

UNITED NATIONS FOURTEENTH INQUIRY AMONG GOVERNMENTS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MODULE IV

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

This module contains questions about government policies, programmes and strategies relating to international migration. It is important to answer all questions in this module because responses to some of the questions are needed for global monitoring of SDG indicator 10.7.2 on policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

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.

COUNTRY:*			
OFFICE:*			
NAME:		TITLE/POSITION:	
E-MAIL:*		TELEPHONE:	
MAILING ADDRESS:			

* Response is mandatory

This Inquiry Module can be filled and submitted online at:

Alternatively, you may return the completed Inquiry Module and any attachments using the following contact information:

E-MAIL:		TELEPHONE:	
MAILING ADDRESS:			

A. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

IV.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 ²		
d. A national policy or strategy on the emigration of its citizens		
e. A dedicated Government unit, department or ministry for diaspora ³ engagement, citizens abroad or overseas employment		
f. Formal mechanisms ⁴ to ensure that the migration policy is gender responsive ⁵		
g. A mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated ⁶		

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 Integration refers to a two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live, whereby migrants are incorporated into the social, economic, cultural and political life of the receiving community. It entails a set of joint rights and responsibilities for migrants and communities, and incorporates other related notions such as social inclusion and social cohesion.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Disaggregation could be by age, sex, migration status, geographic location, income, education level and other relevant characteristics.

IV.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 or pathways ⁷				
b. Immigration of highly skilled ⁸ workers				
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 ⁹				

IV.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		

⁷ Regular migration channels or pathways refer to migration schemes, programmes or other migration options that allow eligible persons to migrate regularly for various purposes to a country of destination based on conditions and for a duration defined by such country. Regular migration pathways facilitate labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimize education opportunities, uphold the right to family life, and respond to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability.

⁸ A highly skilled migrant worker refers to a person who has earned, by higher level of education or occupational experience, the level of skills or qualifications typically needed to practice a high-skilled occupation. States adopt different criteria for the determination of migrants' skillsets.

⁹ Refers to the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having emigrated to another country.

e. Retain specific categories of workers		
f. Retain the status quo on social and ethnic diversity		

IV.4 Does the Government view the number of migrants in an irregular situation¹⁰ in the country as a matter of concern?

YES		No, NOT A CONCERN
MAJOR CONCERN	MINOR CONCERN	

IV.5 Does the Government address regular or irregular immigration through any of the following measures?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. System to monitor visa overstays ¹¹		
b. Pre-arrival authorization controls		
c. Provisions ¹² for unaccompanied minors or separated children ¹³		
d. Migration information and awareness-raising campaigns ¹⁴		
e. Formal strategies to address trafficking in persons ¹⁵		
f. Formal strategies to address migrant smuggling ¹⁵		
g. Formal mechanisms ⁴ for regularization of legal status of migrants in an irregular situation		

¹⁰ Irregular migration refers to movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination.

¹¹ Visa overstay refers to remaining in a country beyond the period for which the stay was authorized.

¹² These could include specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification; legal assistance; and specific visa and asylum procedures.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ These strategies may be carried out in the country itself and/or jointly in other relevant countries.

h. Penalties for employers of migrants in an irregular situation		
i. Fines or imprisonment/confinement of migrants in an irregular situation		

IV.6 Does the Government take any of the following measures to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling?

MEASURE	TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS	MIGRANT SMUGGLING	NOT APPLICABLE ¹⁶
a. Prevention ¹⁷			
b. Prosecution or criminalization ¹⁸			
c. Protection or assistance to victims ¹⁹			

IV.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 ²⁰		
b. Bilateral agreements on migration, including labour migration ²¹		
c. Regional agreements promoting mobility ²²		
d. Agreements for cooperation with other countries on return and readmission ²³		

¹⁶ Where prevalence of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling is negligible.

¹⁷ This could include strengthening monitoring of recruitment, identifying vulnerable groups, conducting regular rapid response strategies, and providing specialized training.

¹⁸ This could include criminalizing the act or attempt to commit the act, prosecuting accomplices, and aggravating circumstances when children are involved as victims.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have at least one bilateral agreement on migration in place with another country.

²² For “Yes” to apply, the country must be included in at least one regional agreement promoting labour mobility.

²³ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have at least one cooperation agreement with another country on return and readmission.

e. Formal mechanisms ⁴ to engage civil society ²⁴ and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policy ²⁵		
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B. MIGRANT RIGHTS AND INTEGRATION

IV.8 Does the Government provide non-nationals equal access to the following services, welfare benefits and rights?²⁶

CATEGORY	YES ²⁷		No
	REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS	ONLY FOR THOSE WITH LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS	
a. Essential health care ²⁸			
b. Emergency health care ²⁹			
c. Public education ³⁰			
d. Equal pay for equal work ³¹			
e. Social protection ³²			
f. Access to justice ³³			

²⁴ Civil society here refers to diaspora members and other non-profit groups that represent the interests of migrants.

²⁵ For “Yes” to apply, there should be ongoing mechanisms to engage both civil society and the private sector on a periodic or regular basis.

²⁶ Equal access refers to parity of treatment with citizens of the State concerned.

²⁷ Immigration status refers to the status of a migrant under the immigration law of the country of destination. Regardless of immigration status implies both migrants with legal immigration status and those in an irregular migration situation. Migrants with a legal immigration status are persons who move or have moved across an international border and are authorized to enter or to stay in a State pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party.

²⁸ Essential health care refers to essential services for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, and non-communicable diseases, as well as service capacity and access.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Public education refers to public pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools.

³¹ Refers to equal payment of salary and benefits to all people in the same workplace doing similar work, irrespective of their migration status or other characteristics.

³² Social protection programmes include contributory and non-contributory pension schemes (old age, survivor, disability), unemployment insurance, health insurance, workers’ compensation, sickness benefits and basic social assistance.

³³ 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).

IV.9 Does the Government take any of the following measures to combat discrimination against migrants?

MEASURE	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE ³⁴
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			
e. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to promote evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants ³⁵			

IV.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, military service, etc.		

³⁴ Where the number of immigrants is negligible.

³⁵ For “Yes” to apply, the country should have conducted, alone or in partnership with other entities, at least one public awareness campaign to address negative stereotypes regarding migrants and migration, or to combat racism, xenophobia and stigmatization against migrants.

IV.11 If YES to IV.10a, please specify the minimum residency period required to become a naturalized citizen.³⁶

MINIMUM RESIDENCY PERIOD (YEARS):	
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IV.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 ³⁷	
a. Citizens ³⁸				
b. Foreign citizens ³⁹				

C. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

IV.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 ⁴⁰		
c. Facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad ⁴¹		
d. Facilitate or promote the flow of remittances ⁴²		

³⁶ If different residency periods apply based on various characteristics, such as country of origin, specify the minimum period, expressed in years.

³⁷ Such characteristics could include race, ethnicity, religion, military service, etc.

³⁸ Allow citizens to acquire additional citizenships while retaining the citizenship of the country.

³⁹ Allow foreign citizens to acquire the citizenship of the country while retaining additional citizenships.

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have formalized criteria (accreditation) for recognizing foreign qualifications (degrees, skills and competencies) acquired abroad.

⁴² 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.

e. Promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers ⁴³		
f. Facilitate mobility for family reasons		
g. Facilitate mobility for the purposes of trade in services and/or goods		

IV.14 What other policy measures has the Government adopted to encourage or facilitate investments by its diaspora³?

MEASURE	YES	NO
a. Tax exemptions or other financial incentives		
b. Preferential ⁴⁴ treatment in providing credit		
c. Preferential treatment in allotment of permits and licences		
d. Transferability of financial assets		
e. Streamlined bureaucratic procedures ⁴⁵		

D. FORCED MIGRATION

IV.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		

⁴³ 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).

⁴⁴ Preferential refers to in comparison with other investors from abroad.

⁴⁵ For “Yes” to apply, the country must have taken measures to reduce “red tape” or streamline, simplify, and expedite the approval and establishment of projects, business enterprises and operations, for profit or not for profit, funded by its diaspora, in whole or in part.

b. Contingency planning ⁴⁶ for displaced populations ⁴⁷ 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 ⁴⁸		
e. Grant permission for temporary stay or temporary protection for those forcibly displaced across international borders and those unable to return		

IV.16 Please provide any additional comments and information, including references or links to relevant policy documents.

— END OF MODULE IV —

⁴⁶ 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.

⁴⁷ Displaced populations here refer to those who have fled across international borders, not internally displaced people (IDPs).

⁴⁸ 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.