



## Global Compact for Migration Objective 23

### Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration<sup>1</sup>

“ States are urged to cooperate through State-led and other regional, subregional and cross-regional processes and platforms to expand and diversify rights-based pathways for regular migration.<sup>2</sup> ”

#### Objective 23 takeaways

- Almost all countries have at least one memorandum of understanding (MOU) related to migration with other countries.
- Countries that have a national migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto are more likely to be a part of a regional agreement promoting labour mobility.
- Countries that have a formal interministerial coordination mechanism on migration issues at the national level are more likely to participate in bilateral migration negotiations with other countries.

Figure 1. MGI questions on international cooperation: global distribution of answers (yes/partially/no)

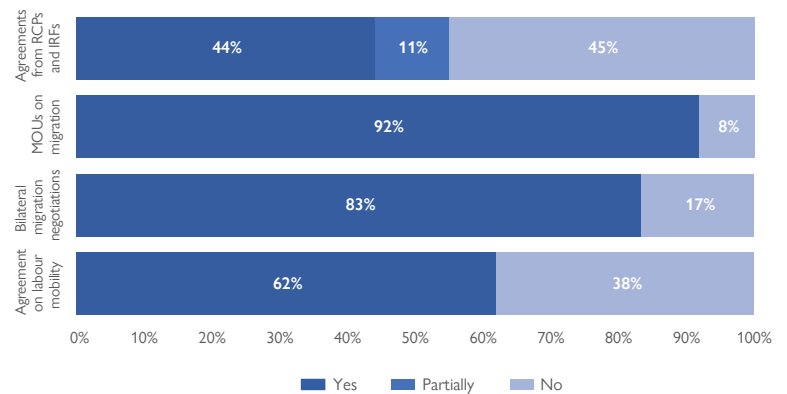
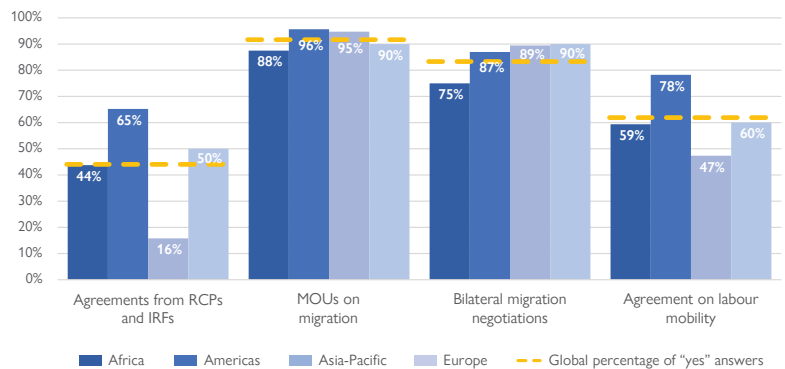


Figure 2. MGI questions on international cooperation: regional distribution of “yes” answers



As a result of their participation in regional consultative processes or interregional consultative forums, formal arrangements for intraregional mobility have been achieved in 44 per cent of MGI countries. While 83 per cent of countries participate in bilateral migration negotiations, 92 per cent have MOUs on migration with other countries. Moreover, 62 per cent of the countries are part of a regional agreement promoting labour mobility (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the regional distribution of “yes” answers to these questions.

<sup>1</sup> This bulletin is part of the publication *MGI Data Bulletins on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, which offers insights from MGI data for each of the 23 Global Compact for Migration objectives. Unless otherwise specified, data is based on 84 MGI countries.

<sup>2</sup> IOM, *Integration and social cohesion: Key elements for reaping the benefits of migration*, Global Compact Thematic Paper: Integration and Social Cohesion. Available at [www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/our\\_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Integration-and-Social-Cohesion.pdf](http://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Integration-and-Social-Cohesion.pdf).

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Participation in a regional agreement promoting labour mobility is more likely to occur in countries that have a migration strategy defined in a programmatic document or manifesto. Figure 2 shows that 72 per cent of the countries that have a defined migration strategy are part of a regional agreement promoting labour mobility. This is the case for 59 per cent of the countries that have a strategy that is not defined in a programmatic document or lacks an implementation plan, and for 54 per cent of the countries with no strategy at all (Figure 3).

Bilateral migration negotiations more often occur in countries that have an interministerial coordination mechanism on migration issues at the national level. When such institutional framework exists, 91 per cent of countries participate in bilateral migration negotiations, while this is the case in 65 per cent of countries without a coordination mechanism (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Percentage of countries that are part of a regional agreement promoting labour mobility, by existence of a migration strategy

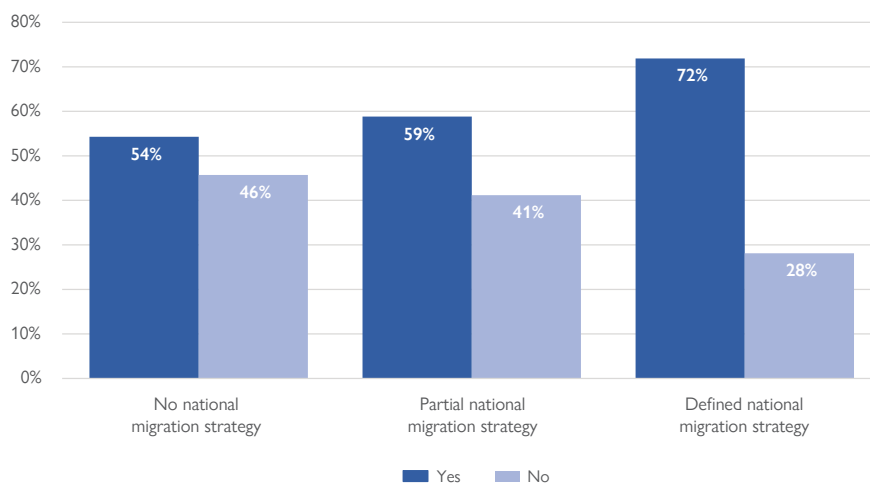
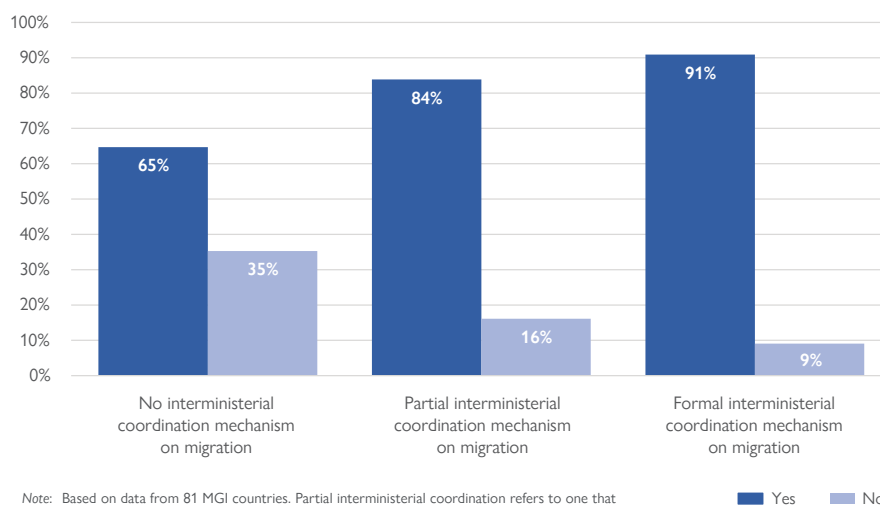


Figure 4. Percentage of countries that participate in bilateral migration negotiations, by existence of an interministerial coordination mechanism



Note: Based on data from 81 MGI countries. Partial interministerial coordination refers to one that does not occur regularly and in which no more than three institutions/ministries are involved.

**MGI data insight**

A total of 88 per cent of the countries that have MOUs related to migration with other countries also have formal bilateral labour agreements in place, in contrast with 43 per cent of MGI countries without MOUs.

Source: Own calculations based on MGI data.

### Selected example from MGI data: Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a member of the Skills Movement Scheme from the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), which aims to facilitate the temporary movement of skilled MSG nationals within MSG countries for the purpose of taking up employment. Moreover, Vanuatu participates in New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme and the Australian Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) – arrangements that allow seasonal agricultural workers to work in New Zealand and Australia, respectively.\*

\* More information on the MSG is available at <https://msgsec.info/msg-skills-movement-scheme/>. More information on the RSE is available at <https://immigration.govt.nz/about-us/research-and-statistics/research-reports/recognised-seasonal-employer-rse-scheme>. More information on the SWP is available at <https://employmentvanuatu.gov.vu/index.php/labour-mobility>.