

**UNITED NATIONS TWELFTH INQUIRY AMONG GOVERNMENTS
ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

MODULE III

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

This module contains questions about government policies, programmes and strategies relating to international migration. An international migrant is defined as any person who changes his or her country of usual residence for at least a year (12 months). Short-term visitors such as tourists, business travellers, exchange students and related categories are not considered international migrants in this context.

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating responses to this module, and include the contact information of the official who completed the module.

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The Inquiry Module can also be completed online at: <https://icts-surveys.unog.ch/index.php/3?lang=en>

A. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

3.1 Does the Government have any of the following institutions, policies or strategies to govern immigration or emigration?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. A dedicated Government agency ¹ to implement national migration policy		
b. A national policy or strategy for regular migration pathways, including labour migration		
c. A national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of immigrants		
d. A national policy or strategy on the emigration of its citizens		
e. A dedicated Government unit, department or ministry for diaspora engagement, citizens abroad or overseas employment		
f. Formal mechanisms ² to ensure that the migration policy is gender responsive ³		
g. A mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated ⁴		
h. An annual national report on migration that includes migration data collected by the Government and/or other sources		

3.2 What is the policy of the Government concerning the annual level of the following categories of migration?

CATEGORY	RAISE	MAINTAIN AT CURRENT LEVELS	LOWER	NO OFFICIAL POLICY
a. Immigration through regular channels				
b. Immigration of highly-skilled workers				

¹ A dedicated Government agency refers to either a separate government entity, such as a ministry, or an entity, such as a department or unit, within a larger government agency.

² A formal mechanism refers to any institutional or legal provision for an advisory committee, council, forum or similar body appointed for or tasked to serve the specified purpose.

³ Gender-responsive policies ensure that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly understood and addressed, and they are empowered as agents of change.

⁴ Disaggregation could be by age, sex, migration status, geographic location, income, education level and other relevant characteristics.

c. Immigration for family reunification				
d. Emigration of its citizens				
e. Emigration of highly-skilled workers				
f. Return of its citizens living abroad				
g. Return of migrants to their countries of origin				

3.3 Please specify the major underlying reasons for setting current immigration and emigration policies.

REASON	IMMIGRATION POLICY	EMIGRATION POLICY
a. Counter long-term population decline		
b. Address population ageing		
c. Meet labour demands in certain sectors of the economy		
d. Safeguard employment opportunities for nationals		
e. Retain specific categories of workers		
f. Retain the status quo on social and ethnic diversity		

3.4 Does the Government view the number of migrants in an irregular situation as a matter of concern?

MAJOR CONCERN	MINOR CONCERN	NOT A CONCERN

3.5 Does the Government address regular or irregular immigration through any of the following measures?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. System to monitor visa overstays ⁵		
b. Pre-arrival authorization controls		
c. Provisions ⁶ for unaccompanied minors or separated children ⁷		
d. Migration information and awareness-raising campaigns ⁸		
e. Formal strategies to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling ⁹		
f. Formal mechanisms ² for regularization of legal status of migrants in an irregular situation		
g. Penalties for employers of migrants in an irregular situation		
h. Fines or imprisonment/confinement of migrants in an irregular situation		

⁵ Visa overstay refers to remaining in a country beyond the period for which entry was granted.

⁶ These could include specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification; legal assistance; and specific visa and asylum procedures.

⁷ Unaccompanied minors are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. Separated children are children who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives.

⁸ These could include government websites, awareness-raising events and/or trainings on topics related to pre-and post-arrival in destination countries or after return.

⁹ These strategies may be carried out in the country itself and/or jointly in other relevant countries.

3.6 Has the Government adopted any of the following measures to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling?

MEASURE	TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS	MIGRANT SMUGGLING	NOT APPLICABLE ¹⁰
a. Prevention ¹¹			
b. Prosecution or criminalization ¹²			
c. Protection or assistance to victims ¹³			

3.7 Does the Government take any of the following measures to foster cooperation among countries and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation in migration policy?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. An interministerial coordination mechanism on migration ¹⁴		
b. Bilateral agreements on migration, including labour migration ¹⁵		
c. Regional agreements promoting mobility ¹⁶		
d. Agreements for cooperation with other countries on return and readmission ¹⁷		
e. Formal mechanisms ² to engage civil society ¹⁸ and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policy ¹⁹		

¹⁰ Where prevalence of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling is negligible.

¹¹ This could include strengthening monitoring of recruitment, identifying vulnerable groups, conducting regular rapid response strategies, and providing specialized training.

¹² This could include criminalizing the act or attempt to commit the act, prosecuting accomplices, and aggravating circumstances when children are involved as victims.

¹³ This could include protecting the privacy and identity of victims, informing victims about relevant judicial or administrative procedures, providing safe accommodation for victims, and providing medical assistance to victims.

¹⁴ An interministerial coordination mechanism refers to an existing, ongoing, institutionalized forum, council, committee or similar body that involves at least two ministries or government entities.

¹⁵ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have at least one bilateral agreement on migration in place with another country.

¹⁶ For “Yes” to apply, the country must be included in at least one regional agreement promoting labour mobility.

¹⁷ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have at least one cooperation agreement with another country on return and readmission.

¹⁸ Civil society here refers to diaspora members and other non-profit groups that represent the interests of migrants.

¹⁹ For “Yes” to apply, there should be ongoing mechanisms to engage both civil society and the private sector on a periodic or regular basis.

B. MIGRANT RIGHTS AND INTEGRATION

3.8 Does the Government provide non-nationals equal access to the following services, welfare benefits and rights?²⁰

CATEGORY	YES		NO
	REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS	ONLY FOR THOSE WITH LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS	
a. Essential and/or emergency health care ²¹			
b. Public education ²²			
c. Equal pay for equal work ²³			
d. Social security ²⁴			
e. Access to justice ²⁵			

3.9 Has the Government adopted any of the following measures to combat discrimination against migrants?

MEASURE	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE ²⁶
a. Criminalize public incitement of violence or hatred directed against migrants			
b. Count xenophobia and racism among the aggravating circumstances of a crime			
c. Provide protection and legal assistance to victims of hate crimes against migrants			
d. Provide formal training to law enforcement and other public officials to identify, prevent and respond to hate crimes against migrants			

²⁰ Equal access refers to parity of treatment with citizens of the State concerned.

²¹ Essential or emergency health care refers to any medical care that is urgently required for the preservation of a person's life or the avoidance of irreparable harm to their health.

²² Public education refers to public pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools.

²³ Refers to equal payment of salary and benefits to all people in the same work place doing similar work, irrespective of their migration status or other characteristics.

²⁴ Social security programmes include contributory and non-contributory pension schemes (old age, survivor, disability), unemployment insurance, health insurance, workers' compensation, sickness benefits and basic social assistance.

²⁵ Access to justice includes: legal advice, assistance and representation for persons detained, or charged with a criminal offence (including no cost for those without sufficient means); access to legal information; access to other services provided through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and interpretation (for those who cannot understand or speak the language used in proceedings before a court).

²⁶ Where the number of immigrants is negligible.

3.10 Under what conditions does the Government allow immigrants with regular status to become naturalized citizens?

CONDITION	YES	NO
a. Minimum residency period		
b. Limited to immigrants from selected countries (country-specific quotas)		
c. Limited to immigrants with certain characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, religion, country of origin, military service, etc.		

3.11 If YES to 3.10a, please specify the minimum residency period required to become a naturalized citizen.

MINIMUM RESIDENCY PERIOD (YEARS):	
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3.12 Does the Government permit dual citizenship?

CATEGORY	YES			NO
	WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS	ONLY FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES	ONLY FOR PERSONS WITH CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS ²⁷	
a. Foreign citizens ²⁸				
b. Citizens ²⁹				

²⁷ Such characteristics include ethnicity, religion, military service, etc.

²⁸ Allow foreign citizens to acquire the citizenship of the country while retaining additional citizenships.

²⁹ Allow citizens to acquire additional citizenships while retaining the citizenship of the country.

C. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

3.13 Does the Government take any of the following measures to maximize the positive development impact of migration and the socioeconomic well-being of migrants?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. Align, through periodic assessments, labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs		
b. Facilitate the portability of social security benefits ^{24,30}		
c. Facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad ³¹		
d. Facilitate or promote the flow of remittances ³²		
e. Promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers ³³		

3.14 What other policy measures has the Government adopted to encourage or facilitate diaspora³⁴ investment or return of citizens?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. Tax exemptions or other financial incentives		
b. Preferential treatment in providing credit		
c. Preferential treatment in allotment of permits and licences		
d. Transferability of financial assets		
e. Streamlined bureaucratic procedures		

³⁰ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have an agreement with at least one other country on the portability of at least one type of social security benefit.

³¹ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have formalized criteria (accreditation) for recognizing foreign qualifications (degrees, skills and competencies) acquired abroad.

³² For “Yes” to apply, there must be at least one government programme currently in operation to: reduce the transaction costs of remittances; increase the availability of remittance services; improve the conditions under which remittances are sent; and support financial literacy and inclusion so that remittances are better used.

³³ Promoting fair and ethical recruitment entails combatting abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices including: deception about the nature and conditions of work; retention of passports; illegal wage deductions; debt bondage linked to repayment of recruitment fees; threats if workers want to leave their employers; and instilling fears of subsequent expulsion. For “Yes” to apply, there must be at least one government programme currently in operation, focusing on migrant workers in the host country or citizens of the country working abroad (overseas workers).

³⁴ Diasporas are broadly defined as individuals and members of networks, associations and communities, who have left their country of origin, but maintain links with their homelands. This concept covers more settled expatriate communities, migrant workers living abroad, expatriates with the nationality of the host country, dual nationals and second-/third-generation migrants.

D. FORCED MIGRATION

3.15 Does the Government take any of the following measures to respond to refugees and other persons forcibly displaced across international borders?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. System for receiving, processing and identifying those forced to flee across international borders		
b. Contingency planning ³⁵ for displaced populations ³⁶ in terms of basic needs such as food, sanitation, education and medical care		
c. Specific measures to provide assistance to citizens residing abroad in countries in crisis or post-crisis situations		
d. A national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters ³⁷		
e. Grant permission for temporary stay or temporary protection for those forcibly displaced across international borders and those unable to return		

3.16 Please provide any additional comments and information, including references or links to relevant policy documents.

— END OF MODULE III —

³⁵ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have a plan to respond, through adequate and appropriate arrangements, to the basic needs of populations displaced across international borders from other countries.

³⁶ Displaced populations here refer to those who have fled across international borders, not internally displaced people (IDPs).

³⁷ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have a strategy to react to, and mitigate the risks associated with, crises in the country itself, including the eventuality of population displacement across international borders into other countries.