

Day 3 – Follow-up and Implementation Session

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

At the outset, allow me to extend my appreciation to Mexico for hosting this 3-day meeting. I would also like to take this opportunity to further acknowledge the important role of the co-facilitators, the UN Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland, and congratulate UNSR for Migration Ms. Arbour for promoting the Compact as an indispensable instrument for managing migration in a safe, regular and responsible way.

Firstly, I would like to express Bulgaria's satisfaction with the Preparatory phase of the GCM, which we believe has contributed to confidence-building and will help us define both common grounds and more challenging areas of discussion. We need to involve as many States as possible in order to boost ownership. Opting for a legally non-binding nature of the GCM will contribute to making the process more inclusive, which is essential for the sustainability of the Compact.

In our view once adopted the GCM will become the vehicle for enhancing cooperation among States of origin, transit and destination in order to better manage migration. Therefore, we need to make sure that global governance of migration remains well-established on the international agenda, which also requires that a review and follow-up process be put in place. However, the mechanism should be based on existing structures within the UN system and should aim to bring forward the practical implementation of the GCM.

The IOM is well placed to be assigned the leading role during the review process since it already has both the necessary architecture and institutional channels to establish communication with relevant UN agencies. Engaging the private and NGO sector in the follow-up is crucial to ensure the continuity of the Compact, considering its cross-cutting nature. Nevertheless, to facilitate and keep the review process efficient, we should also take into account the very number of stakeholders. Regional reviews should be envisaged, which could become a driver for ownership. The Compact will provide a framework for exchange of best-practices and data collection among States and regions.

Over the past several decades most governments around the world understood that migration has become a global phenomenon and is here to stay. And for attaining effective international governance, we need to keep in line with the Development Agenda and address the root causes.