

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the chairperson of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and has the honor to refer to the Twelfth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) summit, scheduled to take place in Quito, Ecuador from 20 – 24 January, 2020.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda takes this opportunity to share with the Secretariat of the GFMD the national initiatives undertaken in Uganda towards implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). (Herewith attached).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chairperson of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva: 11th December, 2019



Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
GENEVA

NATIONAL INITIATIVES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION (GCM) IN UGANDA

Uganda has in place the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM). Established in 2015 and led by the Office of the Prime Minister, the NCM is a government led inter-agency platform for coordination on migration issues and facilitating cooperation among relevant stakeholders with migration related functions.

The NCM aims to;

- Contribute and Support participatory planning for migration issues in line with the National, regional and international frameworks;
- Advocate for progressive domestication of regional and international policy and legal frameworks on Migration;
- Generate policy and regulatory recommendations to government and other stakeholders on Migration management;
- Support implementation, monitoring and reporting on matters relating to migration within the country.
- Cooperate and work with regional NCMs on Matters of common agenda;

The NCM has enhanced inter-agency coordination among various migration actors including through regular meetings, participation in regional and global fora on migration and trainings on migration management. With technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the NCM has held regular coordination meetings and stakeholder's technical capacities on migration management have been improved through trainings on various migration management areas including; International Migration Law, Migration and Development, Migration Data and Migration, Environment and Climate Change.

Through the NCM, Uganda was actively involved in the GCM consultations process. A multi-stakeholder national consultation meeting towards the GCM was held in which Uganda provided input to the GCM document.

Following the adoption of the GCM, Uganda has taken steps towards its implementation. Through the NCM, technical meetings have been held to advance discussions on the GCM and prioritization of its objectives in the Ugandan context, in view of developing a national implementation plan.

As an outcome of the meetings, priority interventions, towards the GCM implementation in Uganda, have been identified as shown below;

| Priority Objectives | Key issues | Priority Actions |
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| Thematic Area 1: Promoting fact-based and data driven migration discourse, policy and planning | | |
| GCM Obj: 1, 3, 17, and 23 | Limited data on migration, to inform policy development and implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on irregular migration in Uganda, popular destination countries; |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive study on remittances (quantity, remittance channels, use) from irregular migrants. Skills research. • Conduct a study on migrant communities in Uganda to understand their contributions to national development and challenges affecting their contribution. • Study on protection mechanisms for migrants in Uganda including foreigners in the informal sector in Uganda and on Ugandans abroad. |
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Thematic Area 2: Protecting the human rights, safety and wellbeing of migrants, including through addressing drivers and mitigating situations of vulnerability in migration

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| <p>GCM Obj: 2, 7, 12</p> | <p>Unskilled human capital and how to harness the demographic dividend. Brain drain and optimizing brain gain.</p> <p>Collaboration between humanitarian and development actors needs to be strengthened for long term responses and outcomes that ensure respect for the rights of affected individuals, resilience and coping capacities as well as economic and social self-reliance and.</p> <p>Need to strengthen adaptation and resilience strategies to sudden-onset and slow onset natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation.</p> <p>Address migrant vulnerabilities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilling of youth with marketable vocational skills and create opportunities for the skilled youth; review the entry requirements to vocational institutes for migrants. • Identify development actors and conduct joint analysis and advocate for multi-year funding. • Strengthen environment protection policies; promote alternative energy sources; adopt water harvesting technologies and create conditions to address factors that can compel people to move across borders e.g. providing water for the pastoralists. • Review existing policies and legislations including on child protection and strengthen capacity of Uganda Human Rights Commission to monitor human rights protection. • Conduct sensitization on migrants' rights. • Strengthen best interest determination procedures for children to enhance their protection. |
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Thematic Area 3: Addressing Irregular migration including through managing borders and combating transnational crime

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| <p>GCM Obj: 11, 14, 21</p> | <p>Promote and strengthen regular migration</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization of border communities on immigration issues; promote cross border collaboration including through implementation of cross border projects. • Negotiate better bilateral labour agreements-strengthening terms of employment for migrant workers; Facilitate access to |
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| | | information; and continuous capacity building for of relevant stakeholders. |
| Thematic Area 4: Facilitating regular migration, decent work and enhancing the positive development effects of human mobility | | |
| GCM Obj: 5, 6; 18, & 19 | Weak protection for migrant workers; Skills audit in external labour markets has not been proficiently done to inform the labour externalization scheme- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate better contracts, with technical support from relevant agencies such as ILO and IOM, in the drafting and negotiation of bilateral labour agreements; • Put in place a specialized unit to assess labour skills of migrants |
| Thematic Area 5: Improving the social inclusion and integration of migrants | | |
| GCM Obj: 4, 15 & 16 | Access to civil registration services for all categories of migrants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support access to legal identity to all migrant categories with long term immigrants as priority, to enable them to access the necessary social services. |

In line with objective 1 of the GCM, through the NCM, an issues paper on migration management in Uganda was elaborated in April 2019 to inform the inclusion of migration in the third National Development Plan, which is in under development.

To curb irregular labour migration, which increases migrants' vulnerability to trafficking, Government is negotiating bilateral labour agreements with more countries of destination. Government is also working to strengthen labour migration management including review of the Employment (Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers Abroad) Regulations, 2005 to ensure stronger protection for Ugandan migrant workers, thereby contributing to objectives 6,7 and 10 of the GCM.

Other on-going efforts include; finalization of the National Migration policy and National diaspora policy.

Prepared by: Mr. Douglas Asiimwe
Principle Settlement Commandant
Office of the Prime Minister