

**Second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration
in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region
Geneva, 11 March 2024,**

Statement of the Republic of Serbia

Distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen,

Allow me to present some of developments in the migration policy of the Republic of Serbia that lead to achieving objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration in last two years.

One of the key developments is the adoption of amendments to two main laws regulating the immigration of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia – the Law on Foreigners and the Law on Employment of Foreigners. The amendments streamlined the process of obtaining residence and work permits for foreigners. In addition, the new provisions enable digital application through dedicated web portal for unified residence and work permit and thus enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

As a country on one of the migratory routes towards European Union, the Republic of Serbia has been under high pressure of mixed migration movement for almost ten years. Our response to the high influx of migrants is based on respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, especially children, both unaccompanied and in families, prioritizing the best interest of the child in all actions. With EU support, all migrants have access to health service and all children are enrolled in regular schools. Particular efforts are put in preventing and identifying gender-based violence.

The Republic of Serbia continues with implementing strong antitrafficking policy through prevention, investigation, and prosecution of perpetrators, and especially through protection of victims. The development of a new national mid-term strategic document in this area is finalized. International cooperation, in particular enhanced regional cooperation are recognised as essential.

Having in mind the number of different strategic documents, goals and measures in the field of migration management, the Republic of Serbia did not adopt a special plan for implementing the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. However, we established a monitoring system to check to which extent GCM principles and objectives are incorporated in the national strategic, legislative and institutional framework and to propose changes based on findings.

In order to develop relevant and sustainable migration policy and ensure its smooth implementation, Serbia in close cooperation with partners from Country UN Migration Network, commenced MPTF Joint Programme that will improve evidence-based migration governance, further strengthen national and local capacities and expertise for migration data collection, information provision and facilitate whole of society approach.

As a final point, allow us to underline that we have established a strong partnerships with neighbouring countries, the EU and its agencies, UN agencies and various global initiatives, as well as with civil society organizations to improve migration management and to confirm our willingness to establish new partnerships with countries of origin in order to promote legal migration and ensure return and readmission combined with support for sustainable reintegration with full respect for migrants' rights.

Thank you for your attention.