

**STATEMENT BY MS. TIZIANA BOZON ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS  
AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

**International Migration Review Forum | Multi-stakeholder Hearing  
Thematic Discussion 1: Assessing the progress, gaps, and challenges in the implementation of the  
Global Compact on Migration**

16 May 2022 | New York

**Guiding Questions**

1. On progress: how have you used the GCM to make progress? What impacts have you seen from the GCM?
2. On gaps and challenges: do the priorities in the Secretary General's report reflect the key gaps and challenges in the implementation of the GCM? What is missing or requires further attention?
3. Has the GCM helped create or strengthen opportunities for engagement with policy development and review or with programme development and delivery?
4. What challenges are there for meaningful migrant participation in your work? How do you navigate those challenges, including by creating space for such participation?

Specific Question to IFRC: *IFRC has highlighted that the humanitarian situation of migrants around the world has worsened. To reverse this what examples of GCM implementation would you like to see replicated and what challenges need to be addressed?*

**Panelist Remarks**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and coming from my own, The Gambia Red Cross Society, it is a pleasure to join today's Multi-stakeholder Hearing. I thank the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the opportunity to speak on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

In 2020, UNDESA estimated that there are 281 million international migrants, equating to 3.6 percent of the global population. As tomorrow marks the first International Migration Review Forum, we know that many States, civil society organizations, and humanitarians have made progress in implementing the GCM and its 23 objectives. The United Nations Secretary-General's report highlights some of the ways in which States have made progress, including by facilitating access to healthcare services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet, we know the challenges. The past four years have not been easy – the COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed lives, economies, and jobs; inequalities are skyrocketing; and new conflicts have erupted. Approximately, 83 percent of all disasters are caused by climate- and weather-related events, rising by almost 35 percent over the last three decades and affecting more than 1.7 billion people.

According to the IFRC's Cost of Doing Nothing report, we predict that 200 million people every year could need international humanitarian assistance by 2050.

Due to these compounding crises, too many people on the move leave their homes, often taking dangerous journeys in search of safety, dignity, opportunities, and most importantly, hope. People on the move may die or go missing and face barriers when it comes to accessing essential humanitarian assistance and protection.

Madam Chair,

Crises breed innovation, action and results. States, civil society, and humanitarians are working hard and working together and, most importantly, working locally. As auxiliaries to States, our 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and 15 million volunteers are working at the local level to provide humanitarian assistance, supporting people on the move along their journeys and providing essential services. At least, 110 National Societies provide humanitarian services to migrants and displaced persons, and, in 2020, we reached approximately 8.9 million people with migration related services.

As of March 2020, the IFRC network operated over 330 Humanitarian Services Points, which are neutral and safe spaces for providing humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move along migratory routes. They are welcoming spaces where migrants, displaced persons, and others can access food, water, information, first aid, health services, referrals and other assistance and protection services.

During the pandemic, many National Societies worked to provide access to information and essential services to migrants without discrimination. The Maldivian Red Crescent facilitated the registration of migrants, who were undocumented, for COVID-19 vaccinations, while the Red Cross of Montenegro provided psychosocial and medical support to migrants and information about vaccination processes.

In my home country, The Gambia Red Cross Society, continues to provide humanitarian assistance and protection, including food, clothing, temporal shelter, family reunification, health and psychosocial support services, and information to build resilience by ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccinations for migrants and their host communities and establishing a vaccination center in our office.

In the context of the climate crises, the Namibia Red Cross Society, at the request of their government, provided people displaced from Angola into Namibia due to drought with food, shelter, health and other essential services, while in the Philippines, early humanitarian action supported by forecast-based financing included strengthening and protecting housing to mitigate displacement.

Madam Chair,

It is first and foremost a priority to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, who are often impacted the hardest by compounding crises. We encourage Member States at both the national and local levels to commit to the following actions:

**First**, to save lives, including through search and rescue across sea and land routes, prioritizing and cooperating in search and rescue operations and other humanitarian assistance for migrants in vulnerable situations;

**Second**, to ensure that all migrants, irrespective of status, have access to essential services at all stages of their journeys, including access to assistance and protection, shelter, food, health and psychosocial support services, water, information, and COVID-19 related services;

**Third**, to take action before communities are displaced through disaster risk reduction measures, climatesmart adaptation, anticipatory action, and resilience-building initiatives;

**Fourth**, to include migrants in all aspects of society, but particularly in decision-making processes that affect them.

Thank you again for the opportunity.