

Intersessional panel discussion:

Human rights of migrants: avenues to prevent and address human rights violations and abuses against migrants in transit and to ensure access to justice for victims and their family members

GCM Champions Statement

M. President,

1. Morocco is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the thirty-five (35) GCM Champion Countries.
2. The GCM Champion countries Initiative is a collaborative effort by Member States to promote the 23 Objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, its implementation, follow up and review. The members of the Initiative are committed to advancing cooperation across all stages of the migration cycle, galvanizing support, exchanging information, and sharing best practices to ensure the success of the GCM and contribute to making safe, orderly and regular migration a tangible reality for all migrants, including by addressing the specific needs and barriers faced by migrant women and girls, as well as children, in particular unaccompanied children.
3. While recognizing that States have the sovereign right to determine their national migration policy, the Champions countries welcome the convening of this intersessional panel discussion. Indeed, we continue to express our deep concern for the loss of lives, disappearances, violence, discrimination and other human rights violations and abuses suffered by migrants, including those in transit and undertaking perilous journeys and at various borders.
4. GCM Champion countries believe that upholding the human rights of migrants, including those in transit, enhances the efficacy of border governance. We further believe that enhancing and strengthening regular pathways for migration, as well as combating national and transnational organized crime, including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, is an imperative to ensure the protection of migrants and upholding their rights, and contributes to prevent human rights violations.
5. Access to justice is a fundamental human right, not a luxury, and it must be upheld for everyone, including migrants in transit and their families. Holding accountable those who commit human rights violations and abuses is crucial to ending the pattern of impunity, as emphasized during the second session of this panel.

6. In this regard, the GCM Champion countries look forward to the Secretary-General's upcoming report on the GCM which will include a set of actionable recommendations on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress.
7. Additionally, it is crucial to note that widespread propagation of negative narratives about migrants amplifies their vulnerability and sustains stereotypes and perpetuates different forms of discrimination, with widespread impact on migrants, their families and communities. This emphasizes the necessity to identify and address the root causes of these narratives by promoting balanced and evidence-based information on migration.
8. GCM champion countries therefore encourage collaboration between States, based on their shared and respective responsibilities, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, and all relevant stakeholders to develop whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to protect of the human rights of migrants and by ensuring that perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses against migrants are held accountable and that justice is ensured for victims and their families.
9. GCM Champion countries continue to promote dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders, including migrants, diaspora communities, and relevant international organizations, in furthering the common objectives within the Global Compact for Migration.
10. Finally, anchored on the regional diversity, dedication and commitment demonstrated by the 35 GCM Champions, to promote and protect the human right of migrants, we seize this opportunity to invite Member States to join our esteemed Group in advancing the objectives set forward in the Global Compact for safe orderly, and regular migration.

Thank you, Mister President,