

**Regional Issue- based coalition for Europe and Central Asia
on
Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience**

Terms of Reference

Revised May 2020

I. Background

Migration and displacement are not new phenomena in the region - one that has faced varying population movement dynamics over time; Europe and Central Asia (ECA) host significant refugee and migrant populations whose share of the total population is significantly higher than the world average. This bears significant humanitarian and development implications.

The establishment of an Issue-based coalition (IBC) on large movements of people, displacement and resilience was proposed during the regional UN System meeting for Europe and Central Asia in Geneva on 11-12 May 2016, taking into account the increasing political, operational and societal implications of displacements and migration in Europe.

This document supersedes the initial IBC's ToRs, adopted and reviewed in 2016, and aligns them with regional UNDS reform processes -in particular the recommendations made at the December 2019 Regional Meeting for ECA held in Vienna, where the role of the IBCs was redesigned.

The revamped IBC builds upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states that no one will be left behind, including refugees and migrants, and recognizes migration and forced displacement as core development considerations. The 2030 Agenda remains a key framework for the IBC to support countries. The IBC also builds upon the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, whereby the UN General Assembly adopted a set of commitments to enhance international responses to large movements of refugees and migrants¹, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

- The **GCR** is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. It provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives.
- The **GCM** is a framework which expresses the determination of States to make an important contribution to enhance cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions. The GCM called for the establishment of the UN Network on Migration², to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, and for the rights and well-being of migrants and their communities of destination, origin, and transit.

¹ <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>

² The UN Network, just like the Coalition, places emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value, and from which results and impact can be readily gauged. It consists of thirty-eight UN entities, with eight (IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, ILO, UNODC, UNDESA, UNICEF, OHCHR) members of its Executive Committee, and with IOM being the Coordinator and Secretariat. <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/>

II. Main goal and Objectives

In close coordination with existing and relevant mechanisms (e.g. other IBCs, the Global Network on Migration, the Global Refugee Forum and other development-related platforms etc.) this IBC will serve as a platform for UN agencies and where present UN Country Teams (and potentially a wider group of stakeholders) to support country operations in responding to the situation of refugees, migrants and host communities in the UNECE Region of Europe and Central Asia³.

As per the December 2019 regional UN System meeting's recommendations, and without prejudice to the mandates and roles of the participating agencies, the IBC will assume the functions of a regional UN Network on Migration, with the aim of capitalizing on the synergies between the global-level UN Network on Migration and the IBC, while recognising the programme of action and follow up mechanisms of the GCM. Respecting the guiding principles of the GCM⁴, this IBC will support actions to assist Member States in implementing the GCM at the country and regional levels in alignment with the UN Development System.

The following are specific objectives of the issue-based coalition:

- 1) **Objective 1: Support UNSCF and CCA processes under the Leave no one Behind principle.**
 - a) Under the *Leave No One Behind* principle, support countries in including issues based on UNCT needs pertaining to refugees and migrants and stateless persons in the development of national action plans, in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), in Common Country Analysis (CCA) and MAPS (Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support) processes. At a minimum, these population groups should be included under relevant goals, such as SDG1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11 and SDG 16, -and ensuring a systematic application of relevant Companion Framework Guidance.
 - b) Provide timely and coherent guidance and advice to the UNRCP/ RCM /R-UNDG, and UNCTs on issues pertaining to large movement of people, displacement and resilience at national, regional levels -including on transboundary cooperation, and in support of the Decade Of Action to Deliver of SDG Goals;
 - c) As guided by DCO, align its work on the roadmap and schedule of various events and critical dates in country-led UNSDCF processes to enable the proactive involvement of the IBC to support UNCTs.
 - d) More particularly and in line with the UN common pledge at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, support advocacy efforts for refugees and displaced to have access to national services in countries of origin, countries of transit and refugee-hosting countries and to be included in regional frameworks and national development plans.
 - e) Coordinate and promote efforts of members and partners in relevant fora including UNECE's Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
- 2) **Objective 2: Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, contribute to the quadrennial regional review and reporting processes from 2020**

³ **UNECE member states are** : Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan. **This IBC focuses on Europe and Central Asia – with the possibility of supporting other countries of UNECE on a case by case basis.**

⁴ Cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the GCM: a) People-centred; b) International cooperation; c) National sovereignty; d) Rule of law and due process; e) Sustainable development; f) Human rights; g) Gender-responsive; h) Child- sensitive; i) Whole-of-government approach; and, j) Whole-of-society-approach.

- a) Strengthen the regional partnership and involvement of stakeholders as guided by the UN MM at global level)
 - b) Support establishment of, and cooperation amongst agencies of, national Migration Networks
 - c) Support country with resource mobilisation including to the Migration-MPTF
- 3) **Objective 3: Complement and cooperate with any Refugee Support Platform or configuration set up for the follow-up on the Global Compact on Refugees.**
- a) Support, at regional and country levels, the implementation of pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in coordination with relevant platforms/forum and entities.
- 4) **Objective 4: Support advocacy and information/experience sharing.**
- a) Ensure joint messaging, strengthening and promoting advocacy on issues related to the large movement of people, migration, and displacement, which would be delivered and amplified using a joined-up voice.
 - b) Enhance cooperation and information/data/experience sharing about refugees, migrants and resilience within and beyond the IBC by the respective lead agencies, relying particularly on the cooperation with the Working Group on Data and Statistics.
 - c) Promote joint work with and involvement of partners from outside of the UN, engaging in policy dialogues and exchanges with regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, research organizations, and financial institutions.
 - d) Within the area of expertise, act as liaison between policy work at the global, regional and country levels and connector with other IBCs and coordination groups.
 - e) Develop and promote common UN approaches to raise awareness of the rights of refugees and migrants and to counter xenophobia, as well as to improve institutional and community resilience.
 - f) Support knowledge generation and analytical work related to SDGs, GCM, and GCR as needed and in coordination with the respective global process. This includes supporting country operations/ UNCTs in preparing integrated project submissions to funding sources (such as MPTF) and mechanisms dedicated to supporting large movement of people, displacement and resilience.
 - g) Advise IBC members and partners on effective and efficient use of human and financial resources within and between member agencies on large movement of people, displacement and resilience issues, initiatives and interventions, including regional joint resource mobilization efforts as applicable.

III. Methodology

- The IBC aims to capitalize on efforts to strengthen institutional and community resilience, helping countries to respond to large displacement and migration challenges in a manner that takes into account issues around social cohesion and meeting the needs and rights of both migrant and refugee populations, as well as the host and transit communities, over the short, medium and long-term.
- This reflects a strategic shift towards an innovative approach that harmonizes humanitarian and development interventions for sustainable, and nationally led local responses. The goal is to support countries to address displacement and migration pressures by focusing on inclusive economic development and improved governance as longer-term solutions to key drivers within the region of displacement and migration. Improved protection of refugees and their integration and well-managed migration has significant positive impacts for human and economic development, through increased household incomes, improved access to services, and the empowerment of traditionally disadvantaged groups, in particular women.

- The IBC will not coordinate an emergency response to refugees and migrants, as there are already globally agreed-upon coordination arrangements for this.

IV. Membership

- The IBC is open to all UN funds, agencies and programmes. Other related entities working at the regional level may also be invited to participate, as well as relevant NGOs and other stakeholders as required.
- The membership will be determined on a case-by-case basis based on specific needs or joint activities included in the annual Workplan. Observers may also be invited as necessary and when relevant.
- The coalition will be led by regional directors (RDs) and or their alternates.
- The focal points represent their agency and, while contributing to the work of the IBC, are also responsible for keeping their colleagues in their respective agencies informed of the activities of the IBC. RDs or their alternates will provide regular updates on related activities and plans to support the IBC.

V. Chair and Secretariat – Meeting modalities

- UNHCR, IOM, and UNDP will co-chair the IBC and will be responsible for overall coordination and following up on the status of joint work plans.
- The three agencies co-chairing the IBC will also be responsible for the secretariat functions, including finalizing the joint annual work plan, reporting, and liaising with the r-UNDS for ECA.
- All messages sent out by this IBC will be co-signed by all Co-Chairing agencies.

VI. Meetings

- The IBC will normally meet on a quarterly basis (or more regularly as needed), through face-to-face and virtual meetings.
- Parallel ad-hoc calls, meetings or videoconferencing can be organised if needed to support missions, CCA preparations, reports or any other intervention at the UNCT, GCM Secretariat or regional level.

VII. Workplan and reporting

- It might also provide national UN Migration networks and UNCTs with guidance on the quadrennial regional of the GCM and other similar processes and frameworks i.e. the UN Network on Migration, Voluntary National Reviews- VNRs, and High-Level Political Forum - HLFPS).
- Yearly review of work, results and progress - including of the ToRs themselves if need be - towards achieving these terms of reference will be undertaken involving all members of the IBC.
- This IBC will constantly seek to adjust its working methods and refine the emphasis of the workplan to respond to emerging trends, challenges and opportunities, including natural or human disasters -including epidemics.

VIII. Geographical Scope

- The IBC will focus on all countries in Europe and Central Asia.