

International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration

Statement by Ambassador Riitta Resch, Finland

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Finland fully supports the EU statement.

Whole of government and whole of society approach

As has been mentioned several times well managed migration needs a whole-of –government as well as a whole-of-society approach to work. It must also cover all levels of society from national, regional, sub-regional and to local levels and naturally the international level.

When it comes to the issue of integration, personal contacts between migrants and local people are the best way to change the narrative into a positive one in addition of course to the media. The whole society should see the benefits of migration. To ensure smooth integration, coordination between national, municipal, private and civil society actors is key to ensure that the process is optimally designed to meet the needs of the migrant as well as the receiving community.

The whole of society approach should also apply to the GCM process itself. For the purpose of preparing the Global Compact we have establish in Finland a whole of society group to discuss the process. We will also be in contact with the diaspora and migrants themselves. This, we find, helps engage different stakeholders nationally and ensure the ownership of the whole of society.

Policy coherence

Like it was discussed in the second thematic session the reasons and root causes for large scale movements of people and migration are manifold, multifaceted and intertwined. They can be addressed by development measures and international cooperation. We need to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework. This requires policy coherence from the member states, also in linking migration and development.

Ideally, we should promote coherence in the policies of the countries of origin, transit and destination in questions related to border management, transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration.

Cooperation of international organisations

Also international organisations need to closely cooperate and work together in order to aim at a better management of migration and the implementation of international agreements. Best expertise must be given proper respect and value. All international organisations and specialized agencies seem to deal with migration in accordance with their mandates – some with normative expertise and some with operational expertise. It is important to mainstream all these processes, expertise and knowledge to the process of the Global Compact on migration in order to find the best possible package to address all elements of migration. International organisations also have a major role in the implementation of the Global Compact, and IOM as the UN migration agency is central to this. We also need a well thought-out follow up and monitoring process where we again bring together experiences, best practices and challenges we are faced with in migration management. This is also the only way to have a full and worldwide picture of the implementation of the Global Compact. It is also a process where we can learn from each other.

Regional processes

I would particularly like to mention the regional processes. Almost all continents have them and they have been dealing with migration in different parts of the world for decades. This wealth of experience must also be mainstreamed so that we don't need to start from scratch.