

## Summary

### **4<sup>th</sup> virtual townhall briefing between the co-facilitators of the IMRF Progress Declaration and stakeholders and UN entities**

**20 April 2022 (Zoom)**

The fourth virtual townhall briefing with stakeholders and UN entities on the IMRF Progress Declaration convened by the co-facilitators, H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima and H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes, Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Luxembourg to the UN in New York respectively, took place on Wednesday, 20 April 2022. 150 participants took part in the consultation and 35 participants (32 stakeholders and 3 UN entities) took the floor during this meeting.

The co-facilitators provided an overview of the second revised draft of the IMRF Progress Declaration. Stakeholders noted with appreciation the changes that have been made to strengthen the language on women migrant workers, ending child detention, the adverse effects of climate change, disembarkation, need to avoid criminalization of migrants who are victims of trafficking, the role of diasporas, the contributions of migrants as well as the importance of addressing discrimination, racism, xenophobia and violence against migrants. They urged the co-facilitators to retain and not weaken language on these issues in the final version of the text, especially language on ending child immigration detention, never in the best interests of the child, and references to migrants as right holders, regardless of their migration status, as well as to regular pathways and wage theft.

Although this REV2 was generally well received, stakeholders repeatedly called for a meaningful, ambitious and action-oriented Progress Declaration that must reaffirm the GCM, uphold its guiding principles and does not concede regression or water down its commitments. A number of key issues emanated from the discussion.

Stakeholders stressed the importance to introduce an integrated gender approach in the document by creating a stand-alone paragraph that could explore the full range of experiences of women in migration, and by separating the paragraphs on women and children to recognize women leadership and agency and focus on needed efforts to ensure a gender-responsive approach to migration.

If participants welcomed language on labour rights and migrant workers, there were several calls to add references to access to justice and remedy pre and post return, social protection and services, portable justice, social dialogue, freedom of association and right to collective bargaining for all migrants regardless of their status, as well as to decent work and rights enshrined in ILO conventions, especially Convention No. 190. Some participants also asked for the introduction of a reference to the role of the private sector and a commitment from governments to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the GCM.

Furthermore, stakeholders raised the importance to give visibility in the text to undocumented children with their families, along with children unaccompanied or separated from their parents, highlighting that they often have fewer protections and are more vulnerable. They welcomed additional references to diasporas in the REV2, but suggested to mention the progress that remains to be done in converting small-scale diaspora initiatives into structured programmes, as well as to refer to scalable diaspora economic and investment initiatives. They encouraged stronger language on meaningful migrant participation to informing policies. The need to recognize the link between systemic racism and migration governance in the Progress Declaration was also raised several times during the briefing. Several stakeholders raised the need to include language on not criminalizing or organizations who provide humanitarian assistance to migrants

Participants also called for the use of “health care services”, instead of the narrower definition “health-care services”, to refer to the full spectrum of health services ranging across promotion, prevention, diagnostics, and treatments. Some asked for more references to international law and others suggested to refer to the linkages between the GCM and the GCR.

Additional topics covered were: climate change and policy coherence across international frameworks; birth certificates to prevent statelessness; digital gap faced by migrants; challenges related to data collection and analysis.

Stakeholders will soon be informed of the date of the upcoming informal consultations on the IMRF Progress Declaration which will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York. Written inputs on REV2 can be sent to [julie.oppermann@mae.etat.lu](mailto:julie.oppermann@mae.etat.lu) and [nirupam.devnath@mofa.gov.bd](mailto:nirupam.devnath@mofa.gov.bd) or posted in the dedicated [discussion space](#).