

## UNHCR Statement for Panel 3: All forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance

At its heart, xenophobia – a word derived from the ancient Greek ‘fear of the other’ - can only be countered through humanizing the ‘other’. This applies to refugees and migrants alike. Indeed, the New York Declaration recognizes that xenophobia, racism and nationalist rhetoric offend the dignity and equality of all human beings, and undermines the tolerance and solidarity that is needed to address large movements of both refugees and migrants.

Both groups may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of discrimination due to a less secure legal status, lack of any nationality, or the absence of a supportive network in society, and may become victims of rejection, stigmatization, exclusion, or even violent attacks.

Human rights, with non-discrimination as a core principle, are inalienable entitlements – not a privilege. A joint effort is needed more than ever, and we strongly support the Secretary General’s ‘Together’ initiative and its commitment to change negative narratives on migration and to bridge the divide between host communities and refugees and migrants.

Addressing discrimination requires multifaceted, multi-stakeholder approaches that are adapted to local contexts. It is critical that we listen to the voices of those most affected, and ensure that they are engaged at all stages of response from strategy development through to programme implementation. We need to address root causes of this fear by providing balanced and accurate information promptly, addressing legitimate community concerns about integration and security, and supporting intercultural dialogue

UNHCR works with Member States and other partners on these issues, for example on the Diversity Initiative in Ukraine to combat intolerance, and the ‘Long Day of Flight’ initiative in Austria, where we work with partners at local, national and regional level to reduce intolerance towards people on the move. We look forward to sharing our extensive experience and best practice throughout the process towards the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in an area where complementary is essential.

As underlined recently by Secretary-General Guterres, discrimination diminishes us all. It prevents people – and societies – from achieving their full potential. We welcome the opportunity today to discuss how to address this critical issue and look forward to joining efforts to tackle all forms of intolerance against all persons on the move.