

Chair, distinguished colleagues,

Norway welcomes the opportunity this Forum provides to discuss our region's progress towards safer, more orderly and more regular migration.

[First, we would like to express our support to the views expressed by Denmark on behalf of Cyprus, France, Malta, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Norway].

More people are on the move globally than ever before. Too many, especially women and children, suffer from marginalisation and lack access to means of livelihood. Too many migrants die, go missing or are exploited while journeying along dangerous routes.

Together, need to aim for more migration being based on opportunity and solutions, and less migration being based on fear, false expectations, and a lack of choice.

Norway takes part in the implementation of GCM with three main priorities:

- to improve migration management and stem irregular migration
- to reduce vulnerability and respond to the needs of migrants in precarious situations
- social and economic inclusion of migrants residing legally in Norway

Objective 8 is of particular importance to Norway. We have integrated our humanitarian and development support to refugees and vulnerable migrants. The goal is to save lives and

reduce suffering, while strengthening host communities. We need to find durable solutions to the people on the move as well as their hosts. In turn, we hope that forced displacement and irregular migration might be curbed.

Our interpretation of the GCM was expressed in the Norwegian explanation of vote to the General Assembly of the UN, on its adoption in 2018. We would like to underline that this interpretation still applies. The most fundamental principle for us in this regard, is the right of sovereign States to determine their national migration policy.

States have the authority to determine migratory status on their territory, and to reserve certain rights and benefits for regular migrants. We welcome ideas which can improve their situation and enhance their inclusion, and have taken note of important stakeholder points in this room today.

Norway recognises the potential economic benefits of increased regular migration to the global economy, in our own region as well, and to achieving the SDGs. The availability and flexibility of rights-based and legal pathways for regular migration is important. However, it must be based on a common understanding of the obligations of countries of origin and destination respectively.

The GCM clearly confirms the obligation of all states to readmit their own nationals, whether they return voluntarily or not, and to cooperate in organising their return. The return of irregular migrants not only increases the chance of success of established regular pathways, it also contributes to safeguard the universal right to asylum.

The fulfilment of this obligation towards own nationals remains a major challenge, and hampers our progress towards the visions laid out in the Global Compact.

Norsk innlegg, regional gjennomgang av den globale migrasjonsplattformen (GCM), 11. mars 2024, Genève. Taletid 3 min.

We have come far towards the ideals the GCM sets out to reach, but we still have much work to do.

Thank you.