

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and its National Societies would like to thank the organisers, facilitators for the opportunity to speak here today.

We reiterate that we call on States to:

- *Protect* migrants from death, violence, abuse and violations of their fundamental rights along the entire migratory route
- *Guarantee* that migrants, irrespective of legal status, have effective access to essential services:
- *Prioritize* the most vulnerable , including children
- *Use detention* only as a measure of last resort
- *Agree* a compact on safe, orderly and regular migration and on refugees that reaffirms and reinforces applicable international legal obligations and make genuine progress towards addressing the suffering of migrants in vulnerable situations - including crisis - around the world.
- *Ensure* that domestic laws, policies, procedures and practices comply with States' obligations under international law and address the protection and assistance needs of migrants.

Our 190 National Societies will continue to scale up our own efforts to respond to the protection and assistance needs of migrants. However, our response alone will never be sufficient. States have the primary responsibility to address the protection and assistance needs of migrants. There is a pressing need for States to strengthen their efforts to prevent suffering, including by assessing and addressing the humanitarian impact of their laws, policies and practices and ensuring that they comply with international law.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, stand ready to offer support to their authorities.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of these discussions to those migrants who find themselves in vulnerable situations and are in need of protection and assistance. For them, it is a discussion that could change the course of their lives and the lives of their families and children. We must listen to their voices, and the voices of our communities, and ensure people are at the centre of this agreement, to build stronger, more connected ways of acting together.