

## **International Migration Review Forum**

### **National Statement**

This week, we are gathered for the first international migration review forum, to reaffirm our commitment to international partnership on migration, one of the most significant global issues we face.

Ireland played a key role, with our Jordanian friends, in facilitating the New York Declaration in 2016 that led to the Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees.

Last month, we held a successful Global Diaspora Summit in Ireland, concluding with the adoption by Ministers of the “Dublin Declaration”, a future agenda of action for global diaspora engagement. As a country with strong ties to our own diaspora, Ireland is proud to have facilitated this event.

Migration, both inward and outward has had a profound effect on Ireland and our history. We recognise the significant contributions made by those who come to our shores from other nations, particularly the role that migrants have played in supporting our economic growth through their skills and talents.

Throughout the pandemic, migrants have worked in key areas of our economy and delivered essential services in our communities. Their contributions have been vital to the effective management of the public health crisis.

In turn, Ireland has taken action to provide safety and security to those living in the State by automatically extending immigration permissions on nine separate occasions, ensuring that no one has fallen out of permission during these extraordinary times.

We also moved swiftly to reassure people that they could access healthcare, including vaccinations, and temporary payments during the pandemic regardless of their immigration status.

One of the most significant measures Ireland has introduced recently is our scheme for the regularisation of long-term undocumented migrants in the State. On 31 January 2022, we

opened the scheme for six months. It enables those who have been living in Ireland and contributing to the economy, but who have been hindered by their undocumented status, to apply to regularise their immigration status. The scheme has clear benefits for the individuals and their families, but also for the State too. It will allow people to engage fully in Irish society, including in the labour market, with increased opportunities for labour mobility and progression. Furthermore, this fuller engagement and these increased opportunities will also permit people to contribute more effectively to their countries of origin.

Ireland welcomes the ongoing focus on legal migration at EU level and the continued opportunities to work together to create sustainable regular pathways for migration. International migration will continue to present challenges and opportunities into the future. As we explore these issues, the Compact provides a clear framework to manage all aspects of migration. Ireland will continue to support its full implementation.

Thank you.