IOM Director-General Amy Pope,
Excellencies and distinguished delegates,
International Organizations and Civil Society representatives,

1. El Salvador has the pleasure of delivering this statement on behalf of the GCM 34 Champions Countries.

2. The GCM Champion Countries welcome Ms. Amy Pope to her first meeting as coordinator of the UN Network on Migration and look forward to working closely on the full implementation of the Global Compact, assuring our continuous support to her and all relevant stakeholders on our joint efforts to foster safe, orderly, and regular migration.

3. We thank you for the valuable information provided during this briefing, recognizing the world is facing complex challenges to human mobility such as climate change, political and economic crises, armed conflicts, social inequality, organized crime, among others, which are causing a significant increase of migrants around the world every year, most of them risking their lives through irregular pathways to seek a better future elsewhere. Therefore, we highlight the need for urgent actions to mitigate and develop comprehensive solutions for the adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people from building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods in their countries of origin, through a human-centered approach, in accordance with the 23 Objectives contained in the GCM.

4. We support the vision of the UN Network and its coordinator, which is in line with the priorities put forth by the first co-chairmanship of the GCM Champion Countries Initiative, led by El Salvador and Morocco, on fostering activities to address the adverse effects of climate change, advocating for regular pathways, promoting balanced narratives, reinforcing our efforts to provide and exchange comprehensive information on migration-related aspects, improving our participation in multilateral spaces, and advocating for more countries to join efforts to unlock the potential of safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as to overcome its challenges.

5. The GCM is a fundamental instrument for addressing international migration in a comprehensive and humane manner, enriching, and shaping our common understanding of this complex phenomenon, through leadership, partnership, advocacy, international cooperation. We exchange our experiences in responding to the needs of migrants in situations of vulnerability, regardless of their migration status. and examine how to create conditions that allow communities and individuals to live in safety and dignity, while empowering them to become full members of our societies, highlighting their positive contributions and promoting inclusion and social cohesion.

6. The Champion Countries Initiative seeks to deepen Member State’s engagement for the effective implementation of the GCM and to promote inclusive and substantive discussions for its revision at regional and global levels. We believe that the establishment of the UN Network on Migration allows Members States, the United Nations and other
relevant stakeholders to advance the GCM’s vision and its 23 Objectives, in line with the 2030 Agenda, prioritizing the human rights and well-being of migrants, their families and their communities in countries of destination, transit, and origin.

7. As Champion Countries, we are dedicated to delivering together on common objectives under the Initiative, to benefit the effective implementation of the GCM, preserving the solidarity, flexibility and collaborative nature of the group and recognizing the cross-cutting nature of migration. Therefore, we have elaborated a workplan as a living document, which incorporates all the concrete actions we develop with the support of the Network, including the preparations of the International and Regional Review Forums, the promotion of GCM talks on relevant migration topics, the use of network tools and the capacity building mechanism; as well as the coordination for upcoming Network events, which generate new ideas and meaningful actions for advancing safe, orderly, and regular migration.

8. We recognize there is a continuous need for international efforts to strengthen our knowledge and analysis of migration information about the benefits and challenges of migration. To this end, it is crucial to foster strong engagement with external partners, including migrants, diaspora, civil society, local authorities and communities, the private sector, academia, and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels. Together, we can reduce the risks and vulnerabilities migrants face at different stages of human mobility, respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights, especially the world’s most vulnerable.

9. We also extend our appreciation to the UN Network on Migration, its coordinator, and the Secretariat for supporting member countries and relevant stakeholders in our work to improve the condition of the migrants and their families, as well as in promoting best practices and exchanges of experiences to advance our commitments to the Compact.

10. We reiterate our trust in the work of the UN Network on Migration to achieve our common objectives as solidified in the Global Compact. We will keep firm in our leading role to raise our voices in ensuring and preserving the rights, welfare, and security of all migrants, doing our utmost efforts to advance in the implementation of the GCM.

11. Finally, we would like to express our warm welcome to Sierra Leone as the new GCM Champion Country and invite other Member States to join us in this work.

Thank you.