

Session 4: objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23

Madam/Mr. President,

I have the honour of delivering the following statement on behalf of Cyprus, Denmark, France, Malta, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and my own country Norway.

We support the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) because it provides a common approach to facilitating cooperation on migration at the global, regional and state level. This is vital if we are to address the increasing challenges of irregular migration and in order to maximise the benefits of safe and legal migration. We would like to reiterate our ongoing commitment to this important framework.

We would like to specifically reflect on objective 1, within the context of the work that is being done by the United Nations Network on Migration on the proposal for a limited set of indicators. Taking into account that the final version is yet to be published, we would like to share some overall considerations regarding this workstream, building on previous Explanations of Position made by several of us since 2018:

- Firstly, we welcome the constructive approach that the Network has taken in the development of these indicators and their ongoing efforts to integrate the views of States, in line with the mandate given by States in the last IMRF Progress Declaration.
- Second, we would like to reiterate the importance we attach to the GCM principle that, within their sovereign jurisdiction, States have sole authority to distinguish between regular and irregular migratory status. As the indicators are formulated, it is vital that this principle is upheld, and the distinction between different migrant groups is maintained.
- Third, we would like to note that the elevation of some of the potential example actions within the GCM to indicators of its successful implementation may risk changing the overarching interpretation of the carefully negotiated text. The list of actions under each GCM commitment constitutes examples which may contribute to the implementation of the Compact. It is up to each State to decide if and how to draw from these examples when developing their own national policies.
- Fourth, it will be important to ensure that national agencies will be able to deliver against the number of indicators in the current framework, and to minimise any additional burden on States given varying capacities. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Network in considering this point.
- Finally, although the IMRF asked for a proposal that drew upon existing frameworks such as the SDGs, it is important to ensure that this set of indicators fully reflects the 360-degree nature of the GCM and an appropriate balance between the different objectives will need to be maintained.

We would like to thank the Network once again and hope to continue the constructive discussions we are having with the Network on how to mitigate these political and practical risks and how these indicators may be used, interpreted, measured, and evaluated in the framework of the IMRF.