

## **Statement by Denmark: GCM 6th thematic session: Irregular migration and regular pathways - Panel 1**

Denmark aligns itself to the statement made on behalf of the EU and its member states.

Denmark recognizes that regular migration contributes to growth and welfare nationally, regionally and globally; whereas irregular migration often entails human tragedies and has negative political and economic consequences for both countries of transit, destination and origin.

Denmark therefore welcomes the thematic session on regular pathways as part of the discussion on promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.

In the process towards the Global Compact on Migration, focus should be on fully utilizing existing legal pathways rather than creating new ones.

Denmark has liberal immigration laws, allowing anyone who fulfills the relevant criteria access to enter the country in order to work or study.

In principle, there are no quantitative limitations to the Danish work schemes. If an applicant wishes to work in Denmark and meets the conditions, he or she will be issued a residence permit regardless from which country the applicant originates.

Furthermore, all individuals working in Denmark are entitled to the same high level of labor rights and employment conditions. There is absolutely no discrimination between Danish and foreign citizens in this regard.

In order for legal migration schemes to be effective, they must be based on labor market needs. Furthermore, it is important to improve our efforts to match qualifications of migrants with available jobs.

This is important not only for the functioning of labor markets but also for the integration of regular migrants.

When addressing irregular migration, we must start by acknowledging the increasing gap between the number and qualifications of migrants seeking employment opportunities and the expected demand for labor in destination countries.

Therefore, the Global Compact should have a clear focus on promoting economic growth and job opportunities for especially young people in their home countries.

Lastly, Denmark will - within the framework of existing international obligations - support all initiatives contributing to well-managed migration and international cooperation, based on the sovereign right of all states to determine who has access to its territory and the full respect of human rights.

Thank you.