in order to ensure that reintegration of migrants upon return to their countries of origin is sustainable.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Develop and implement bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks and agreements, ensuring that return and readmission of migrants to their own country is safe, dignified and in full compliance with international human rights law, including the rights of the child and best interests of the child, by determining clear and mutually agreed procedures that uphold procedural safeguards, guarantee individual assessments and legal certainty, and by ensuring that they also include provisions that facilitate sustainable reintegration
- b) Promote gender-responsive and child-sensitive voluntary return and reintegration programmes, that may include legal, social and financial support, guaranteeing that all voluntary returns take place on the basis of the migrant's free, prior and informed consent, and that returning migrants are assisted in their reintegration process through effective partnerships, including to avoid they become displaced or at risk of human rights violations in the country upon return
- c) Enhance cooperation on identification of nationals and issuance of travel documents for return and readmission in cases of persons that do not have the legal right to stay on another State's territory, by establishing reliable and efficient means of identification of own nationals such as through the addition of biometric identifiers in population registries, and by digitalizing civil registry systems, with full respect to the right to privacy and protection of personal data
- d) Foster institutional contacts between consular authorities and relevant officials from countries of origin and destination, and provide adequate consular assistance to returning

Commented [Initiativ42]: Rationale: It is critical to include the reference to the best interest of the child along the key principles that states should comply with when cooperating for safe, human rights-based and dignified return and readmission, as one overarching consideration that would apply for all the actions underneath. This is not a policy option or a best practice but an obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, almost universally ratified.

In line with the CRC, the best interest of the child is a "primary" consideration and not only one consideration among many others, and should primarily influence decisions to return a child or not and on how returns procedures and reintegration programmes are carried out (in a child rights compliant manner).

Commented [Initiativ43]: We welcome this reference.

migrants prior to return by facilitating access to documentation, travel documents, and other services, in order to ensure predictability, safety and dignity in return and readmission

- e) Ensure that decisions of forced return are carried out by competent authorities, and that removal orders avoid collective expulsions and follow an individualized assessment that considers any circumstances that may prohibit such return, including the individual's real and foreseeable risk of death, torture, or other irreparable harms, children's best interests independently determined by competent child protection and welfare authorities, and the individual's level of integration, in compliance with due process guarantees and other obligations under international human rights law
- f) Establish or strengthen independent monitoring and oversight mechanisms on return, readmission and reintegration in partnership with relevant stakeholders and national human rights institutions, in order to provide recommendations on ways and means to strengthen accountability, and to guarantee the safety, dignity, and human rights of all returning migrants
- g) Ensure that return and readmission processes involving children are only returned when it has been determined to be in their best interests ~~include a best interests of the child determination;~~ taking take into account the right of the child to be heard, the right to family unity, ensuring and that a parent, legal guardian or specialized official accompanies the child throughout the return process, guaranteeing that reception, care and reintegration arrangements for children are in place in the country of return, increasing the availability and use of child-specific country of origin information reports, and supporting the capacity of national and local authorities for child-sensitive reintegration including alternatives in a family environment when family reunification is not appropriate or possible
- h) Facilitate the reintegration of returning migrants into community life by providing them equal access to social protection and services, justice, education, psycho-social assistance, vocational training, employment opportunities and decent work, recognition of skills acquired abroad, and financial services, in order to fully build upon their entrepreneurship, skills and human capital as active members of society in the country of return
- i) Identify and address the needs of the communities to which migrants return by including respective provisions in national and local development strategies, infrastructure planning, budget allocations and other relevant policy decisions

Commented [Initiati44]: These would be child protection authorities in the case of children.

Commented [Initiati45]: Rationale: As clearly set out in the CRC, the best interest of the child is a "primary" consideration and not only one consideration among many others, and should primarily influence decisions to return a child or not. It should not be a tick box exercise. Therefore "a child should only be returned when this has been determined to be in their best interests". While not absolute, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has made clear that general immigration considerations cannot outweigh the best interests of the child.

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

37. We commit to assist migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of corresponding social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Establish or maintain non-discriminatory national social protection systems, including social protection floors for nationals and migrants, in line with the ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors
- b) Develop bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements on the portability of earned benefits for migrant workers at all skills levels, which specify the applicable social protection floor, corresponding social security entitlements and provisions, such as pensions and

healthcare, and measures to address the difficulties women face in accessing social protection

- c) Conclude bilateral or multilateral social security agreements to ensure the portability of corresponding social security entitlements, which may include pensions, medical insurance, and other earned benefits, or integrate such provisions into trade agreements, as well as agreements on long-term and temporary labour migration
- d) Integrate provisions on the portability of entitlements and earned benefits into national social security frameworks, designate focal points in countries of origin, transit, destination and return that facilitate portability requests from migrants, and establish dedicated instruments, such as migrant welfare funds in countries of origin that support migrant workers and their families

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

38. We commit to support each other in the realization of the objectives and commitments laid out in this Global Compact through enhanced international cooperation, a revitalized global partnership, and in the spirit of solidarity, reaffirming the centrality of a comprehensive and integrated approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, and recognizing that we are all countries of origin, transit, destination and return. We further commit to take joint action in addressing the challenges faced by each country to implement this Global Compact, underscoring the specific challenges faced by African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing countries. We also commit to promote the mutually reinforcing impact between the Global Compact and existing international legal and policy frameworks, by aligning the implementation of this Global Compact with such frameworks, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and their recognition that migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent.

In this regard, the following actions are instrumental:

- a) Support other States as we collectively implement the Global Compact, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance, in line with [international human rights commitments](#), national priorities, action plans and strategies, in cooperation with relevant ministries and government agencies, and relevant stakeholders
- b) Increase international cooperation to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in geographic areas from where irregular migration systematically originates due to consistent impacts of poverty, unemployment, [weak education and health systems](#), [all forms of violence](#), [inequality](#), [discrimination](#), climate change and disasters, among other structural factors, through appropriate cooperation frameworks, innovative partnerships and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, while upholding national ownership and shared responsibility
- c) Involve and support local authorities in the identification of needs and opportunities for international cooperation for the effective implementation of the Global Compact and integrate their perspectives and priorities into development strategies, programmes and planning on migration, as a means to ensure good governance as well as policy coherence across levels of government and policy sectors, and maximize the effectiveness and impact of international development cooperation
- d) Make use of the capacity-building mechanism and build upon other existing instruments to strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities by mobilizing technical, financial and

human resources from States international financial institutions, the private sector, international organizations and other sources in order to assist all States in fulfilling the commitments outlined in this Global Compact

- e) Conclude bilateral, regional or multilateral mutually beneficial, tailored, accountable and transparent partnerships that develop targeted, human rights based solutions to migration policy issues of common interest and address opportunities and challenges of migration in accordance with the Global Compact

IMPLEMENTATION

39. For the effective implementation of the Global Compact, we require concerted efforts at global, regional, national and local levels, including a coherent United Nations system.
40. We will work to fulfil the objectives, ~~and~~ commitments and actions outlined in the Global Compact, in line with our vision and guiding principles, by taking effective steps to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration at all stages. In doing so, we will take into account different national realities, capacities, and levels of development, and implement the Global Compact in a manner that is consistent with our rights and obligations under international law.
41. We will implement this Global Compact through enhanced bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation and a revitalized global partnership in a spirit of solidarity We will continue building on existing mechanisms, platforms and frameworks to address migration in all its dimensions. Recognizing the centrality of international cooperation for the effective implementation of the objectives and commitments, we will strive to reinforce our engagement in North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and assistance. Our cooperation efforts in this regard will be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
42. We decide to establish a capacity-building mechanism in the United Nations, building upon existing initiatives, that supports Member States in the implementation of the Global Compact. It allows Members States, the United Nations and other stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic foundations, to contribute technical, financial and human resources on a voluntary basis in order to strengthen capacities and foster multi-partner cooperation. The capacity-building mechanism will consist of:
 - a) A connection hub that facilitates demand-driven, tailor-made and integrated solutions, by:
 - i. advising on, assessing and processing country requests for the development of solutions
 - ii. identifying main implementing partners within the United Nations system, in line with comparative advantages and operational capacities
 - iii. connecting the request to similar solutions for peer-to-peer exchange and potential replication, where existing and relevant
 - iv. ensuring effective set-up for multi-agency and multi-stakeholder implementation
 - v. identifying funding opportunities, including by initiating the start-up fund
 - b) A start-up fund for initial financing to realize project-oriented solutions, by:
 - i. providing seed-funding, where needed, to jump start a specific project
 - ii. complementing other funding sources
 - iii. receiving voluntary financial contributions by Member States, the United Nations, international financial institutions, and other stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic foundations
 - c) A global knowledge platform as an online open data source, by:
 - i. serving as a repository of existing evidence, practices and initiatives
 - ii. facilitating the accessibility to knowledge and sharing of solutions
 - iii. building on the GFMD Platform for Partnerships and other relevant sources

43. We will implement the Global Compact in cooperation and partnership with migrants, children and youth, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, cities and local communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders.
44. We welcome the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations network on migration to ensure effective and coherent system-wide support to implementation, including the capacity-building mechanism, as well as follow-up and review of the Global Compact, in response to the needs of Member States. In this regard, we note that:
 - a) IOM will serve as the coordinator and secretariat of the network
 - b) the network will fully draw from the technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the United Nations system
 - c) the work of the network will be fully aligned with existing coordination mechanisms and the repositioning of the United Nations Development System
45. We request the Secretary-General, drawing on the network, to report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Global Compact, the activities of the United Nations system in this regard, as well as the functioning of the institutional arrangements.
46. Further recognizing the important role of State-led processes and platforms at global and regional levels in advancing the international dialogue on migration, we invite the Global Forum on Migration and Development, Regional Consultative Processes and other global, regional and subregional fora to provide platforms to exchange experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact, share good practices on policies and cooperation, promote innovative approaches, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships around specific policy issues.

Commented [Initiativ46]: Rationale: We would suggest to make an explicit reference to children and youth because they often don't have a voice and are often seen as the "luggage of their parents", while they are affected by migration in many ways and have a valuable contribution to make in this process, to ensure that that the Compact is implemented in "child sensitive" manner.

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

47. We will review the progress made in implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. For follow-up and review, we agree on intergovernmental measures that will assist us in fulfilling our objectives and commitments.
48. Considering that international migration requires a forum at global level through which Member States can review the implementation progress and guide the direction of the United Nations' work, we decide that:
 - a) The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, currently scheduled to take place every fourth session of the General Assembly, shall be repurposed and renamed "International Migration Review Forum"
 - b) The International Migration Review Forum shall serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and be multi-stakeholder in nature
 - c) The International Migration Review Forum shall take place every four years beginning in 2022

- d) The International Migration Review Forum shall discuss the implementation of the Global Compact at the national, regional and global levels, as well as allow for interaction with other relevant stakeholders with a view to building upon accomplishments and identifying opportunities for further cooperation
 - e) Each edition of the International Migration Review Forum will result in an inter-governmentally agreed Progress Declaration, which may be taken into consideration by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
49. Considering that most international migration takes place within regions, we also decide to select relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions or Regional Consultative Processes, to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, alternating with discussions at global level at a four year interval, in order to inform each edition of the International Migration Review Forum.
50. We invite the Global Forum on Migration and Development to provide a space for exchange among States on the implementation of some or the entirety of the objectives and commitments included in the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum.
51. Recognizing the important contributions of State-led initiatives on international migration, we invite fora, such as the IOM International Dialogue on Migration, Regional Consultative Processes, and others to contribute to the International Migration Review Forum by providing data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.