



ICM
INDIA CENTRE
FOR MIGRATION

Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

National Level Consultation on 'India's Progress towards GCM Implementation'

Background

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted by the majority of UN Member States and subsequently formally endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018 to foster international cooperation among all important stakeholders on migration. GCM is a non-binding agreement with 23 objectives. Various objectives of GCM align with the SDG targets; however, 10.7 deserves specific mention as it commits to cooperating internationally to ensure legal pathways for regular migration.

Even before the emergence of GCM, India has been an active player in multilateral migration governance mechanisms, including the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD), Colombo Process (CP) and Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). In consonance with the GCM objectives, the Indian government has been taking all necessary steps to facilitate safe and regular migration.

The Ministry of External Affairs has taken various initiatives over the years to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements (LMPAs) and Migration Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs) have been signed with various countries to facilitate regular labour migration. Moreover, welfare policies like Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) and Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) assist Indian migrant workers working abroad. Pre-departure Orientation Training (PDOT) is one of the initiatives of MEA to ensure a safe, orderly, legal and humane migration process with the motto- 'Surakshit Jayein, Prashikshit Jayein, Vishwas Ke Saath Jayein'. Additionally, the e-Migrate website serves as an electronic platform to provide transparent and accessible information relating to the emigration process and ensures fair and ethical recruitment. MEA is also administering an online consular grievances monitoring system, namely MADAD Portal, for Indian citizens living abroad. Moreover, during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Vande Bharat Mission served as the largest repatriation operation to bring Indian migrant workers, particularly from the Gulf region.

Rationale

It has been observed that similar to initiatives led by MEA, many other ministries, state governments and non-governmental stakeholders have been playing a crucial role in ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration. Therefore, in consonance with the whole of government and whole of society approach to the GCM, MEA is organising the consultation meeting with various ministries, state governments and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss GCM implementation and deliberate on joint policy inputs. As a part of the preparatory process, the Government of India's vision is to include perspectives from all stakeholders for the first 'International Migration Review Forum', which is scheduled from 17-20 May 2022 in New York to review the progress achieved in implementing the 23 objectives of the GCM. As India is a signatory to the GCM, India is expected to submit the Voluntary National Review Report to the UN. As National Review adopts the bottom-up approach by incorporating viewpoints from all stakeholders, this national consultation will help learn good practices from various ministries, states and relevant non-governmental stakeholders in consonance with the whole of government and whole of society approach.

Against such a backdrop, the India Centre for Migration (ICM), a think tank of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is organising a national-level consultation on "India's Progress towards GCM Implementation" on 6 May 2022 at India International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.

Objectives of the Consultation

- Sharing of good practices and lessons learned by various ministries of the Government of India to ensure safe migration
- Sharing of good practices and state-led initiatives to ensure safe migration
- Sharing of good practices led by non-governmental stakeholders
- Developing inclusive voluntary national review incorporating inputs from different stakeholders, including ministries and states
- Encouraging collaboration and peer learning among different stakeholders
- Identifying priority areas where India needs to intensify its efforts