

## GERMAN CIVIL SOCIETY Representative Statement RT3

Excellencies, delegates,

I am honored to speak to you as part of the German delegation as I am not a state official but a civil society representative within the delegation. Civil society engagement is essential in the whole process of migration and integration as diaspora organizations, NGOs, local initiatives, faith-based communities are key actors to implement the GCM on the ground. Following Objective 19 migrants are agents of their own fate and should be fully integrated in all essential fora and processes on all levels.

Regarding Objective 15: Two points with a global perspective: The COVID pandemic shows us, that migrant workers are essential to fight the pandemic while others were often not supported, not vaccinated in time, not considered, f.i in reception centers or shelters in confined conditions. And in some cases, the pandemic was also used as an excuse to expel migrants without due process.

In times of crises political priorities became visible and here too often with a focus on nationals at the expense of vulnerable groups.

Access to basic services means to defend human rights – therefore civil society is taking a stand for a fire wall and protection from law enforcement to guaranty these rights to all migrants no matter which status and starting from day one – for all basic services but first and foremost in the case of medical treatments and health services. In the sense of Objectives 15 and 16 The Temporary Protection Directive for Ukrainian Nationals in Europe shows that a simplified process, service provision and access to labor market is possible – but that must be applied also to other groups of migrants. Origin, gender, or cultural proximity must not play a role in the application of these rights.