



Statement by the Republic of Croatia
International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)
New York, 17 – 20 May 2022

- Three and a half years have already passed since the adoption of the GCM (the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration). Since then, the World has drastically changed.
- We have learned to live in the so-called “*new normal*”, trying and managing to adapt to new ways of life under the global pandemic.
- A worrisome number of new crisis and conflicts have emerged, while many old ones still exist. The international community is fortunately aware of the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the need for a multilateral global response to these issues.
- The rising number of people forced to leave their homes globally is devastating, with conflicts, economic and climate factors being only a few main causes.
- This high-level meeting is a much-needed opportunity to exchange our views and good practices, and most of all to show our willingness for implementing sustainable solutions.
- What we need is to better relate urgent humanitarian aid with the long-term development cooperation and political efforts.

- Migration is not a new phenomenon. It is a part of history of almost every country and an intrinsic factor that helped build our modern nations. Regular migration is what Croatia will continue to support and we believe that it is a necessary and natural way to enrich our society and our economy.
- As a strong supporter of the GCM and migration flows, Croatia has always emphasized importance of a clear distinction between economic migrants and refugees.
- In this sense, we are taking concrete actions to further strengthen the opportunities for people in need of international protection, but also those who come to our country in search of employment.
- Most recently, due to the war in Ukraine, Croatia called at the EU level for the urgent activation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive, which in this case was activated for the first time since its adoption. So far, we have accepted 17,500 refugees from Ukraine who have been provided with temporary care that includes health care, accommodation, access to the labor market and the education system.
- We also continued to relocate Syrian refugees from Turkey.
- Due to political changes in Afghanistan in mid-August last year, Croatia immediately and without hesitation joined the EEAS initiative in accepting Afghan citizens who previously worked for EU missions.
- We are also aware that migration movements are not only limited to people in need of protection, but a significant share are people who migrate for employment. Croatia was one of the first countries in the world to regulate the work of so-called "Digital

nomads", with around 3,000 digital nomads currently living and working in Croatia

- Dear colleagues,
- Faced with extremely turbulent times, which quickly affect global migration, we think that a clear overview of legal migration flows is of particular importance.
- Sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels has no alternatives and for our part. We are willing and ready contribute to it.
- Thank you