

(Day two) Action group 1 – Human Dimension

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and would like to present some views in its national capacity.

Migration is not a new phenomenon. For centuries, civilizations have benefited from the positive contributions of migration.

What is new is the wide-scale of the phenomenon in recent years and we have come to understand that the trend might persist. Migratory flows are a serious challenge for the international community and should be addressed in a complex, systematic and effective manner through joint efforts and international cooperation in full respect for human rights, regardless of their status.

The global phenomenon has its human dimension. It is not people but persons – hundreds of thousands of human beings that we should help and protect.

Our approach towards them should be more orderly, humane and non-punitive and should be based on four principles: people-centered; comprehensive; context-specific and prevention-focused.

We would like to see these principles behind the solutions that this Global Compact will propose.

In this context Global Compact should propose effective measures for:

- saving lives of migrants;
- protecting vulnerable groups, especially migrant children;
- ensuring access to basic rights;
- breaking the smuggling networks' and human traffickers' business models;
- increasing the fight against poverty and;
- improve international cooperation that ensure safe, orderly and regular pathways for migration.

These measures should be forward-looking and prevention-focused – not just fixing the present situation but making lasting changes by looking at root causes and considering short, medium and long term solutions that build capacities and are inclusive.

- *National perspective: since the migration pressure towards our country started to increase in 2013, Bulgarian authorities undertook numerous measures to deal with the new, unprecedented situation. According to reputable international agencies and organizations (UNHCR, EASO, and the European Commission) the asylum granting capacity of our country has significantly improved since the migration pressure towards our country started to increase in 2013. The living condition standards in all existing accommodation places are being constantly improved.*
- *The access to basic services, with particular reference to access to education, health care, justice and language training, vocational training has been strengthen*
- *On 10 June 2015, the Bulgarian Government adopted a National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration for the period 2015-2020. It is aimed at creating a comprehensive and stable legal and institutional framework for the proper governance of legal migration and for the prevention of illegal migration, for integration of and care for the persons seeking international protection, and those who have been granted asylum or refugee status in Bulgaria. In July 2017 a Council of Ministers' Ordinance was adopted on the conditions and procedure for concluding, implementing and terminating the agreement on the integration of aliens with granted asylum or international protection.*