

## UN Network on Migration Briefing with Member States

### Thematic Working Group 3 on Regular Pathways for Migrants in Vulnerable Situations

19 October 2020

Good morning/afternoon or evening depending on where you are based.

Thank you so much to the UN Migration Network for inviting us to present today. I am pleased to be presenting on behalf of working group 3 on strengthening States capacities to expand regular migration pathways including admission and stay and address and reduce vulnerabilities faced by migrants.

- The co-Leads of Working Group 3 on pathways who are the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and ACT Alliance along with a very diverse working group representing civil society organizations, academics and others, are working to support member states to expand and diversify the availability of pathways for regular migration as means of addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration and in situations of mixed movements.
- To this end, we have already mapped existing promising practices, tools and resources, and are currently developing a questionnaire to seek further inputs from governments and other stakeholders, in order to develop relevant useful guidance, including a policy brief, on how we can best work together to expand and strengthen regular pathways.
- We know from this exercise that many States have already put in place a wide range of admission and stay mechanisms for migrants, including for family reunification, to protect individuals who are fleeing disasters and environmental degradation, to provide rehabilitation to victims of torture and trafficking, on human rights grounds, to protect women survivors of sexual and gender based violence and to ensure the best interests of the child. We are interested in learning more about these promising practices, including experiences with their practical implementation, and sharing them further.



- Through this working group, the UN Migration Network is seeking to make these practices more visible, widespread and institutionalised. This is even more relevant given the current situation with the COVID 19 crisis. The various repercussions of the pandemic on migrants' ability to comply with admission and stay requirements is a clear factor of added vulnerability for migrants. Unable to access immigration procedures for permit renewals and extensions, many migrants, including migrant workers, temporary work permit holders, skilled and bridging visa holders, international students and migrants in vulnerable situations remain stranded or in irregular situations, through no fault of their own.
  
- With this in mind, we are planning several peer-learning exchanges in the near future and identification of pilot projects with interested governments and other relevant stakeholders.
  
- The co-leads of working group 3 on regular pathways would very much welcome expressions of interests to pilot the various tools mentioned and invite you to explore possibilities for engagement, including in the peer-learning exchanges. Please contact the Network Secretariat if you are interested.