

## Special Session on the Future of the Forum

### Statement by the Netherlands

1. This statement outlines the Netherlands objectives for Global Forum on Migration and Development. Migration has taken place since the beginning of time. If unmanaged, migration represents a challenge. We welcome the Global Forum on Migration and Development to urge states to manage their own responses, in a way that fosters development for countries of origin, transit and destination and takes the interests of migrants into account.
2. In this context, the Netherlands sets out four principles: (1) states, regardless if they are countries of origin, transit and/ or destination, are responsible for promoting, protecting and respecting the human rights of all persons, including all migrants; (2) states have the sovereign right and duty to manage their borders and implement admission policies;(3) states have the duty to accept return of their nationals and should facilitate implementation thereof, return should be an integral part of migration policies, regardless if voluntary or forced, and (4) states have responsibility to combat human smuggling and other forms of irregular migration.
3. The Global Forum on Migration and Development is an informal and state-led platform, where open and frank discussions about migration can be held. The Global Forum on Migration and Development should remain this informal platform, where states can share good practices and build experience to:
  - Tackle root causes of irregular migration, in line with Agenda 2030;
  - Maximise the benefits of orderly, regular and managed migration, including a comprehensive approach to remittances so that migrants can continue to support development in their countries of origin;
  - Combine development finance, trade and economic ties to support growth and jobs in low and middle income countries to create more opportunities for decent work at home;
  - Promote existing legal migration pathways, in an organized and safe manner;
  - Design evidence-based policies through the gathering, use and sharing of migration data, and through evaluation;
  - Support coordinated communication campaigns enabling (potential) migrants to make well-informed migration choices, including awareness of the risks involved in irregular migration.
4. The current level of unmanaged migration presents difficulties for the migrants themselves, host communities and countries of origin, transit and destination. An effective approach must reduce irregular unmanaged movements, with links to the prevention of smuggling, trafficking and exploitation.

5. The countries of origin, transit and destination should commit to:

- Build effective migration systems and institutions that operate in a timely manner so that migrants are treated fairly, with dignity and in accordance with international law, whilst discouraging abuse of the system;
- Tackle corruption at border controls and misuse within the wider immigration system;
- Combat human trafficking/migrant smuggling and dismantling the people smugglers' cynical business model to reduce the flow of migrants into Europe and make it more manageable;
- Ensure the effective and safe return from the EU of people who are not granted a residence permit;
- Accept and comply in a timely fashion with international obligations to accept the return of their nationals; including recognition of biometric identification; alongside reintegration support where necessary.

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