

(Day two) Action group 5 – Regional Dimension

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Aligning ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States, we would like to reiterate our understanding that the Global Compact should be based on a **coordinated, holistic and structured** approach to migration similar to the **EU's Partnership Framework** Approach. We already have the initial positive experience in implementing this framework, adhering to the core principles of **solidarity** and **shared responsibility** in managing large movements of migrants.

States' rights and responsibilities to manage and **protect their national borders** remain a central element of national security. Effective border control and management is of utmost importance, in particular in the context of preventing irregular migration in a holistic manner. In the case of Bulgaria, effective management and control of the EU's external border enables the smooth functioning of movement within the EU. Along these lines, we believe that the Global Compact should reflect the importance of a developing **border control cooperation**, for instance through **regional strategies** on integrated border management, on countering migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Furthermore, it should highlight the importance of **sustainable and effective return and readmission**, as an obligation of all States under international law, in parallel with respect for human rights of all migrants and the support for successful reintegration policies.

There is a strong need for the future Compact to endorse cooperation at both regional and bilateral levels aimed at eradicating human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

With the adoption of the GCM we need to promote existing regular pathways. Moreover, tailor-made information campaigns could be envisaged to address region-specific risks for countries of origin, transit and destination to the end of preventing irregular migration. Enhanced cooperation between relevant institutions among all partner countries should provide a framework for joint actions and implementing policies in encouraging legal migration, including circular migration.

We share the view of the importance of making available sufficient financial resources in order to support third countries **in eradicating the root causes of the illegal migration** through cooperation development such as the EU Trust Fund for Africa to which our contribution this year marked a tenfold increase.

Last but not least, the Global Compact should recognize the key role of **regional migration policies in addressing drivers of migration**, including through an integrated approach to conflicts and crises. Close cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination can facilitate the mutually beneficial opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration, taking into account national competences and strengthening capacities of the host societies.