NGO Committee on Migration and International Catholic Migration Commission

Statement for Round 3 of the GCM negotiations

The New York Declaration includes a wide range of commitments that apply to both refugees and migrants. When we saw this area put forward for discussion in round 2 we were concerned it would drift us away from these initial commitments. Indeed, we see that Draft Rev.1 has deleted important references to mixed migration, including on status determination and the right to seek asylum, despite the fact that both screening and information about asylum procedures are essential elements of ensuring due process. Also paragraph 3 in the preamble should be reformulated to reflect that migrants are often vulnerable due to the lack of adequate policies and systems to protect them. In that regard, we hope to see reference in the renewed version to increasing regular pathways as an important way to protect them.

Also when listening to governments in the room – in particular on objective 5, subpara f, and objective 12, we fear that protection gaps will widen as we move forward, especially since we hear from our Action Committee colleagues in Geneva that governments in the GCR process are not stepping up regarding the broader interpretation of the Refugee Convention, and those displaced by climate change and natural disasters.

At the same time we also heard from several Member States calls for a more systematic link with the GCR (for example, in statements made by Chile on behalf of a group of like-minded states, Ethiopia, African Group, Tuvalu, Bangladesh, Brazil, Mexico, Switzerland, amongst others). Also the questions from Member States on Objective 12, reflect, in our view, the need for more in-depth analysis.

In that context, we want to offer a practical proposal, similar to the one which our colleague from the Pan African Network in Defense of Migrant Rights, Mr. Mamadou Goita, made Friday morning (for an expert group to provide guidance to ensure that the current human rights protections in the text are properly clarified in subsequent drafts and are consistent with HR Instruments):

May we suggest that the CFs convene a Cross Platform Mechanism (term proposed in the Refugees International March brief on both compacts) already ahead of the next round:

- This Mechanism could be critical to provide technical expertise and practical guidance in both the GCM negotiations and GCR consultations to ensure that both final Compacts are fit for purpose and address all vulnerable populations in need of protection.
- Such a group, in our view, should include IOM and UNHCR and other stakeholders, including civil society, with operational experience on the issues from different corridors across the globe.
- Additionally, such a group could have a continued existence beyond the negotiations phase, and prepare us for further work in the implementation phase, with the primary objective to provide guidance in both processes as they roll out the coming years. We therefore urge the inclusion of such a Mechanism in the implementation framework of the Global Compact.
- Linked to this, we propose that the International and Regional Migration Review Forum provide the space for review of "migration in humanitarian contexts", including Refugee Compact interconnections.

Thank you.