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**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

　　The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, drawing on the United Nations Network on Migration, to report to the Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration, the activities of the United Nations system in this regard, as well as the functioning of the institutional arrangements. The present report also responds to the request made by the Assembly in its resolution 73/326 of 19 July 2019 for the Secretary-General, as part of the biennial report preceding each forum, drawing on the Network, to provide guidance for the deliberations during the forum, including the envisaged round tables and policy debate, and to make the report available at least 12 weeks ahead of each forum. The report builds on the inputs and outcomes from the Global Compact regional reviews, as well as dedicated Member State and stakeholder consultations and discussions with United Nations system entities.[a] The drafting of the report was overseen by the Network's Executive Committee, comprising the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization.

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　　[a] All practices referenced in the present report are accessible from the United Nations Network Hub: https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub.

I. Introduction

1. The need for a cooperative framework on migration has never been more apparent, and the foresight of Member States and stakeholders in developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration has never been more evident. The first International Migration Review Forum, to be held in May 2022, presents the international community with a vital opportunity to reinforce the relevance and timeliness of the Compact, assess its impact to date and ensure that it is brought to bear in equipping societies for future challenges.

2. Since the adoption of the Compact, on 10 December 2018, international migration has remained ubiquitous and an issue of critical importance. This has been particularly apparent in the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, for both good and ill. Migrants were among those groups most impacted, whether through increased risk of COVID-19 infection, restricted or non-existent access to health services and social protection, job losses, discrimination, protracted family separation, inability to access online learning and child services or unsafe and undignified returns.

3. The essential roles that so many migrants play as front-line service providers, pivotal actors in our supply chains and crucial sources of support for their families and communities have been rightly recognized and celebrated in many countries. As States responded to the pandemic and its impacts, many showed foresight in breaking down barriers, through policy or practice, to ensure non-discriminatory health-care and vaccine access and to ensure that migrant workers remained employed, for example, by adapting regular pathways. Others halted deportations and accelerated the use of alternatives to immigration detention. In addition, remittance flows have remained resilient as critical sources of support for families and communities.

4. Building on those examples will be an important component of the International Migration Review Forum and its outcome. Also important will be acknowledging and addressing the many deficits that remain, including the manner in which migration governance, whether as a response to COVID-19 or not, leaves too many migrants in desperate situations of vulnerability or denies them agency. Any failure to explicitly include migrants in vaccination plans undermines our commitment to broader public health goals and to combating inequality devalues the solemn commitment to leaving no one behind that Member States made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. It is also important to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has, in many ways, reshaped international migration. Evolving mobility restrictions and entry requirements have profoundly altered the mechanics and opportunities for admission, stay, work and return. It is clear, however, that many challenges predate the pandemic. Discrimination, xenophobia, misinformation and the stigmatization of migrants or minorities associated with migration remain virulent. In this environment, migrants are vilified and even considered as threats. It is unacceptable that, in today's world, thousands of migrants are subject to great suffering and disappear or die during their migration journeys.

6. The guiding principles, objectives and proposed actions of the Compact provide the road map for addressing those challenges. Indeed, as shown in the present report, the Compact's value as a touchstone and guide for States has been demonstrated throughout the pandemic, as they work to make migration work for all.

7. Amid emerging transitions, the vision of the Compact must be promoted in order to facilitate and recognize the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration for everyone and to enhance the Compact's potential to promote the achievement of the

Sustainable Development Goals. Dedicated efforts, including through concrete commitments towards the implementation of the Compact, will be integral to the next phase of realizing the Compact's vision. In particular, the forthcoming International Migration Review Forum provides an opportunity to harness the power of multilateralism to provide concrete guidance in three areas of overarching and common importance.

8.   The first area relates to how inclusive societies can be further promoted and how to ensure that migrants are more effectively integrated into communities and economies, whether of destination, transit or origin, and not defined simply by their migration status.

9.   The second area relates to how regular migration can be further fostered through diversified pathways, opportunities for regularization and sustainable reintegration, while addressing the reverberations of the pandemic and preparing for the intensifying impacts of climate change and for the evolution of our societies and economies.

10.   The third area relates to how to reduce the vulnerabilities that undermine the rights or well-being of migrants, their families and societies, including the tragedies that stem from irregular and precarious migration and the responses to them.

11.   The lessons of the pandemic provide a timely opportunity to recalibrate gender-responsive and child-sensitive migration governance at the local, national, regional and global levels so that the commitments of the Compact, the 2030 Agenda and the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations are fulfilled for all migrants, and indeed for everyone. As the first International Migration Review Forum approaches, the present report contains a call upon States to take concerted action to advance a world that truly fosters the rights, dignity and well-being of migrants and that is grounded in cooperation and international law.

Snapshot of migration and migrants: global data and trends

• The number of persons living outside their country of birth or citizenship has witnessed robust growth in recent decades, reaching 281 million in 2020.[a]

• As a result, international migrants as a share of the global population increased from 2.8 per cent in 2000 to 3.6 per cent in 2020.

• At the end of 2020, 35.5 million children, or 1 in 66 children globally, under 18 years of age were living outside their country of birth.[b]

• In 2019, there were more than 169 million migrant workers in the world.[c]

• During the 2015–2020 period, the net flow of migrants moving from less developed to more developed regions was estimated at 2.8 million annually.[d]

• The pandemic may have reduced the global number of international migrants by around 2 million by mid-2020.

• Between 1 January 2019 and 24 November 2021, more than 8,436 migrant deaths were recorded globally; a further 5,534 migrants went missing and are presumed dead.

- In 2020, officially recorded remittances to low- and middle-income countries were $549 billion, only 1.7 per cent below the total for 2019.[d]

- At their peak, in mid-December 2020, travel measures, mobility restrictions and border closures implemented by Governments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic exceeded 111,000 and, as of November 2021, more than 25,000 entry restrictions related to the pandemic remained in place.[e]

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[a] *International Migration 2020: Highlights* (United Nations publication, 2020).

[b] International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, "Missing from the Story: The Urgent Need for Better Data to Protect Children on the Move" (2021).

[c] International Labour Organization, *ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers* (Geneva, 2021).

[d] International Organization for Migration, Migration Policy Institute, *COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2020* (Geneva, 2021).

[e] Ibid., "Human mobility impacts due to COVID-19". Available at https://migration.iom.int/ (accessed in November 2021).

II. Progress on implementation

A. State and stakeholder engagement on the Compact

12. While hurdles stemming from the pandemic affected progress on the implementation of the Compact, States endeavoured to implement its commitments. In their voluntary reports submitted in response to the regional reviews on the Compact, more than 90 States discussed progress and challenges.[1] Approaches to implementation differ. Kenya and Portugal adopted Compact-specific national implementation plans. Some States incorporated the Compact into existing frameworks. Others observed that their existing frameworks sufficiently reflected the Compact. States also reported on national efforts that were already under way when the Compact was adopted and that aligned with the commitments and recommended actions of the Compact.

13. States identified other challenges to implementation aside from the pandemic. Those included limited resource, technical and technological capacity; inadequate coordination within Governments and with stakeholders; the complexity of irregular migration; and the need to simplify procedures and generate greater awareness of regular pathways.

14. With support from the United Nations Network on Migration, 27 "champion countries" have come together to share experiences and foster State engagement with the Compact, through, for example, their joint statement at the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development. Cultivating the engagement of countries with different migration policies and experiences has proved beneficial for promoting exchange, cooperation and partnerships.

15. Recommendations stemming from multi-stakeholder regional, subregional or thematic consultations were presented during the intergovernmental regional review conferences that were held over the past two years. Stakeholder consultations, interventions and written inputs suggested that engagement with stakeholders be strengthened prior to the conduct of regional reviews and in the preparation of voluntary reports. Stakeholders also called for more perspectives from migrants in

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[1] State reports are available at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/regional-reviews.

the analysis of implementation needs, the development of national plans and the Compact review and follow-up.

16.   The instrumental role of local actors in implementing the Compact, as first responders during crises and more generally, has become increasingly apparent. Often, only local action can fulfil policies and programmes that are developed at the national, regional and international levels In addition , policies adopted at the local level have a direct impact on the well-being of migrants. Local governments and stakeholders must be seen as allies in efforts to promote and implement the Compact and enhance coherence across commitments. A call to local action launched by the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development aims to showcase and support city-led approaches to migration governance and to illustrate actions that contribute to the implementation of the Compact. Recognizing the legal and political mandates of local governments is critical.

17.   As the world continues to grapple with the pandemic and a damaging two-speed recovery, some States have taken actions that honour the interconnectedness between the well-being of migrants and the prosperity of societies. Equally, regressions and worrying trends exist and coincide with unanticipated challenges. Therefore, reinvigorating international migration and optimizing its benefits for migrants, their families and societies require steadfast commitment to the Compact's 360-degree approach, its guiding principles and the achievement of all 23 objectives. The sections below provide an overview of the progress, practices and challenges noted by Governments and stakeholders, including during the regional reviews, across 10 themes.

B.   Recharging the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in order to address adverse drivers

18.   The pandemic reversed the progress that had been made towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda.[2] Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of poor people has increased by up to 124 million.[3] Between 83 and 132 million people may have been pushed into chronic hunger in 2020,[4] while an additional 101 million children and young people fell below the minimum reading proficiency level.[5] During 2020, the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs were lost.[6] E/2021/58. Global working hours in 2021 are estimated to have remained significantly below 2019 levels, with the burden falling principally on middle- and low-income countries.[7] Women and girls faced a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work and a range of other pandemic-associated challenges. These repercussions and their overlap with disasters, climate change, conflict and violence imperil the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The pandemic has also emphasized the vital role that migration plays in our economies and societies and the need to better protect, empower and promote the agency of migrants. To get the Goals back on track through the recovery and beyond, attention must be paid to tackling the adverse drivers of migration, reducing risks during migration and leveraging the contributions of migrants and migration to implement the 2030 Agenda during the current decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

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[2] See, for example, E/2021/58.
[3] E/HLS/2021/1.
[4] Ibid.
[5] E/2021/58.
[6] Ibid.
[7] See, for example, International Labour Organization, "ILO monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work – updated estimates and analysis", 8th ed., 27 October 2021.

19.   It is noteworthy in this regard that 20 of the 42 voluntary national review reports submitted by States at the high-level political forum held in 2021 referred to the Compact, migrants or migration-related themes. Building on linkages between the Global Compact, the Sustainable Development Goals and their review forums, including as reflected in the ministerial declaration adopted at the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development,[8] will be important for progressing the implementation of the Compact, alongside efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening linkages between the Compact, other fundamental instruments and agendas applicable to migration and their review forums is also essential.

C.   Mitigating, adapting and building resilience to environmental drivers

20.   States have underscored disasters, climate change and environmental degradation as pervasive adverse drivers of migration. Catastrophic storms, flooding, wildfires and droughts have devastated lives, livelihoods and human security. The amplifying effects of rising sea levels, glacial retreat, desertification and biodiversity decline augur an unsettling future. States have the power to reduce adversity and build resilience through inclusive, rights-based mitigation, risk reduction and adaptation, and multi-hazard, evidence-based approaches that recognize that crises, such as pandemics and storms, may overlap and have compounding effects.

21.   States are actively addressing those challenges. In 2019, Fiji established a trust fund to support the planned relocation of communities affected by climate change. The 2019–2024 strategy on drought-related disasters of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) includes efforts to build resilience and promote migration as an adaptation mechanism. Governments in the IGAD region, United Nations agencies and other entities are also engaged in a project funded by the migration multi-partner trust fund that seeks to address data and knowledge gaps, build capacity and ensure that human mobility associated with disasters and climate change is addressed through national and regional instruments on disaster risk reduction, climate action and mobility. The multi-stakeholder Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative integrates mobility considerations in the delivery of multisectoral capacity development services for States. The Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America used guidelines on disaster displacement as a training tool to support their member countries. Some countries also incorporate migrants and human mobility into their disaster risk reduction or preparedness frameworks. In June 2021, the mayor-led Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration was launched to address the impacts of the climate crisis on migration in cities and to accelerate global responses.

22.   Climate change is a defining challenge of our times. It demands policy coherence between the Compact and other applicable frameworks, including implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism recommendations on human mobility. At the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and as part of the Glasgow Climate Pact, State parties urged greater efforts on mitigation and adaptation and action and support to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including displacement.[9] Building on lessons, guidance and commitments, efforts must be strengthened to address the implications of climate change for migration and to foster people's resilience to remain in place with dignity or move as a form of adaptation. This is integral to the protection of the rights of children and future generations.

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[8] E/HLS/2021/1.

[9] World Bank Group, *Recovery: COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens* (2021).

D. Ensuring fair and ethical recruitment and decent work for migrant workers

23.   The pandemic underscored the crucial contributions of migrant workers, who account for most international migrants, and exploitative practices against them, highlighting the importance of protecting migrant workers and recognizing their skills. As migrant essential workers in health care and food production and distribution systems toiled to keep people safe and fed, often in unsafe and indecent conditions with insufficient protections, others lost jobs, livelihoods or regular status. Migrant workers faced wage theft, reduced salaries, discriminatory dismissals, withholding of benefits, forced unpaid leave and protracted separation from their families.

24.   As efforts are made to end the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate a truly global and equitable recovery that guarantees fair and ethical recruitment and decent work and invests in solutions that facilitate the mutual recognition and development of skills, qualifications and competencies will be crucial. Several examples demonstrate that it is possible. Bhutan, for instance, took action to enable migrant workers to extend their stays or change employers. Azerbaijan automatically extended the temporary residence permits of migrant workers during the pandemic. Viet Nam prohibited the charging of recruitment fees to migrant workers. Tunisia enhanced monitoring and enforcement capacity related to recruitment agencies. A coalition of stakeholders launched the "Justice for Wage Theft" campaign to address unjust withholding of migrant wages by their employers. Research and other collective efforts have contributed to enhancing the evidence base for the assessment of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.1. In 2020, Germany established a central advisory service to promote the recognition of foreign qualifications. In Sri Lanka, the Government and employers created a skills passport, which allowed returning nationals to demonstrate formally and informally acquired skills. States also continued to ratify fundamental labour instruments.

E. Addressing smuggling and human trafficking and promoting access to justice

25.   There are indications that migrant smugglers can rapidly adapt to curtailed and altered opportunities for regular migration by evading restrictions, identifying remote, riskier routes and increasing smuggling fees. Emerging research on specific migratory routes suggests that COVID-19 related interventions may have increased demand for smuggling services over the medium to long term. Smuggling, especially in its aggravated forms, can pose significant threats to the lives and welfare of migrants. It may involve gendered human rights violations and abuses, such as higher instances of forced labour reported for men and higher exposure to sexual violence and abuse reported for women. Altered dynamics stemming from the pandemic may pose new dangers and risks of aggravated smuggling.[10] Meanwhile, humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress is too often criminalized as smuggling. Migrants also represent a significant share of detected victims of trafficking in most regions. Poverty and economic marginalization, heightened since the pandemic, are among the key risk factors of trafficking in persons, including for children and young people.

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[10]   See, for example, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "COVID-19 and the Smuggling of Migrants: A Call for Safeguarding the Rights of Smuggled Migrants Facing Increased Risks and Vulnerabilities" (Vienna, 2021) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Abused and Neglected: A Gender Perspective on Aggravated Migrant Smuggling Offences and Response* (2021).

The COVID-19 context has complicated access and the provision of support to victims of trafficking.[11]

26. In 2020, States launched the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, two of which concern trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. In the 2020–2021 period, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons developed policy guidance on trafficking for the purposes of forced labour, the non-punishment of victims of trafficking, preventing trafficking through sustainable procurement and trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. Armenia established programmes and Argentina established specialized agencies to assist and support victims of trafficking. Panama created a temporary humanitarian protection permit for victims of trafficking.

27. Strengthening evidence on the evolving demand for and the characteristics of smuggling and the incidence of trafficking is necessary for targeted policies and protection interventions, including the bolstering of criminal justice responses. Domestic legislation must recognize circumstances that endanger the lives or safety of smuggled migrants, or that amount to inhuman and degrading treatment, as aggravations. Despite the severity of abuses, few cases take aggravations into account when prosecuting alleged smugglers and other criminals. States must eradicate impunity and ensure that all responses and referrals are child- and gender-sensitive in order to promote victim-centred protection and assistance.

F. Advancing non-custodial alternatives to immigration detention and steps towards ending child immigration detention

28. Policies, practices and conditions associated with immigration detention, including arbitrary deprivation of liberty, overcrowding and poor access to services, profoundly affect physical and mental health, well-being and child development. They undermine access to fair immigration processes and violate human rights. The pandemic exposed and amplified the risks inherent in immigration detention, where physical distancing is nearly impossible, hygiene and protective equipment are inadequate, human resources are stretched and misinformation is common.

29. The pandemic prompted States to adopt non-custodial alternatives. Some States closed immigration detention facilities, suspended detention practices and released migrants into non-custodial alternatives with access to health-care and other services; some also enabled migrants to remain in regular status by extending visas. Others took steps to improve conditions by implementing COVID-19 risk mitigation measures. Some States implemented policy changes to phase out immigration detention and scale up non-custodial alternatives. In June 2021, Belgium created a government department to implement and promote alternatives to detention. In 2020, Mexico harmonized legislation to prohibit child immigration detention. Thailand adopted a monitoring and evaluation framework as part of its efforts to end child immigration detention.

30. Alongside encouraging steps, worrying trends have been observed. Some States responded to the pandemic by detaining more migrants for longer periods, using public health concerns to justify detention or unlawful deportation. Many States faced practical challenges in ensuring rights-based alternatives to detention, particularly in guaranteeing adequate living conditions and access to services for released migrants.

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[11] See, for example, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020* (United Nations publication, 2020) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons and Responses to the Challenges* (2021).

31.   A strong evidence base on the effectiveness of alternatives exists as a result of the dedicated efforts of government officials spearheading changes, health experts researching impacts, case managers assisting migrants and migrants in non-custodial alternatives. The pandemic allowed some countries to demonstrate how to govern migration humanely and effectively without resorting to detention. States can learn from those lessons and make liberty the norm by ending child immigration detention and investing in non-custodial alternatives to ensure that detention is a measure of last resort only.

G. Improving consular assistance and protection capacity to support all migrants

32.   The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the centrality of timely consular services for safeguarding migrants' rights throughout the migration cycle. The pandemic exacerbated demands for consular services, putting capacities to the test as migrants were deported, found themselves stranded, lost jobs and regular status, struggled to recoup entitlements or contracted COVID-19. Regional reviews highlighted challenges for delivering support to migrants, including in terms of coordination between consular and diplomatic networks and limited resources and presence.

33.   During the pandemic, several States made use of remote systems and digital solutions and collaborated with stakeholders to accommodate demand for consular assistance. Argentina strengthened consular support through its one-stop virtual mechanism and collaborated with diaspora communities to provide food and housing. In the Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) of 2019, States agreed to coordinate consular services.

34.   Experience demonstrates the importance of strengthening consular protection, assistance and cooperation to safeguard the rights and interests of migrants at all times. Effective consular services for migrants, including those in irregular status, can be extended by establishing new consulates, increasing trained staff, using digital solutions, enhancing bilateral and multilateral agreements or involving stakeholders. As countries revamp their consular systems, safeguarding privacy and protecting personal data remain vital.

H. Harnessing migrant contributions

35.   Knowledge is extensive on how migrants and diasporas enrich societies through human, socioeconomic and cultural capacities and contribute in their countries of origin and destination to sustainable development outcomes for their families and communities. The pandemic reinforced this understanding as migrants and diaspora communities used their competencies to address challenges. The Pakistani diaspora health initiative developed a digital platform for diaspora health professionals to provide online consultations and training. Diaspora organizations also translated guidance materials and supported outreach and information campaigns.

36.   The pandemic offers lessons on how to improve conditions for migrants and the diaspora to contribute to societies. In creating enabling environments, many States have established diaspora engagement policies to facilitate the contributions of the diaspora in countries of origin or destination, while some States reference migration, migrants or diaspora communities in their development plans. In 2020, following extensive consultation with migrants and diaspora communities, the Republic of Moldova rolled out the "Diaspora Succeeds at Home" programme, which offers grants to local governments and aims to make emigration work for local development. A

number of European States support the MEETAfrica initiative, which encourages members of the African diaspora in France and Germany to create businesses in their countries of origin. Other States, however, have acknowledged the lack of supportive policies for the diaspora.

I. Promoting faster, cheaper remittances and fostering financial inclusion

37. Despite the pandemic, remittances remained resilient, defying predictions and confirming that migrants endeavour to send money to their families even when in severe hardship. More than 800 million people living in over 125 countries are reliant on migrants sending money home.[12] In 2020, officially recorded remittances to low- and middle-income countries amounted to $549 billion, which is only 1.7 per cent below the total for 2019, while remittance flows to such countries are projected to reach $589 billion in 2021.[13]

38. Initiatives were launched to support the continued flow of remittances in the light of the pandemic. The multi-stakeholder Remittance Community Task Force advised Governments and the remittance industry, including through its "Blueprint for Action" report on how to spur the recovery and resilience of remittance transfers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and a policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on family remittances that was published by the Network. Thirty-three countries joined a call to action initiated by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Switzerland on remittances in crisis. Many countries declared remittances to be essential services and eased regulations. To facilitate greater digitalization, remittance senders were offered incentives and remittance transaction fees were abolished or waived. The Group of 20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion improved reporting and monitoring on remittance transfer costs, the digitalization of remittance services and the impact of crises on remittances within the context of their national remittance plans. In several African countries, national networks were established to enable relevant public, private and development partners to address challenges in national remittance markets in the context of the pandemic and develop joint road maps. Kenya launched its first online survey on Kenyan diaspora remittances in order to advance the role of remittances in supporting livelihoods and economic development.

39. Preliminary information shows that migrants increased their use of regulated and digital channels, reducing transfer costs in several remittance corridors.[14] Digital channels depend on sound infrastructure and on digital and financial inclusion, which are unevenly developed across countries and in urban and rural settings. Women struggle disproportionately to gain access to finances and mobile-enabled data, even though they rely more on remittances than men do.

40. The pandemic has offered lessons on how to improve the remittance market, including by expanding the use of digital channels, promoting innovation, competition and transparency, reducing transaction costs and increasing digital and financial inclusion. Measures to reduce remittance transfer fees and increase the productive use of remittances should be informed by sound data collection on the transfer and use of remittances and by diaspora engagement. While digitalization can

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[12] United Nations Network on Migration, "International Day of Family Remittances: the global pandemic highlights the crucial role of remittances for migrant families", 16 June 2020. Available at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/statements/international-day-family-remittances-global-pandemic-highlights-crucial-role-remittances.

[13] World Bank Group, *Recovery: COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens* (2021).

[14] International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Bank, "Resilience in the market for international remittances during the COVID-19 crisis" (2021).

support the continuity of remittance flows in crisis situations, regulated cash-based remittance services must be maintained to address challenges in the provision of digital remittance-related services. When supported by coherent policies and priorities and complemented by private sector and civil society initiatives, such shifts can help to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets, in particular target 10.c, including for women and rural dwellers.

J. Promoting social protection and the portability of entitlements

41. When the pandemic triggered job losses, forced people into unpaid leave, decreased savings and prompted returns, the importance of ensuring the right to inclusive, accessible social protection and the effective portability of benefits and entitlements became even more apparent.

42. States adopted agreements to address those issues. Belarus and the Republic of Moldova signed a social security agreement in 2019 to facilitate the portability of pension entitlements for returning nationals. The same year, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam endorsed a road map for implementing a ministerial declaration on the portability of social security for migrant workers. In 2020, Southern African Development Community (SADC) ministers and social partners adopted a set of guidelines on the portability of social security benefits. The resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on social protection adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 109th session included recommendations on the portability of social protection for migrant workers.

43. Despite notable practices, exclusion, barriers to eligibility, unimplemented frameworks and limited cross-border cooperation continue to affect the coverage and portability of social security benefits and other entitlements. Concerted efforts to promote bilateral or multilateral partnerships, implement existing frameworks and develop new agreements are needed to enable migrant workers of all skill levels and their families to enjoy their right to social protection and other entitlements and benefits.

K. Collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

44. During the regional reviews, many States raised the salience of reliable and disaggregated data for implementing the commitments of the Compact through evidence-based policies and actions. The pandemic complicated efforts to collect migration data, including from the round of censuses carried out in 2020. For instance, many census operations were postponed as person-to-person contact was not possible during enumeration. Still, some initiatives to improve migration statistics, including their timeliness, coverage, disaggregation and comparability, continued.

45. In 2021, the Statistical Commission endorsed a conceptual framework and definitions for the revision of its recommendations on statistics on international migration. The framework emphasizes data needs for national policymaking, captures new migration patterns and data sources and will underpin statistical capacity-building. In 2020 and 2021, the United Nations launched various projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean aimed at strengthening national capacity to collect and compile migration data and enhance understanding of their use and limitations for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring of applicable Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

46. Efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of regional cooperation mechanisms, such as ASEAN and SADC, to collect labour migration data. In 2020, a

cross-sectoral global coalition launched the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move to mitigate data gaps and use statistics to protect the rights of migrant children. Two data centres were established in Africa: the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration in Mali and the African Migration Observatory in Morocco. In 2021, the African Union and partners launched the African Migration Data Network to promote continental exchange and initiatives on migration data.

47. Data gaps persist. A recent global survey suggests that, in general, statistical capacity is relatively stronger in areas such as labour and long-term migration, followed by return migration, whereas gaps exist in the areas of irregular migration and citizens living abroad.[15] Data collection and analysis gaps also exist in thematic areas such as migration and health, and age and gender. Other challenges highlighted during the regional reviews and the International Forum on Migration Statistics held in 2020 concerned outdated, incompatible or inadequate sources and systems for data collection, disaggregation and centralization, as well as limited digital capacity. In order to overcome existing gaps and to address COVID-19-related challenges, work towards the establishment of a global programme on migration data must continue, as called for in the Compact. All efforts related to data collection and sharing must uphold the right to privacy.

III. Looking ahead to the International Migration Review Forum

48. As approaches to international migration are recalibrated, drawing insights from the pandemic, actions must be accelerated where systemic gaps persist, inequities have widened and cooperation and partnerships are essential for tackling existing and emerging challenges. The present section elaborates on the progress, practices and recommendations discussed above and highlights further policy priorities for consideration by the Forum.

A. Promoting inclusive societies and including migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery

49. The pandemic underscored systemic challenges to the safety, dignity, human rights and well-being of migrants stemming from the failure to fully include them in society and eliminate discrimination. By contrast, there have been hopeful signs, with States revising policies and practices to better protect migrants, both in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and more generally.

50. Migrants struggled to gain access to basic services, such as health care, despite being disproportionately exposed to COVID-19 as a result of their living conditions and employment in essential jobs or other sectors where opportunities for teleworking or social distancing are limited or non-existent. Barriers to access to basic services included discriminatory laws and policies, inconsistent practice, inaccessible information, exclusion based on legal status, lack of documentation, fears of health repercussions, fears of immigration enforcement when gaining access to services, and digital divides. Such barriers often operated in concert or were amplified by greater demands on the limited capacity of institutions and actors to provide those basic services, misinformation and stigma, and lockdowns and other pandemic-related interventions.[16]

51. COVID-19 vaccination policies and programmes also reflected varying degrees of inclusivity. In a review conducted between February and March 2021 of 104 national

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[15] See E/CN.3/2021/11.
[16] See, for example, World Health Organization, *Refugees and Migrants in Times of COVID-19: Mapping Trends of Public Health and Migration Policies and Practices* (Geneva, 2021).

deployment vaccination plans submitted to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, it was found that only 28 per cent of those plans included migrants and that even fewer (17 per cent) explicitly included migrants in irregular situations.[17]

52. Even when inclusive frameworks exist at the national or subnational levels, they do not always lead to migrants having access to them in practice. In the urban and rural localities in which migrants reside, sometimes on their margins, local implementation efforts remain essential.

53. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many States strengthened access to health-care services for migrants. Some States adopted or revised frameworks and provided access to COVID-19 testing, vaccination or treatment, sometimes free of charge. Some adopted flexible policies to enable migrants to remain in a regular status and have access to health-care and other services. Many States and local authorities launched awareness-raising initiatives and translated COVID-19-related information into multiple languages to mitigate health risks and improve health-care accessibility. As of September 2021, preliminary data indicated that, in practice, 132 of 177 countries were providing access to vaccinations for migrants in regular status.[18]

54. States also facilitated access to other basic services. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Egypt exempted migrant children from the prerequisite of a valid residency permit for enrolling in the 2020/21 academic year. The city of Milan, Italy, adopted a 2020–2022 strategic plan to improve access to good-quality education, other services and social inclusion for all Milanese children, including migrants, and established a multifaceted service centre for unaccompanied migrant children in 2019.

55. In addition, migrants were inconsistently covered by pandemic-related socioeconomic support and recovery measures, despite losing jobs and income and struggling to meet basic needs. In 2019, Uzbekistan established a social support system for Uzbek migrant workers residing abroad. Ecuador adopted a comprehensive plan for the care and protection of Venezuelan nationals during 2020–2021 to enhance their access to services and socioeconomic inclusion. Ireland provided access to social welfare services for workers from outside the European Union or the European Economic Area who had lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. Saint Kitts and Nevis included migrants in socioeconomic support and recovery measures. In La Unión, El Salvador, local authorities and migrants developed a socioeconomic response plan to address the effects of the pandemic on households with migrant family members. Tajikistan broadened its humanitarian cash transfer programme vulnerability list to include the children and families of migrant workers.

56. Policies or programmes on basic services, social protection or recovery are far too often limited to migrants with a regular status. Even when migrants in irregular situations are included, they continue to face practical hurdles, owing to fears of arrest, detention and deportation, inaccessible information, lack of requisite documents or the inconsistent implementation of those policies or programmes. Some States and stakeholders sought to mitigate such barriers. In 2020, the Maldivian Red Crescent established a migrant support centre that engaged migrant volunteers, issued migrants with beneficiary cards and agreed with local authorities not to share information on immigration status. Many national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies provided relief, cash and translation assistance, as well as medical, psychosocial and other services, to migrants, regardless of their migration status. The provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance to migrants should never be criminalized.

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[17] World Health Organization, "COVID-19 immunization in refugees and migrants: principles and key considerations", interim guidance (31 August 2021).

[18] See International Organization for Migration, "Migrant inclusion in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns", updated on 10 September 2021.

57. Efforts to reform policies, practices and discourse must confront xenophobia and disinformation on migration and migrants and dismantle structural, systemic and institutional forms of discrimination. Myths, misperceptions and discrimination against migrants persist. Narratives that falsely associate migrants with criminal activities or play to anti-immigrant anxieties should never be used to justify policies and practices. During the pandemic, migrants faced hate speech, racial slurs, stigma and violence, as well as discriminatory policies and programmes that impaired their well-being.

58. Various States and stakeholders have sought to tackle those issues. In 2019, Colombia adopted legislation to outlaw the use of xenophobic narratives about Venezuelan migrant and refugee communities. Also in 2019, Chad established a network of journalists to strengthen media coverage and counter misinformation through evidence-based migration narratives. The "It Takes a Community" campaign, co-chaired by Canada, Ecuador and the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, convenes national and local Governments, businesses, civil society and international organizations to promote balanced, evidence-based narratives on migration that show that migrants help to create productive, safe and welcoming communities.

59. Shifts towards greater inclusion of migrants observed in the context of the pandemic and beyond demonstrate that progress can be made. Such actions align with the vision and guiding principles of the Compact and recognize the interconnectedness of human beings. The benefits can resonate across societies. Those lessons must be heeded and the opportunity must be seized to catalyse change and work towards the elimination of inequities for migrants and their children and families.

B. Promoting safe and regular migration

60. The COVID-19 pandemic has eroded well-established channels of entry for migrants worldwide, bringing entire immigration systems to a standstill with attendant delays and lags in their re-establishment, even though demand for migrant workers remains strong and adverse and complex drivers of migration persist. As Governments recalibrate migration governance systems (paying attention to the intensifying impacts of climate change, growing demands for migrant labour across skill levels, and the knowledge and competencies of returning migrants), rights-based regular pathways, sustainable reintegration and predictability are vital for realizing the Compact's promise and target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies). States have shown how to do this, including by adopting flexible policies to prevent migrants from falling into irregular status, regularizing the status of migrants in irregular situations and facilitating pathways for entry and stay, including for family reunification or work.

61. Fulfilling the commitment to expanding and diversifying pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration is critical for preventing and addressing vulnerabilities throughout the migration journey. While options to enter and stay, including to work, reunite with family members or regularize status, have never been available unconditionally, the resumption of cross-border movements for vaccinated people while many countries struggle to inoculate a fraction of their population foreshadows widening inequities. Providing migrants at different skill levels and in different situations of vulnerability with opportunities for entry and stay reduces the need to move, live or work in unsafe or irregular conditions.

62.   In the context of the pandemic, Costa Rica regularized the status of migrant workers in irregular status who were affected by the pandemic, enabling them to obtain a job in the agricultural sector. The Republic of Korea extended certain employment contracts and visas. In 2020, Portugal granted temporary residence status to more than 350,000 migrants, providing them with access to health care, social support and other rights at the same level as citizens. Thailand granted visa extensions to about 1 million migrant workers from Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, and other migrants were granted automatic visa extensions. In 2021, the United Kingdom launched a programme allowing international students with graduate degrees to apply for jobs at any skill level. In 2020, Chile approved an immigration law to strengthen children's rights in the context of migration, which includes a special visa for children and permits children to enter the territory without travel documentation and prohibits immigration sanctions against children.

63.   In 2021, Colombia adopted a temporary protection regime for Venezuelan nationals wishing to remain in Colombia. The protection visa is valid for 10 years and includes an identification document that facilitates access to rights and services. The Netherlands temporarily extended the period for victims of trafficking to report abuse to the police. In 2020, the Plurinational State of Bolivia adopted a policy to regularize migrants with irregular status, including Venezuelan children. In 2019, Algeria adopted a framework to allow migrants at border crossings to obtain a "regularization visa" in humanitarian situations.

64.   The Compact also explicitly addresses regular migration pathways for people affected by environmental drivers, and a number of States and stakeholders are taking initial steps to make such pathways a reality. In 2020, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development adopted a protocol on the free movement of persons that includes provisions allowing persons affected by disasters to enter and stay in other countries in the region. In the Pacific region, States, United Nations agencies, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other actors support a human rights-based regional approach to human mobility associated with climate change, including by facilitating labour migration. In 2021, the United States of America recommended the creation of a legal pathway for humanitarian protection for people facing serious threats to their lives because of climate change.

65.   Ensuring that any return and readmission are safe and dignified and in accordance with obligations under international law and that reintegration into home communities is sustainable is of prominent concern, including in the context of the pandemic. COVID-19, border closures and other restrictions have made the return, readmission and reintegration of migrants more complex. In some cases, States have forcibly returned migrants with insufficient regard for health risks or due process and procedural safeguards, including children's best interests. Mobility and other restrictions and capacity limitations constrained the return of migrants who wished to return.

66.   Some States suspended forced returns altogether, while others supported the repatriation of their nationals. Mongolia thus facilitated the return of Mongolian nationals stranded abroad and provided reintegration assistance through vocational training courses, access to job placements and basic services. In 2020, the Philippines provided transportation assistance and a mobile help desk to support its returning nationals.

67.   Some migrants who returned have faced reintegration challenges from overburdened and underequipped health systems, contracting labour markets and discrimination and stigma. Returning migrants have also struggled to gain access to decent work opportunities and reintegration support.

68.   Some States have supported reintegration and recognized the opportunity to leverage the skills and knowledge acquired by their returning nationals. In 2020, Viet Nam launched a "one-stop" office to strengthen capacity to support returning migrant

women, including through the provision of economic support for reintegration. Nepal provides a minimum of 100 days of employment per year to unemployed people, including migrants returning from abroad and those who lost their jobs because of the pandemic. In 2020, Honduras, United Nations agencies and stakeholders provided specific reintegration services for returned girls and boys.

69.   Clear rules and procedures are equally crucial for re-establishing predictable pathways for admission, stay and work, for return and readmission and for safeguarding rights, including at borders. The pandemic led to the introduction of extraordinary levels of travel and route restrictions, as well as massive delays in visa processing. New COVID-19 waves and variants and shifting conditions for admission, stay and work, as well as discriminatory travel bans in a world of vaccine inequity, continue to disrupt and complicate international migration.

70.   Requirements introduced during the pandemic are being consolidated in modified immigration and border procedures that include, to a greater extent, health considerations. Disparities in getting access to regular pathways may be heightened if evolving public health requirements serve as a foundation for increasingly restrictive policies. Ensuring that any adjustments to immigration and border management procedures, including digitalization and the use of new technologies, continue to uphold rights and non-discriminatory opportunities for safe and regular migration remains vital, so that the most vulnerable do not face the toughest barriers.

71.   Migrants face risks and may be subject to harm throughout the migration journey, owing in part to a lack of proof of legal identity, insufficient access to information and lack of predictability in migration procedures. Fulfilling the commitments on proof of legal identity, accurate and timely information and predictability is essential for facilitating regular migration and reducing vulnerabilities in the migration process, as it empowers migrants to gain access to services and enjoy their rights.

72.   The commitment to providing proof of legal identity received relatively limited attention during regional reviews, despite its foundational role in fulfilling many other commitments, including access to regular pathways and a safe and dignified return, and its importance for advancing Sustainable Development Goal target 16.9 (By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration). With regular pathways out of reach, migrants who lack proof of legal identity may resort to irregular channels, frustrating the Compact's vision and target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda and entrenching existing inequalities. Well-functioning civil registration systems, including with the capacity to register births and issue documents abroad through consular networks, are crucial for safe, orderly and regular migration. In countries such as Colombia and Ecuador, efforts to provide proof of legal identity for migrants have received considerable support.

73.   Promoting regular migration and sustainable reintegration requires a multifaceted approach, embodying many of the commitments that States have made in the Compact. Accelerating actions in those areas must be an essential aspect of inclusive recovery.

C. Preventing loss of life and other tragedies during migration

74.   States and stakeholders must reduce vulnerabilities that undermine the human rights and well-being of migrants and their families, including tragedies that stem from irregular migration and responses to it. Migrants continue to die, disappear or suffer along perilous routes that traverse hostile environments on land and at sea, at borders and in countries of destination. While actual figures are likely to be higher, between January 2019 and 24 November 2021, more than 8,436 migrant deaths were recorded

globally, while a further 5,534 migrants went missing and are presumed dead.[19] The images of a deceased child migrant washing up on a shore or the burial mound of a young person in the freezing forested buffer zone between two countries do not convey the reality for migrants, who continue to die or suffer during their migration journeys. The profound consequences for families span psychosocial, economic, legal and administrative challenges. More must be done to put a stop to such preventable tragedies.

75.   It is concerning that the loss of migrant lives received relatively limited attention in the regional reviews. Indeed, since the adoption of the Compact, the commitment to saving lives and establishing coordinated international efforts on missing migrants has yet to be translated into meaningful action. The Proyecto Frontera along the Central American migration route is one initiative in which State authorities and civil society organizations cooperate to search and identify missing migrants. Efforts to identify shipwreck victims in Tunisia also serve as an example of State and stakeholder efforts.

76.   Rescue at sea is a basic humanitarian imperative. The absence of clear, safe and predictable disembarkation mechanisms for rescued people continues to pose avoidable risks to life in some parts of the world. A global community of practitioners has developed guidance documents to assist States and other stakeholders in the implementation of objective 8 of the Compact (Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants), including regarding the creation of transnational search mechanisms.

77.   Efforts must be extended to preventing deaths and suffering through systemic and policy changes that address the risks inherent to migration frameworks. Practices that exploit people's situations of vulnerability for political, economic or other ends, precipitating avertible humanitarian consequences and human rights violations, must be eliminated.

78.   The human rights and humane treatment of migrants must remain at the centre of all actions. The experience of migrants and their families can provide invaluable insights for translating stated commitments into effective action. All actors must engage together in dialogue and analysis and inculcate cooperation and partnerships to act in solidarity with and for all people, as part of the collective work to realize the benefits of migration for all.

IV. United Nations system institutional arrangements in support of the Compact

79.   The United Nations Network on Migration coordinates system-wide support for States in the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the Compact at the national, regional and global levels. It offers a platform for stakeholders to engage in dialogue and the development of tools and guidance in support of the implementation of the Compact.[20]

80.   From the outset, the Principals of the Network's Executive Committee agreed on core priorities for the implementation of the Compact at the national, regional and global levels, including delivering on its call for establishing a capacity-building

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[19] See https://missingmigrants.iom.int/. Missing Migrants Project data reflect documented incidents involving a death or disappearance during migration both on land and at sea; however, it excludes deaths that occur in immigration detention facilities or after deportation to a migrant's homeland, as well as deaths more loosely connected with migrants' irregular status, such as those resulting from labour exploitation.

[20] All guidance and tools referenced in the present section are available on the Network's website at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/.

mechanism with a connection hub, a start-up fund and a global knowledge platform. The Network established thematic priorities in relation to which the United Nations system could support the implementation of specific objectives of the Compact, while also adapting to the challenges of the pandemic. Those include multi-stakeholder work streams, such as on climate change and migration and on the inclusion of migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Biannual meetings of the Principals continue to direct the Network's activities.

81.   The Network collaborates closely with the Development Coordination Office of the United Nations and the resident coordinator system and, more broadly, leverages the recent reforms of the United Nations development system for greater impact. The Network has developed guidance and training for United Nations country teams on how to support the implementation of the Compact, including through the integration of migration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and elaborating on the role of the Compact in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Training was piloted in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Morocco, Thailand and Ukraine and is being adjusted to incorporate lessons learned.

82.   The Network developed guidance for Governments and stakeholders to implement the Compact. The guidance suggests a six-step process for implementing the Compact objectives and guiding principles, while recognizing the need for a context-driven, flexible approach. The guidance also highlights the importance of developing national action plans, based on inclusive consultations, aligned with international law and national development plans.

83.   To mainstream the Compact in national planning and implementation, including within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, more than 50 country networks were established and integrated into over one third of the United Nations country teams across the globe. The country networks align with the repositioning of the United Nations development system and provide coordinated support from the United Nations system on migration. In Bangladesh, the Network supported the Government in responding to the impact of COVID-19 on Bangladeshi migrants, convened workshops to solicit inputs for the national action plan on Compact implementation and produced evidence to support interventions. Country networks advised Governments on their voluntary reviews of the Compact and organized consultations with civil society. In addition, six regional networks were established to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation and supported the regional reviews.

84.   As a component of the capacity-building mechanism, the Network established the migration multi-partner trust fund in 2019, the first United Nations inter-agency pooled funding instrument in the field of migration.[21] Aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the programmatic scope of the trust fund embraces the 360-degree approach of the Compact, clustering all 23 objectives under five thematic areas. The steering committee of the fund includes countries of origin, destination and transit, donors, stakeholders and Network entities. It is chaired by the Director-General of IOM as the Network Coordinator, who ensures that the fund is governed in an inclusive and transparent manner. Programmes supported by the fund are designed and implemented by Governments and stakeholders, including civil society, migrants and communities. A results-based framework tracks the alignment of programmes with the Compact's guiding principles through a set of indicators.

85.   As at the end of November 2021, 12 joint programmes that involved countries from different regions and brought together 12 participating United Nations organizations had been funded. The programmes focus on governance of labour migration, migration data, families remaining in countries of origin, trafficking in

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[21] See https://migrationnetwork.un.org/mptf.

persons, border management and social cohesion, managing health risks, migration in the context of disasters and climate change, recruitment and reintegration, and capacity-building for local governments to strengthen socioeconomic integration.

86.   From the 113 concept notes submitted, the steering committee has identified 34 joint programmes, 10 of which are ready for implementation. The large number of concept notes indicates a strong demand from States. As of November 2021, $30 million had been contributed by 12 donors, although strong funding momentum stalled during 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

87.   The Migration Network Hub, launched in March 2021, is a virtual, interactive "meeting space" where Governments, stakeholders and experts can gain access to, request and share migration-related information and services. It hosts up-to-date, peer-reviewed and curated research, evidence and analyses on all aspects of migration, including Network knowledge products. The interface is organized along the objectives and guiding principles of the Compact, as well as by geographical scope. It includes more than 1,000 resources, in several United Nations languages, which have been reviewed by a regionally balanced peer-review mechanism. The hub also provides online discussion spaces, a repository of practices and a database of over 1,150 registered experts. Additional funding is needed to ensure sustainability and create a more user-friendly interface.

88.   Thematic working groups, leveraging United Nations and multi-stakeholder expertise and capacity, developed products to support the realization of specific objectives of the Compact and issued common Network positions. For instance, the Network issued a policy brief on COVID-19 and immigration detention and knowledge products on alternatives to immigration detention and organized peer-learning exchanges with States; a guidance note on regular pathways for admission and stay for migrants in situations of vulnerability; guidance to support States in negotiating, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating rights-based bilateral labour migration agreements; a position paper and related tools on ensuring a safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration, which includes common principles to guide coordinated action; and a policy brief on enhancing access to services for migrants in the context of COVID-19 preparedness, prevention, and response and beyond.

89.   As elaborated in section II, the Network supported the organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Compact for the member States of the regional commissions of the United Nations. Similarly, the Network, through its regional networks, facilitated stakeholder consultations and participation in the regional reviews.

90.   Efforts were undertaken to broaden stakeholder inclusion and leverage their expertise. Stakeholders co-led or participated in working groups. The Network coordinated online webinars and listening sessions on mobility in the time of COVID-19 and quarterly consultations, which engaged stakeholders across the world, including grass-roots organizations and young people. Selected regional and country networks created structured opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

91.   The Network supported States during the negotiations of the 2021 ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Network also supported the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the Economic and Social Council and the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development. Ahead of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Network issued a statement on migration scenarios in a changing climate, working collaboratively with migration and climate change stakeholders.

92.   Looking ahead, now that it has established itself through its workplans, increased presence at the regional and national levels and efforts to strengthen

collaboration, engagement and linkages, the Network has the potential to expand support for States and stakeholders in a more sustained manner. Increasingly, it issues timely statements and positions, speaking with one voice on critical aspects of migration and migrant rights.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

93.   States and stakeholders are encouraged to pledge concrete actions for the implementation of the Compact, where possible in advance of the first International Migration Review Forum. This will be critical in ensuring tangible progress in moving forward with this cooperative framework for the benefit of all.

94.   The progress declaration will provide an opportunity for States to reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Compact and to develop actionable recommendations that address systemic, emerging and unanticipated challenges in migration governance.

95.   The human rights of migrants and the prosperity and well-being of communities should be at the centre of all that is done. This includes meaningfully engaging migrants and host communities, including children and young people, in decisions that concern them. Today's world is more interdependent than ever and faces intractable and unpredictable challenges, which are undermining the social contract upon which collective peace and progress depend. More stable, equitable and just societies cannot be built and such challenges cannot be overcome if the participation, contributions or well-being of some are ignored. In particular, narratives that depict migrants solely in terms of the perceived benefits that they bring, as a burden or, worse, as a threat, deny them dignity and agency. They also expose them to discrimination and danger and are contrary to the overwhelming evidence that migration contributes to shared prosperity.

96.   The present report shows how Governments can put in place laws, policies and practices consistent with the commitments and guiding principles of the Compact and how they can lead by example, demonstrating our common humanity. We have shown that we can do better, and we must.

97.   Throughout the present report, recommendations are provided on how to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration and fulfil the promise of the Compact, in accordance with its vision and guiding principles. Additional actionable recommendations are elaborated upon below, recognizing that cooperation and partnerships remain essential for their achievement.

A.   Promoting inclusive societies and including migrants in COVID-19 response and recovery

98.   States and stakeholders are urged to ensure that all migrants are granted and enabled to gain access to essential health services and continuity of care, including COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and treatment, regardless of migration status, and in line with the principles of universal health coverage.

99.   States are urged to ensure that migrants and returning migrants are included in development, social protection, and socioeconomic response and recovery frameworks, drawing on lessons learned from the pandemic.

100. States are urged to establish mechanisms to separate immigration enforcement activities from service provision, including access to basic services.

B. Promoting safe and regular migration

101. States are urged to cooperate through State-led and other regional, subregional and cross-regional processes and platforms to expand and diversify rights-based pathways for regular migration. Such efforts should be grounded in labour market realities and decent work; promote pathways for migrants affected by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation and other migrants in vulnerable situations; and facilitate family reunification and regularization for migrants in irregular situations.

102. States are urged to comply with the obligation of non-refoulement at borders and to stop forced returns in situations where the health, safety, dignity and human rights of migrants and communities of origin and transit cannot be safeguarded. At all times, States are urged to uphold the best interests of children.

103. States are urged to cooperate with other States and local governments, including through their consular and diplomatic missions, to uphold the right to proof of legal identity for all migrants, regardless of status, by ensuring that all children are registered at birth and by providing identification documents to prove legal identity and facilitate access to services, participation and protection of rights.

C. Preventing loss of life and other tragedies during migration

104. States are urged to develop clear, safe and predictable disembarkation mechanisms for rescued people, whereby coastal States take equal responsibility in providing a place of safety, in accordance with international law, joined in solidarity by other States, in lieu of ad hoc approaches that undermine human rights, including the right to life.

105. States are urged to comply with their international obligations at borders and along migratory routes and to safeguard human rights, counteracting the erosion of humane and rights-based border management systems and deterrence-based approaches.

106. States are urged to stop obstructing humanitarian efforts aimed at providing life-saving assistance and criminalizing those who provide such humanitarian assistance, including by ensuring that criminal liability for migrant smuggling is in accordance with international law.

107. States are urged to assess the consequences of restrictive, deterrence-based migration-related laws, policies and practices and to revise those, as necessary, to mitigate potential negative consequences.

D. Building capacity

108. States are encouraged to meet the migration multi-partner trust fund capitalization target of $70 million by the time of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022, and to use it to reflect on thematic priorities and provide guidance on the strategic direction of the trust fund, to cement its relevance and potential and to sustain support.

109. States are encouraged to integrate migration as a core, cross-cutting issue in sustainable development and other applicable frameworks, including by developing ambitious national plans to implement the Compact, to strengthen its implementation, follow-up and review.

110. States are encouraged to consider how to develop benchmarks and mechanisms to measure progress on, and monitor the implementation of, the commitments in the Compact, taking account of existing mechanisms, such as the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework, where relevant.

111. States, the United Nations system and stakeholders are encouraged to use the Migration Network Hub systematically to promote the cross-fertilization and exchange of ideas and disseminate information and good practices, including as they relate to priority issues, in order to fulfil the commitments made by States in the Compact.

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