



GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Nigeria is eager to journeying with the international community in the effort to promote and adopt such measures to protect the dignity, rights and freedoms of all persons on the move, including forced migrants, victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons.

Following a National Consultation involving relevant stakeholders from Government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Academia, trade unions, private sector, and international partners held on October 19-20, 2017, Nigeria proffers the following sets of recommendations.

Recommendations

Preamble

Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees must be action-oriented with processes that will implement, monitor and review activities and progress, all of which ought to be holistic in approach as well as coverage.

Most importantly, the value of these two compacts, the GCM and GCR are of no significance if they do not have a positive impact on the lives of migrants and refugees. Thus their focus must not be centred solely on border control, detention, deportation, return and reintegration but must include aspects of orderly, safe and regular migration and better management of refugees.

Thematic area 1: Human Rights of all Migrants, Social Inclusion, Cohesion and all forms of Discrimination, including Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance

- Measures and policies ought to be adopted, and actions implemented that will address migrants' discrimination, criminalization, racism and xenophobia.
- Collective effort should be ensured in making our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable in order to facilitate better management of migrants' inclusion in society through the elimination of all forms of discriminations such as racism, xenophobia and intolerance.
- All countries and cities should endeavour to include documentation and regularizations of status of irregular migrants as means of curtailing all forms of discrimination against migrants.

- Since migration begins and ends in communities, the involvement of families and locals within communities in migration management cannot be over emphasised, and should be encouraged on both the National and Local levels.

Thematic area 2: Addressing Drivers of Migration, including Adverse Effects of Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Human-made Crises, through Protection and Assistance, Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication, Conflict Prevention and Resolution

- The Compact must provide a transformed commitment, with practicable and measurable actions, put in place by all countries with the support from the International community, that will eliminate all drivers of forced migration especially those stemming from poverty, lack of opportunities, conflict, as well as the abuse of any form of human rights.
- The International community should take advantage of the two compacts to mainstream a framework that will respond to issues such as environmentally induced migrants or forced displacement.
- As a best practice in regards to the principle of Non- refoulement, Nigeria recommends the inclusion of the principle in the Global Compact, which stands as a reminder to all states. The fundamental importance of ensuring respect for the principle of non-refoulement is of great significance, following the examples of the Ugandan and Nigerian experience.
- The absence of a holistic global instrument that addresses the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is of great concern. Thus, the Global Compact needs not only emphasize, but also articulate responsive actions on IDPs issues at the Global level.
- In like manner, every country should put in place mechanisms to prevent and address statelessness.

Thematic area 3: International Cooperation and Governance in Migration in all Dimensions, including Borders, Transit, Entry, Return, Readmission, Integration and Reintegration

- Transfer of social security from countries of destination to countries of origin for those using the return and reintegration program should be explored, encouraged and adopted following examples of existing best practices.
- Specific provision should be made for improving the capacity of embassies and consulates for adequate coordination to ensure safe and orderly return process.
- While negotiating Return, Re-admission and Re-integration, visa ban should not be placed on the returnees, especially voluntary returning migrants.

Thematic area 4: Contributions of Migrants and Diaspora, Including Women and Youth, to all Dimensions of Sustainable Development, Including Remittances and Portability of Earned Benefits

- Corridors of financial remittance in terms of cost effective to receiving countries should be strengthened. Diaspora engagement at all levels of national economic, social and political development should be implemented by all homelands.
- Host countries should endure to support Diaspora trans-border businesses and knowledge transfer.
- Good governance should be seen and ensured as an incentive for gaining the trust of Diasporas as well as facilitating their engagement in national and sustainable development.

Thematic area 5: Smuggling of Migrants, Trafficking in persons and Contemporary forms of Slavery, including Appropriate Identification, Protection and Assistance to Migrants and Trafficking Victims

- The protection of the rights of migrants, as well as the non-criminalisation of migrants, irrespective of their status, particularly victims of human trafficking and other smuggled migrants should not be negotiable and must be developed into a significant section of all bilateral engagements in this regard.
- Issues which deal with the protection of children, such as unaccompanied minors and the immediate restraint from child detentions should be mainstreamed in migration policy and programs.
- Security cooperation among coastal countries, and global support through collective cost sharing to tackle irregular migration and responding to humanitarian crises at the borders, land or sea should be strengthened.

Thematic area 6: Irregular Migration and Regular Pathways

- Flexible and democratic visa regimes should take the place of visa restrictions, high cost applications, non-refundable visa fee practice and long waiting periods to ensure accessible and affordable travel visas of all kinds. In addition, family unifications should be implemented by all countries.
- Now is the time to act to promote safe and decent labour mobility, working conditions, access to justice, social welfare, and labour rights for migrants and appeal for the elimination of recruitment fees. Effort in this regard must ensure the social inclusion of all migrants and their families as well as ensure their access to basic social amenities such as health care, education and jobs.

- Thus “the Global Compact must build upon the existing human rights and labour conventions and protocols, international humanitarian and refugee law, and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda.”
- Considering the impact of global trade on migration, both as push and pull factors, the GCM should endeavour to capture the role of the private sector in migration management in all aspects, especially in the area of migration interface with environment and the protection of the human rights of migrants.

Crosscutting Recommendation

- Above all, without quantitative, qualitative, consistent and regularly updated statistics, policy decisions and public opinions on migration should be based on erroneous information possibly from biased sources.
- Therefore improving the data system for generating information on migration flows and migrant stocks is a necessary constituent for strengthening the demographic evidence base, which will guide policy-making and public debate on areas that lack accurate, comparable and disaggregated data, which hinders effective migration management.
- Such statistics must mainstream disaggregated data according to gender and age without which inequalities and discrimination of vulnerable undocumented migrant groups such as women and children are worsened.
- GCM should provide for and encourage harmonisation, cooperation and coordination of national, regional and global policies, in various areas of migration management mechanisms.
- Sufficient budget for the implementation of migration policies, effective and efficient coordination of migration management should be proved for in national annual budgets, and the establishment of regional and global solidarity migration fund.