

International Migration Review Forum – Adoption of the Progress Declaration

Joint Statement (after the adoption) – to be delivered by Portugal

General Assembly Hall

20th April 2022

Mister President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Finland, Ireland and my own country, Portugal.

[IF CONSENSUS ON THE TEXT AS A WHOLE] We welcome the fact that the Progress Declaration of the first International Migration Review Forum could be adopted by consensus. This consensual adoption sends a strong political signal of the international community's determination to implement the Global Compact for Migration, thus realizing our collective commitment to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

[IF VOTE ON THE WHOLE TEXT: We regret that, despite an engagement in good faith and significant compromises on all sides, not all States were able to join the overwhelming majority in favour of a consensus]

We wish to warmly thank Her Excellency Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, and His Excellency Olivier Maes, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, for their able and inclusive facilitation of these negotiations.

Mister President,

We welcome the fact that this Progress Declaration unequivocally *reaffirms* the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), and our collective determination to implement it. The text adopted today adequately reflects our recognition of the

positive contribution of the almost three hundred million [300 million] migrants to our societies and economies worldwide. It also reflects our duty to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their status.

[IF PARAGRAPH 12 REMAINS AS DRAFTED] Water scarcity has been linked to a 10% rise in migration worldwide, and as climate change further exacerbates water scarcity in many parts of the world, the impact of water scarcity as a driver of migration is due to increase. It is therefore important that we take steps to recognize and minimize these impacts in an effective and holistic manner.

[IF PARAGRAPH 12 IS AMENDED TO EXCLUDE WATER: We regret that paragraph 12 was amended to exclude the important reference to water scarcity. Water scarcity has been linked to a 10% rise in migration worldwide, and as climate change further exacerbates water scarcity in many parts of the world, the impact of water scarcity as a driver of migration is due to increase. Failing to recognize this link in the progress declaration will make it considerably more difficult for us, as an international community, to address this important driver of migration in a comprehensive manner.]

In its forward-looking section, the Declaration charts a clear path forward, with twenty-two [22] specific commitments that provide clear guidance on the areas that we have collectively identified as priorities, and where more action is needed to fully implement the GCM. In this Declaration,

- We commit to building on the promising practices from the COVID-19 pandemic, thus building back better;
- We commit to enhancing migrant participation;
- We commit to strengthening information, support and services that contribute to migrants' integration;
- We commit to eliminating all forms of discrimination targeted against migrants and diasporas;
- We commit to diversifying the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration;

- And we commit to strengthening the linkages between the Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda;

Given that this is what we agreed to, an appropriate title for this last section of the text should have contained this very word: “commitments”, in addition to “recommended actions”.

Mr. President,

Our countries would have wished to see stronger language here and in many other aspects of this Progress Declaration. However, we engaged in a spirit of compromise, in order to enable consensus. *[IF VOTE ON THE WHOLE TEXT: We express our disappointment that, despite these efforts, shared by so many Member States, consensus was not reached].*

Building on this Progress Declaration, we will continue to do our part to fulfil the Human Rights of all migrants, regardless of their status, and to harness the immense potential of migration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, across countries of origin, transit and destination.

I thank you.