

Statement at UN Network on Migration Briefing
March 18, 2021
FINAL

Thank you, Mr. Prentice. Thank you, Director General Vitorino for hosting us today, for providing an update on the Network's priorities, and describing next steps towards the International Migration Review Forum of the GCM scheduled for next year. Today, we look forward to hearing updates on the Network's thematic working groups.

At the outset, allow me to applaud both the International Organization for Migration as well as the Network's efforts in bolstering support to member states on migration-related matters. The Network provides valuable guidance and tools to help member states on these difficult issues, and it also reinforces the need for UN entities to work closely and effectively together in these efforts.

Director General, as you highlighted the importance of member states' participation in the regional review process, we wanted to share with member states that the United States actively participated in UNESCAP's Asia-Pacific Regional Review last week in recognition of the critical need for international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly, and humane migration. While the United States continues to closely review its position toward the Global Compact for Migration in light of U.S. law and policy, we aspire to support the GCM goals in close coordination with the international community.

Distinguished colleagues, migration is a shared reality, challenge, and responsibility. The Global Compact on Migration provides a framework that can help optimize the benefits of migration, while addressing the risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit, and destination. The Compact also calls for increased international cooperation and both encourages and enables government and stakeholders to share responsibilities more effectively. We would welcome the continued participation of relevant stakeholders such as international, multilateral organizations and civil society in future regional reviews.

Although we are still reviewing our position on the Global Compact on Migration itself, we are committed to working together with other countries to realize the Compact's vision of enhanced cooperation, grounded in human rights, non-discrimination, responsibility-sharing, and state sovereignty.

We are also committed to re-engaging in international fora to address common migration challenges together in accordance with U.S. law and policy. Moving forward, you will see us actively participating in these quarterly briefings in demonstration of our support to IOM and the Network's efforts in achieving shared goals.

Director General Vitorino, we also plan to contribute to the understanding of and planning for the impact of climate change on migration as directed by President Biden in his February 4 Executive Order. There is no greater long-term challenge confronting the world today than climate change. President Biden has launched an ambitious agenda to follow through on his promise to take swift and bold actions to address the climate crisis and help vulnerable countries adapt to devastating impacts of climate change. We would welcome the Network to further explore the nexus between climate change and human mobility.

Director General Vitorino, and Network Members, we heard loud and clear your call for States to guarantee equitable access to vaccines for all regardless of their status. We echo this call. On February 1, our Department of Homeland Security announced its full support of equal access to the COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals, regardless of their immigration status.

In closing, count on us to re-engage across a range of critical issues to include climate change, humanitarian action, sustainable and inclusive development, and forced displacement and migration. We look forward to working with IOM and Network members to address these shared challenges together.

Thank you.