

Session 2: objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21

Madam/Mr. President,

I have the honour of delivering the following statement on behalf of Cyprus, France, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and my own country Denmark.

Migration is a global phenomenon, presenting both challenges and opportunities to the international community. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration presents a common approach at a global level to address the increasing challenges of irregular migration and seizing the opportunities of safe and legal migration.

We underline the importance of the 360-degree approach to the implementation of the GCM. We welcome the discussion under session 2 and believe the 7 clustered objectives compose a crucial component of the GCM. It is vital that states continue to work ever more closely together to address the challenges posed by poorly managed migration for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit, and destination.

We would specifically like to express our common views regarding objectives 21, 9 and 10.

- Regarding Objective 21: We underline the importance of facilitating safe and dignified returns, as well as promoting sustainable reintegration. It is also important to acknowledge that the Global Compact on Migration clearly recognizes the existing obligation of all States to duly receive and readmit their own nationals, as laid down in objective 21. Nationals who do not or no longer have the right to stay in a country that is not their own, must be readmitted. This is a cornerstone of a well-functioning international migration system. It is crucial that States demonstrate a general recognition of the obligation to readmit their nationals. We are keen to see increased international cooperation in facilitating safe and dignified returns moving forward.
- Regarding Objectives 9 and 10: We emphasize the importance of continued international cooperation to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, in particular with countries of transit and origin. Poorly governed migration presents challenges both to states and to migrants themselves. With an increasing number of migrants making dangerous journeys, many people are losing their lives and facing exploitation by people smugglers and traffickers. Organised immigration crime and trafficking must be tackled comprehensively, from source to destination, coordinating across borders and regions to protect those at risk and to prevent dangerous journeys. It is especially important that we work together to reduce the risks for those in vulnerable situations, particularly women and children, and to ensure that survivors are provided with necessary support.

We call upon the UN Network on Migration to provide greater support to the 360-degree approach to the implementation of the GCM, including increased focus and collaboration towards migration management, and addressing GCM objectives 21, 9 and 10.