

DENMARK

Statement at the International Migration Review Forum in the United Nations General Assembly on [20. May 2022]

(Taletid 3 minutter)

Chair,

Distinguished ministers,

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to start by sincerely thanking the UN Network on Migration, the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and the co-facilitators of the Progress Declaration, Bangladesh and Luxembourg. At this first ever International Migration Review Forum, Denmark has and will engage actively and constructively. Denmark appreciates the hard work that has enabled this High Level Forum to become a reality.

Chair,

Denmark firmly believes that international cooperation is a necessity in ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration. There is no other way; migration is a global reality that requires collective action.

People from more than XX countries took legal residence in Denmark in 20xx. It adds to the more than 10 per cent of my country's population with foreign nationality.

Denmark is an open society benefitting from regular migration. And we have recently opened our doors for almost 30.000 Ukrainians since the Russian

invasion. We condemn in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of the UN Charter.

We are doing our utmost to make migration beneficial to both the migrants and society.

The GCM and the IMRF is a unique platform to promote safe, orderly and regular migration, and to improve the migration governance along migratory routes, not least when it comes to preventing irregular migration.

Chair,

Migration, including irregular migration continues to be on the rise. Climate change; increasing inequality and instability; food insecurity; and socio-economic challenges worsened by COVID-19 are among the factors that will increase movement in the future.

All migrants must be treated fairly and well. In all countries. And in full respect of their human rights.

But irregular migration is not a human right.

Irregular migrants set out on dangerous and sometimes deadly journeys facilitated by criminals – the smugglers and traffickers.

Only to waste years of their lives. In a limbo in Europe or elsewhere. With no legal right to stay. And with no future.

The Global Compact provides a clear and universal confirmation of all States' obligation to readmit their own nationals. We expect this commitment to be upheld. And we are ready to work closely with all countries of origin on sustainable reintegration of returnees.

Chair,

The Danish government believes that the current asylum and migration system should be more fair and humane.

We should help more people better in countries of origin and along the migratory routes to prevent irregular migration.

One of the key components of making migration more fair, humane and regular is to address the root causes of irregular migration. By creating hope and opportunities.

A focused effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is vital in this regard. Improving gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as access to health and education must be at the heart of our efforts. As must investments in green and sustainable jobs, and food security.

We all bear a responsibility to act. Denmark maintains its commitment to international solidarity and provide 0.7 of its GDP to development assistance. And we aim to almost double our annual support to fragile regions and their neighbors by 2025 – an increase of 470 million Euro.

I am also honored to announce that the Danish government has decided to double its commitment to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund to 4 million Euros. We are convinced that the Fund is instrumental in realizing the objectives of the Compact.

We urge other states to follow suit in this regard.

Finally, let me conclude by underlining that Denmark is strongly committed to this agenda. We benefit from regular migration. Only by working together based on a whole of society, whole of government and whole of migratory routes approach, will we be able to make migration safe, orderly and regular.

Thank you.