

## **Summary, 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual townhall meeting between the co-facilitators of the IMRF Progress Declaration and stakeholders and UN entities**

**25 March 2022**

Today, the second virtual townhall briefing with stakeholders and UN entities by the co-facilitators of the IMRF Progress Declaration took place. In total, 37 stakeholders and UN entities took the floor in a meeting which was very well attended, and in fact was extended by an hour as a result of this interest. Stakeholders welcomed the announcement by the co-facilitators that the consultations will be open to stakeholders as observers, in line with what occurred during the GCM, and IMRF modalities negotiations.

Although there was recognition that the zero draft provides a good basis for beginning negotiations, generally, stakeholders called for more ambition to be shown in the document across a number of areas. Perhaps tied to this call, some noted that despite the spotlight the COVID-19 pandemic has shone on migrants and migration, generally migrants' situations are worse now than they were when the GCM was adopted.

Participants consistently called for more attention to be given to regular pathways, and a more explicit connection to be made between regular pathways and regularization. Additionally, a large number called for greater coverage to be given to protecting the human rights of migrants and protecting and saving lives, including calls for states to halt the increasing criminalization of humanitarian assistance being provided to migrants in precarious situations. Similarly, several stakeholders called for stronger references to be included to international and international humanitarian law.

A majority of participants called for greater recognition of manifestations of systemic racism in migration governance, and greater commitments from Member States in proactively combatting racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and hate speech, including that which takes place online, as well as to understanding racism as a contributor to the human rights violations of migrants.

Climate change was mentioned by a great number of stakeholders, with calls to address it including accelerating adaptation and mitigation measures; enhancing regular pathways; and a more robust connection between international policy frameworks, namely the GCM, Sendai, and the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, there were several calls to strengthen the reference to international labour standards, and in particular ILO conventions 97, 143, 118, 189. The importance of collective bargaining and freedom of organization being afforded to migrant workers was raised as a concern by several. A number of participants called for greater space to be given to migrant voices, and for the recognition of their agency and participation in the GCM's review. Many encouraged the development of indicators for the GCM's implementation currently called for in the text, and welcomed an explicit link to the SDGs and the 2030 agenda on these.

Additional topics covered were: recognizing and institutionalizing the contributions by local and regional actors in GCM implementation and review; and stronger calls for Member States to end all forms of migration detention, especially for children.

The next briefing for Geneva-based colleagues will take place on 4 and 25 April. They will be fully virtual. Two additional townhalls with UN entities and stakeholders will take place on 6 and 20 April.

The first reading of the text will take place on Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 March in New York, with a deadline to submit comments by 29 March at 6.00pm NY time.