

Briefing on the SG Report on Migration

Wednesday, 16th February 2022, 10:00am (EST)

Statement by Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN, Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

We welcome the Secretary General's report on the Global Compact for Migration. The report provides a useful snapshot of the implementation of the Compact, while also formulating actionable recommendations to fulfill its goals.

Let me stress that Portugal fully subscribes to the statements delivered by Ecuador, on behalf of the GCM Champions, and by Sweden, on behalf of a Group of EU Member States.

Portugal is deeply committed to the 360° vision of migration promoted by the GCM: in addition to being a proud Champion of the Compact, we were among the first Member States to develop a National Plan for its Implementation, and we are among the contributors to the Migration MPTF.

We have long advocated for a Human Rights-based and whole-of-society approach to migration. In 2020, Portugal granted temporary residence status to more than 350,000 migrants, providing them full access to health care and social support. We have also included migrants into our vaccination plan, regardless of migration status.

We believe it is crucial to enhance pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, and we have concluded a series of bilateral labour mobility agreements in this regard. We also believe in strengthening integration measures: to name only a few, we have a network of Support Centres for the Integration of Migrants, functioning as "one stop shops", regardless of migration status and free of charge; and we have published a Welcome Guide for Migrants in December 2021.

Mr. President,

Much has been done for the implementation of the GCM. But much still remains to be done. Too often, migrants are still excluded or discriminated against. Too often, they are still left behind.

We need more political will, which the upcoming IMRF can help generate. And we need concrete examples, best practices and benchmarks that can help us get there.

This is why Portugal is committed to ensuring an ambitious Progress Declaration coming out of the IMRF. We also commit to updating our GCM national-level review, and to further sharing best practices which can be useful to others.

We hope Member States can generate momentum by submitting pledges to accelerate GCM implementation, by contributing to the Migration MPTF, and by including civil society every step of the way.

I thank you.