

Esteemed participants

At the outset, Let me extend my gratitude to UNECE and the UN Migration Network for their efforts to advance the GCM agenda. Special thanks to Ms. Östmark for her remarks.

With number of conflicts on the rise, the number of forcibly displaced people continues to reach unseen levels.

UNHCR and UN data indicate over 110 million people are displaced, with more than 300 million in need of humanitarian aid worldwide. Given the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar and many others places we can expect mixed migration to increase.

Thousands of migrants endure difficult journeys in search of safety and a better life, through the Mediterranean and Sahara routes which are among the deadliest. There can be no justification for the inhumane treatment and disregard for the loss of lives at the border land and sea alike. Upholding migrants' human rights is not just a moral imperative but a legal obligation.

Esteemed Participants,

As one of the countries hosting the highest number of refugees in the world, Türkiye, on its part, has developed effective, inclusive, and human-centered migration policies with a 360-degree and right-based approach. Since the first day of the crisis in Syria, we have been assisting millions of Syrians for more than 13 years decade.

Unfortunately, the responsibility and burden of millions of people have been left on the shoulders of host countries. Migration cannot be a problem of the neighbouring countries alone, but It is a global responsibility.

The international community should facilitate safe, dignified, and voluntary returns for refugees by supporting source countries to overcome their political, social and economic instabilities rather than outsourcing the refugee issue or transferring their responsibilities to other countries.

Dear Participants,

Transnational crimes: human trafficking and smuggling are sources of concern too. Türkiye actively combats these crimes, punishing perpetrators and protecting victims. Dismantling criminal networks requires genuine international cooperation, yet it is often hindered by a lack of data sharing.

Türkiye actively develops bilateral cooperation with other countries to address the complexities of irregular migration. As a part of this effort, and in addition to readmission agreements, we have established a “National Mechanism for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration” to facilitate voluntary return and reintegration. The significant challenge remains in identifying a responsible body from the source country for issues such as identification and travel documents.

Additionally Per Objective 13, Türkiye has also included alternatives to detention in the legislation in 2019

As a champion country, Türkiye is committed to implementing the GCM goals and will continue to manage the challenges of migration as well as opportunities by taking into account its national priorities.

I thank you