

ALIANZA POR LA SOLIDARIDAD STATEMENT

Third informal thematic session entitled “*International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration*”. 20 JUNE GENEVA

Thank you very much to the Co-Facilitators for organizing this session and giving us the opportunity to speak.

My name is Jara Henar, I am speaking on behalf of the Spanish NGO Alianza por la Solidaridad, and I would like to highlight the following points:

- We are worried on the prioritization made yesterday by many states on border control over the protection of human rights:
 - o Because, amongst others, they are not taking into account the statement made in the First Thematic Session on human rights being universal and applying to all human beings, so then to all migrants, regardless of their status,
 - o When the protection of human rights of migrants is not a priority, the result is the consideration of migrants as “sub-humans”, non-deserving the recognition of their humanity and entitlements,
- On the other hand, as the issue briefing states, “migration is inevitable”, there is no fence or border who will be able to stop human mobility, so we agree with the panellist Raquel Ayora, when she said that the only way to stop irregular migration is to create legal and safe ways to migrate,
- And for Alianza por la Solidaridad this implies, amongst others, the recognition of the human right to migrate. We consider that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should include in its article 13.2 not only the right to leave any country, and to return to the own country, but the right to enter to any country,
- The issue briefing also highlights the need of **evidence-based policies**. In that sense, we have enough evidence that criminalization and externalization of borders doesn’t stop migration, but it makes it more dangerous. When there are no legal and safe ways to migrate, migrant deaths increase, sometimes even caused by private or public actors of the transit and “hosts” societies as it was said yesterday. We need to stop to criminalize migrants and solidarity towards them,
- Borders externalization and the need for migrants to take more dangerous routes affect in particular women, which are not vulnerable *per se*, but they are made vulnerable and invisible towards those policies which make them to carry “backpacks of violence”, generated at origin, maintained during transit and perpetuated in destination countries,
- The international cooperation between states and governance of migration should include concrete mechanisms to address **Gender Based Violence** all along the migratory routes **for all migrant women**, irrespective to their administrative status,
- Also regarding **the “labour and skills mobility”** reference contained in the issue briefing, a good step would be the **ratification** by the Global North of the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families**,
- Finally, we think that if we want **truly to leave no one behind**, is time to end with the concept of “**illegal**” migration

Thank you very much