

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

### Terms of Reference

Revised June 2021

#### I. Background

##### *Regional statistical trends*

- Migration and displacement are not new phenomena in the region - one that has faced varying population movement dynamics over time; Europe and Central Asia (ECA) host significant refugee and migrant populations whose share of the total population is significantly higher than the world average. This bears significant humanitarian and development implications.
- With 7 million refugees, 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and over 1.3 million asylum-seekers, the region hosts 13% of the forcibly displaced worldwide. In 2019, Turkey and Germany were among the top five largest refugee-hosting countries in the world, while Ukraine was the ninth country in terms of number of IDPs<sup>1</sup>.
- The ECA region hosts 100.8 million (35,9%) of the world's 280.6 million international migrants.<sup>2</sup> The proportion of migrants relative to the overall population in the ECA region (10.8%) is more than three times the world's average (3.6%).<sup>3</sup> International remittances play an important role in Central Asian economies, especially for the less developed countries in the subregion. Two of the world's top 10 remittance-receiving countries relative to GDP are in the subregion – Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.<sup>4</sup>

##### *History of the IBC and its ToRs*

- The establishment of an *issue-based coalition* (IBC) on large movements of people, displacement and resilience was proposed during the regional UN System meeting for Europe and Central Asia held in Geneva on 11-12 May 2016, taking into account the increasing political, operational and societal implications of displacement and migration in Europe.
- This document supersedes the IBC's ToRs, adopted in 2016 and reviewed in 2020, in alignment with regional UN Development System reform processes and the recommendations made at the December 2019 Regional Meeting for ECA held in Vienna, where the role of the IBCs was redesigned. This new revision aims to align the ToRs with the recommendations outlined in the IBC Review Management Response Plan conducted in 2020.

##### *Foundational basis*

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

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, *Global Trends 2019* ([link](#)); UNHCR Ukraine, IDPs ([link](#))

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of calculating the data, the ECA region include Europe, Central Asia and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel and Turkey ([UNSD](#)).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). [International Migrant Stock 2020](#). United Nations, Of note, and according to the International Migrants Stock methodology, data provided also includes Refugees

<sup>4</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). [World Population Prospects 2019](#), Online Edition. Rev. 1.

migrants<sup>5</sup>, including via the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

- The **GCR** is a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. It provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives.
- The **GCM** is a framework rooted in the 2030 Agenda which expresses the determination of States to enhance cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions. To support effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up, and review of the GCM, the UN General Assembly acknowledged the establishment of the UN Network on Migration (UNMN)<sup>6</sup> with IOM as its Coordinator.

## II. Main goal and Objectives

- In close coordination with existing and relevant mechanisms (e.g. other IBCs, the UNMN, the Global Refugee Forum, the quadrennial GCM regional as well as global reviews, and other development-related platforms) this IBC serves as a platform to pull together UN system-wide expertise and facilitate improved cooperation between different UN entities in response to an identified regional challenges and development issues at the request of UN Country Teams (and potentially a wider group of stakeholders) and to support country operations in responding to the situation of refugees, migrants and host communities in the UNECE Region of Europe and Central Asia<sup>7</sup>.
- As per recommendations of the December 2019 Regional UN System meeting, and without prejudice to the mandates and roles of the participating agencies, the IBC assumes the functions of a regional UNMN, with the aim of capitalizing on the synergies between the global-level UNMN and the IBC, while recognising the programme of action and follow up mechanisms of the GCM<sup>8</sup>. Respecting the guiding principles of the GCM<sup>9</sup>, this IBC will support actions to assist Member States in implementing the GCM at the country and regional levels in alignment with the UN Development System.

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

- 1) **Objective 1:** Support UNSDCF, CCA and related processes under the *Leave no one Behind* principle.
  - a) Under the *Leave No One Behind* principle and as requested by the UN Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) co-chairs, support countries in the region to ensure migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and stateless persons are included in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), in Common Country Analysis (CCA) and other relevant processes led by Resident Coordinators (RC) and UN Country

<sup>5</sup> <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>

<sup>6</sup> The UN Network, just like the Coalition, places emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value, and from which results and impact can be readily gauged. It consists of thirty-nine UN entities, with nine members comprising its Executive Committee (ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, ILO, UNODC, UNDESA, UNICEF, WHO, OHCHR), and with IOM being the Coordinator and Secretariat. <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/>

<sup>7</sup> **UNECE member states are** : Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan. **This IBC focuses on Europe and Central Asia – with the possibility of supporting other countries of UNECE on a case-by-case basis.** The UN Brussels Team (UNBT) Migration Working Group collaborates with the Regional Issue-based Coalition (IBC) Network for Europe and Central Asia, and other existing relevant mechanisms.

<sup>8</sup> Idem

<sup>9</sup> Cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the GCM: a) People-centred; b) International cooperation; c) National sovereignty; d) Rule of law and due process; e) Sustainable development; f) Human rights; g) Gender-responsive; h) Child-sensitive; i) Whole-of-government approach; and, j) Whole-of-society-approach.

Teams (UNCTs). At a minimum, these population groups should be included under relevant goals, such as SDG1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11 and SDG 16, ensuring a systematic application of relevant Companion Framework Guidance.

- b) Provide timely and coherent guidance and advice to the RCP, UNRCs and UNCTs on issues pertaining to large movements of people, displacement and resilience at national and regional levels, including on transboundary cooperation, and in support of the Decade Of Action to Deliver on SDG.
  - c) As guided by the regional Development Coordination Office (r-DCO), align its work on the UNSDCF roadmap to enable the proactive involvement of the IBC to support UNCTs.
  - d) Coordinate and promote efforts of IBC members and partners in relevant fora including UNECE's Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
  - e) More particularly and in line with the UN common pledge at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, support advocacy efforts to ensure refugees and other displaced persons are able to access national services in countries of origin, transit and asylum as well as their inclusion in national development plans and regional frameworks.
  - f) More specifically, advance the goals, objectives and activities of the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and support governments in achieving the 23 GCM objectives and its overall guiding principles.
  - g) Contribute to the GCM's quadrennial regional review and reporting processes as of 2020, and the global review as guided by the GCM Network Coordinator.
- 2) **Objective 2: Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up, and review of the GCM.**
- a) Strengthen the regional partnership and involvement of stakeholders as guided by the UNMNN at global level.
  - b) Support establishment of, and cooperation amongst agencies of, national Migration Networks.
  - c) Support country with resource mobilisation including to the Migration-MPTF.
- 3) **Objective 3: Complement efforts towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.**
- a) Support, at regional and country levels, where relevant the implementation of pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in coordination with relevant platforms/forum and entities.
- 4) **Objective 4: Support advocacy and information/experience sharing.**
- a) Ensure joint messaging, strengthening and promoting advocacy on issues related to large movements of people, migration, displacement, statelessness and resilience, which would be delivered and amplified using a joined-up voice.
  - b) Enhance cooperation and information/data/experience sharing about refugees, migrants and resilience within and beyond the IBC by the respective lead agencies.
  - c) Promote joint work with and involvement of partners from outside of the UN, engaging in policy dialogues and exchanges with regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, research organizations, and financial institutions.
  - d) Within the area of expertise, act as liaison between policy work at the global, regional and country levels and connector with other IBCs and coordination groups.
  - e) Develop and promote common UN approaches to raise awareness of the rights of refugees and migrants and to counter xenophobia, as well as to improve institutional and community resilience.
  - f) Support knowledge generation and analytical work related to SDGs, GCM, and GCR as needed and in coordination with the respective global process. This includes supporting

country operations/ UNCTs in preparing integrated project submissions to funding sources (such as MPTF) and mechanisms dedicated to supporting large movements of people, displacement and resilience. It also includes the support to national UN Networks on Migration with the development of terms of reference as well as with the production and implementation of workplans.

- g) Advise IBC members and partners on effective and efficient use of human and financial resources within and between member agencies on large movement of people, displacement and resilience issues, initiatives and interventions, including regional joint resource mobilization efforts as applicable.

### III. Methodology

- The IBC aims to capitalize on efforts to strengthen institutional and community resilience, helping countries to respond to large displacement and migration challenges in a manner that takes into account issues around social cohesion and meeting the needs and rights of both migrant and refugee populations, as well as the host and transit communities, over the short, medium and long-term.
- This reflects a strategic shift towards an innovative approach that harmonizes humanitarian and development interventions for sustainable, and nationally led local responses. The goal is to support countries to address displacement and migration pressures by focusing on inclusive economic development and improved governance as longer-term solutions to key drivers within the region of displacement and migration. Improved protection of refugees and their integration and well-managed migration has significant positive impacts for human and economic development, through increased household incomes, improved access to services, and the empowerment of traditionally disadvantaged groups, in particular women.
- Of note: the IBC will not coordinate an emergency response to refugees and migrants, as there are already globally agreed-upon coordination arrangements for this and will respond to specific request of and by the RCP members. Similarly, the IBC does not engage in operational matters, nor in mobilizing resources for programmes or projects, or in implementing them.

### IV. Typology of activities / Menu of Services

More specifically, the IBC LMPDR intends to offer the following services to its audience/membership base, noting that all types of support services provided by the IBC to UNCTs are request based:

- **Knowledge-sharing:** Compile and disseminate knowledge on large movements of people, displacement and resilience to ensure up to date information are made available to all UN entities, RCs and UNCTs.
- **Joint UN policy:** Develop common policy, including joint messaging, on specific topical issues pertaining to large movements of people, displacement and resilience.
- **Support CCA and UNSDCF processes:** Review documents developed by UNCTs in the context of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), to ensure, inter alia, that the situation and the specific needs of populations of concern to the IBC are adequately considered, along with cross-border and regional trends.
- **Advocacy:** Advocate for the implementation of the GCR and GCM and for an implementation of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs inclusive of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, stateless persons and migrants including within the framework of inter-governmental processes (e.g. Regional Forum on Sustainable Development).
- **Capacity-building:** Build the capacities of RCs and UNCTs on the various thematic coverages of the IBC, including through the dissemination of learning material and the facilitation of webinars.

| IBC thematic coverage   | Geographic Coverage                   | Main support modalities  | Linkages and coordination with regional/country-level mechanism   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Specific situation and needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless people and migrants.  | Europe and Central Asia <sup>10</sup> | Knowledge compilation and sharing, regional policy, regional advocacy, technical guidance to CCAs and UNSDCF, capacity-building. | As per established procedures foreseen by the RCP, as well as the PSG / IBC SOPs (notably on UNSDCF related processes). |
| Inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless people and migrants in host communities.   |                                       | Knowledge compilation and sharing, regional policy, regional advocacy, technical guidance to CCAs and UNSDCF, capacity-building. |   |
| Root causes of migration and forced displacement (e.g. environment and climate change).   |                                       | Knowledge compilation and sharing, regional policy, regional advocacy, technical guidance to CCAs and UNSDCF, capacity-building. |   |
| Resilience of host communities: ability to manage large movements of people, while continuing to function and adapt in a way that supports long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, and the attainment of human rights. |                                       | Knowledge compilation and sharing, regional policy, regional advocacy, technical guidance to CCAs and UNSDCF, capacity-building. |   |

<sup>10</sup> **UNECE member states are** : Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan. **This IBC focuses on Europe and Central Asia – with the possibility of supporting other countries of UNECE on a case-by-case basis.** The UN Brussels Team (UNBT) Migration Working Group collaborates with the Regional Issue-based Coalition (IBC) Network for Europe and Central Asia, and other existing relevant mechanisms.

## V. Membership

- The IBC LMPDR is co-chaired by IOM, UNDP and UNHCR.
- The IBC LMPDR seeks to facilitate improved cooperation between UN entities in Europe and Central Asia on migration, forced displacement and resilience. It covers the 54 European and central Asia countries of the UNECE region<sup>11</sup>.
- In 2021, the IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience (LMPDR) for Europe and Central Asia brings together 14 UN entities, namely FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UN Women, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP and WHO as well as national UN network for migrations.
- Considering the complexities of migration and forced displacement, including in terms of profiles involved and root causes, any regional and sub-regional office of UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies as well as affiliated or closely cooperating entities interested to contribute to the IBC LMPDR is welcome to join. Membership requests may be shared by email with the three co-chairs at all time.

## VI. Management Arrangements

### Meetings

- IBC meetings are organised online, on a quarterly basis, with a rotating chair and secretariat between IOM, UNDP and UNHCR. An agenda is developed and shared with all members for feedbacks by the three co-chairs. Minutes are produced and shared for feedbacks by the three co-chairs.
- On an ad-hoc and need basis, additional meetings may be organised on a specific topic requiring a specific and joint follow-up.

### IBC knowledge

- IBC working documents and compiled knowledge are stored and disseminated via the [IBC SharePoint](#). All members of the IBC along with the regional Development Coordination Office and the offices of the Resident Coordinators have access to the SharePoint and are able to upload documents.

### IBC workplan and products

- The IBC workplan is available on the [IBC SharePoint](#). It is reviewed and adjusted throughout the year as needed, upon the request of the co-chairs and/or the members. Adjustments are discussed in plenary during IBC meetings.
- IBC performance is assessed on an annual basis against targets defined in the annual IBC workplan.
- To be considered an IBC policy product, the concept should (i) have been presented during an IBC meeting by the co-chairs and (ii) members invited to contribute.

### Accountability and reporting lines

- The IBC is accountable to the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP), as official regional coordination mechanism established by the General Assembly Resolution 74/297 - 'Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system'. The IBC regularly reports to the RCP who further reports annually to Member States through the Regional Results Reports.

## VII. Sunset Clause

The IBC LMPDR will be discontinued when the following conditions are met:

- No IBC **policy product** has been developed and disseminated in the last 12 months.
- No **advocacy intervention** has been conducted in the last 12 months.
- All 3 co-chairs, at director level, agree that this IBC's *raison d'etre* has ceased and justify their decision to the RCP.

---

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*