

First informal thematic session on “Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance

Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria on Human rights of all migrant – Panel 1

Thank you Mr. Moderator

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its member states.

We welcome the topic of the first thematic session specifically devoted to human rights of all migrants.

Respect for the international humanitarian law and international human rights law is one of the key elements of the global approach to migration. Due attention should be paid in this context to the protection of human rights of all migrants, especially migrants in vulnerable situations - women, persons with disabilities and children, especially unaccompanied children.

Migrant children are children first and foremost. Therefore they are entitled to all human rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which must be ensured for them. The best interest of the child principle should be the primary consideration at all times in all cases involving children. They should be guaranteed the right to a safe, thriving and productive life, including access to protection and equal access to quality services such as education, healthcare, social services.

The protection of human rights of migrants is a multi-dimensional issue. It requires coordinated action based on the understanding that addressing human rights of all migrants regardless of their status is a shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Global compact should identify areas of cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination which maximize protection such as exchange of pre-departure information on migration laws and policies, as well as employment conditions.

The Global Compact should also address irregular migration, through measures such as training and technical cooperation, cooperation on border management and document control, facilitation of the return and reintegration process, etc.

We need to ensure that human rights of migrants are protected throughout the entire migration cycle - departure, return, readmission and reintegration.

We are of the view that countries of origin, transit and destination should cooperate more closely in the development of readmission agreements and ensure that they are beneficial for all parties, including migrants themselves. These agreements should also include appropriate legal safeguards in terms of human rights of migrants. Improving the exchange of information relating to the implementation of readmission agreements is also needed.

The return of migrants is a key instrument for unlocking the potential positive role that they can play in the development of their countries of origin. Respecting human rights of migrants regardless of the nature of return is a key part of a comprehensive return policy.

I thank you.