



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## **United Nations Network on Migration**

Roundtable 3 (virtual) at the  
**Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
in the  
UNECE Region  
Friday, 13 November 2020  
10.00 – 12.00 (CET)**

**Ms. Ashita Mittal,**  
**UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a honour to welcome you to the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the UNECE Region, and in particular, to Roundtable 3, which focuses specifically on measures implemented by states and other stakeholders to protect migrants through "right-based border-governance measures", including policy measures that allow for direct screening and legal and humanitarian assistance, protecting persons at risk, and enabling states to track migration trends comprehensively.

This event is taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is highlighting the vulnerabilities and inequalities, and exposing precisely the fragilities that are addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More than ever before there is a need to recognise the indivisibility and the inter connectedness of agenda for sustainable development, peace, rule of law, security and human rights. Under these circumstances the protection of the most vulnerable people, including victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, are of vital importance.

The most recent figures from UNODC estimate smuggling of migrants generates an annual 5-7 billion US dollars. With criminal networks looking to profit from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical for governments to work together in line with international norms and standards to combat human trafficking and other cross-border crimes.

UNODC, with its key global expertise and mandate on advancing the rule of law and supporting the efforts to counter migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, supports the Member States in the UNECE region through the timely provision of policy guidance on migration issues, particularly on countering



associated manifestations of organized crime, including by tailoring responses to COVID-19 related concerns. UNODC is ready to support Member States in the UNECE region in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

Applying and reinforcing this international framework of commitments to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling requires improved international coordination and cooperation among states. For this reason, UNODC, as permanent coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), is pleased to be part of the Executive Committee of the UN Migration Network, and remains strongly committed to continue its active engagement in the work of the Network in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During this roundtable, we will be able to discuss multi-sectorial issues in countering trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, from national and international, rights-based perspectives. I am honoured to welcome our panelists:

1. Mr. Julian Hodaj, Deputy Minister of Interior, Republic of Albania;
2. Mr. Felipe González Morales, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants;
3. Ms. Afshan Khan, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF.

Let me also inform you that the panelists and those wishing to speak from the floor are kindly requested to adhere to the specific objectives covered by this Roundtable. Panelists are given 10 minutes for their interventions.

Participants that wish to respond to panelists may indicate this via the chat box.

Panelists are requested to click blue “Request to Speak” button to be given access to the floor. Panelists will remain on the panel as speakers. When not speaking, please mute your microphone.

### **Introduce Mr. Julian Hodaj**

Mr. Julian Hodaj has been Deputy Minister of Interior since October 9, 2017. Previously, he worked as a legal advisor to the OSCE Presence in Albania. He was a legal advisor in the process of administrative-territorial reform in 2015. He also served as director of the Directorate of Foreign Relations and Public Relations at the Ministry of Justice.



## **Introduce Mr. Felipe González Morales**

Mr. Felipe González Morales is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. He is a former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, where he was also a Commissioner and the Rapporteur on Migrants and Refugees between 2008 and 2015. Professor of International Law at University Diego Portales, in Santiago, Chile, where he also directs a master's in international human rights law. Honorary Professor at University Carlos III of Madrid, at which he teaches International Human Rights Law at a series of postgraduate programs since 2003.

## **Introduce Ms. Afshan Khan**

Ms. Afshan Khan is the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and the Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe. Previously, she was the Director of Emergency Programmes for UNICEF; Director of Public-Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization; Associate Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa; and the UNICEF Representative in Jamaica. Ms Khan has also worked with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (IASC) in Geneva; the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; and the United Nations Development Group.

From 2012 to 2014 Ms. Khan was CEO of Women for Women International where she was responsible for setting the strategic vision and mobilizing the necessary resources for women rebuilding their lives after war. She has a master's degree in Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from McGill University.

## **Wrap-up of the panel discussion**

- Thank the Panellists, invite participants to ask questions, give comments, etc.
- The Panellists are ready to answer questions during the interactive discussion.
- Hand over to Technical Moderators:
- Introduce Interactive Discussion from the floor.



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Invite the Panellists to answer questions.

Hand over to Technical Moderator:

- Remind participants they can log out the KUDO system, or remain online muted during lunch break.
- Remind panellists and speakers to log in half an hour before the start of Roundtable 2
- Roundtable 2 will start punctually after lunch