

A Call for Action – a five year plan

Istanbul, 20.02.2019

Introduction

The Call for Action complements the “Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” - the political declaration adopted by the participating states of the Budapest Process on the occasion of its 6th Ministerial Conference.

The Call for Action lists key actions that can be drawn from the six interconnected priority goals agreed upon in the Budapest Process Istanbul Ministerial Declaration “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” in 2013 each having equal weight.

Priority Goal 1 - Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitate return and readmission of irregular migrants, and combat criminal networks involved in smuggling of migrants

1. Further strengthen counteracting irregular migration and fighting against migrant smuggling by fostering cooperation and improving coordination by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international level;
2. Increase law enforcement cooperation regionally and bilaterally on preventing and combating migration related crime including smuggling of migrants and document fraud as well as tracing illicit financial flows or other material benefits and seizing crime proceeds;
3. Strengthen operational cooperation in the field of border management with a view to counteract irregular migration, smuggling of migrants while respecting the principle of non-refoulement as well as international human rights;
4. Establish flexible and swift channels to exchange information, experience and know-how between countries of destination, transit and origin also working with relevant international law enforcement organisations including on travel-identity

and breeder or source documents with full respect for the right of privacy and protection of personal data;

5. Enhance regional and bilateral cooperation and capacities on return and readmission to carry out swift identification and issuance of travel documents, including through Information and Communication Technology solutions (ICT), also through the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of readmission agreements or arrangements and/or standard operating procedures (SOPs) on return and readmission, in full compliance with international human rights, in accordance with the obligation of each state under customary international law to readmit its own nationals;
6. Support the sustainability of returnees' economic, social and psychosocial reintegration and strengthen their resilience through promoting tailor-made individual and community-level assistance and enhance measures to better manage the return and reintegration process;
7. Prioritise voluntary return and strengthen the capacity of national and consular authorities, international and other relevant organisations to manage returns while not excluding the use of forced return in accordance with international law and human rights, in justified cases when all other options are exhausted;
8. Further analysis of root causes of irregular migration and displacement, further information and experience exchange in this regard in order to shape policy development;
9. Raise awareness of and provide relevant, accurate, transparent and timely information to, potential and actual migrants, on the risks and dangers associated with irregular migration including through information campaigns;
10. Promote local, regional and (inter)national projects addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement in economic, security, education and environment related areas;

11. Explore means to prevent misuse of regular migration channels or the asylum systems while safeguarding the right to seek asylum.

Priority Goal 2 - Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility

1. Further develop and promote use and knowledge of already existing pathways for regular migration taking into account national labour market needs and improve transparency of rules and regulations on admission and residence;
2. Explore options for family reunification for refugees and migrants in line with existing national legislation as well as relevant international obligations;
3. Provide relevant, accurate and timely information to potential and actual migrants on possibilities for orderly and regular migration and rules and regulations, including relevant pre-departure information about the host country and integration there as well as ensuring that migrants have sufficient information on their rights and obligations;
4. Promote and develop the following tools, as appropriate: labour market assessments, labour mobility agreements, programmes for circular and temporary migration or other means;
5. Explore best practices on skills matching and on facilitating the recognition of refugees and migrants' professional and educational qualifications, the validation of diplomas and ensuring the optimal use of human skills;
6. Enhance measures for skills development, including regarding reintegration, with the contributions of both sending and receiving countries;
7. Increase initiatives and promote better use of existing means for enhanced student mobility between the Silk Routes region and the other Budapest Process regions, including the setting up of scholarship and trainee programmes regionally and nationally;

8. Explore options for promoting the portability of earned social benefits including certain retirement pension rights for regular migrants within the framework of existing international agreements and in accordance with national legislation;
9. Facilitate well-managed mobility for bona fide travellers - including students, researchers and business people - and improve transparency of rules and procedures;
10. Develop measures and improve labour inspections to avoid labour exploitation and to reduce abusive practices and violations of human and labour rights of migrant workers during the recruitment process as well as in their work.

Priority Goal 3 - Support the integration of migrants and counteract phenomena of discrimination, racism and xenophobia

1. Share good practices for supporting receiving communities in integrating refugees and regular migrants and develop adequate integration tools and measures to encourage their active participation in the social, economic and cultural life of receiving countries and promote information on observance of national laws and respect for customs of the country of destination;
2. In order to reach out to regular migrants and refugees, establish official and reliable information mechanisms on their rights and obligations, as well as on their access to services also supporting the use of innovative methods and technologies;
3. Continue information campaigns on integration and on counteracting discrimination, racism and xenophobia and related intolerance;
4. Support the access of regular migrants and refugees to relevant services including where appropriate: for education, training, social protection, healthcare and justice, specifically for vulnerable groups;
5. Develop and maintain legislative and administrative measures to counter discrimination, racism and xenophobia and related intolerance, and initiate capacity building to this end;

6. Engage with civil society and diaspora communities in cooperation with host governments in both monitoring and countering incidents of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance;
7. Support schools and other educational structures to promote awareness and the recognition that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration and work against discrimination, racism and xenophobia and related intolerance.

Priority Goal 4 - Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development, both in countries of origin and of destination

1. Support the creation of livelihood opportunities in countries of origin and in hosting communities in order to promote self-reliance and to reduce dependency as well as enhance development programmes with a focus on displaced persons in countries of origin and in hosting countries through financial initiatives;
2. Mainstream regular migration into development planning as well as take into account development issues and national labour market needs when elaborating migration policies;
3. Facilitate and promote the faster, cheaper and safer transfer of remittances through channels including through reducing costs, providing training on financial literacy, and improving the use of monetary and social remittances for the benefit of the sustainable economic and social development of the countries of origin, while taking into account the private nature of such assets;
4. Engage with diasporas and make better use of their contributions to development and, to this end, use established good practices to promote positive impacts of regular migration on development in countries of origin, transit and destination;
5. Develop and implement measures counteracting possible negative effects of migration on countries of origin, such as brain drain and social impacts on family

left behind, and countries of destination, such as effects on labour markets and welfare systems;

6. Improve cooperation with the private sector and promote sustainable development efforts in countries of origin and support policies aiming at creating job opportunities and increasing financial literacy, stepping up support to micro, small and medium size enterprises (SME) including through access to microfinance and micro-loans with special focus on categories such as women, youth, persons with disabilities and rural populations.

Priority Goal 5 - Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, address its root causes and provide adequate protection and support to trafficked persons

1. Continue to develop national and regional strategies and policies for preventing and combatting trafficking in persons, including protection of victims, with a particular focus on vulnerable categories, involving all relevant stakeholders. Strategies should also include actions to prevent the demand-side of trafficking;
2. Support the development of mechanisms for the national and transnational referral of trafficked persons while increasing capacities to assist and protect victims including their rehabilitation and (re)integration into society including access to the labour market or education sector;
3. Strengthen capacities of law enforcement, border management and judicial authorities to allow for effective identification, prosecution and punishment of traffickers and to take measures to disrupt the modus operandi of traffickers including by addressing impunity of perpetrators and protecting the victims and their rights.

Priority Goal 6 - Promote international protection and the respect of the rights of refugees in line with international standards

1. Establish and maintain programmes aimed at capacity building in the field of international protection in countries of origin, transit and destination;

2. Maintain and further improve procedures for the identification of asylum seekers and refugees, providing them with adequate reception conditions and documentation, and granting refugees durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, resettlement on a voluntary basis and complementary pathways to protection;
3. Further solidarity and joint responsibility with countries hosting large numbers of refugees by increasing cooperation on resettlement and providing technical and financial assistance to host countries, as relevant;
4. Suggest, support and implement measures to address refugee situations including protracted ones and sudden mass flows.