

**Statement by Filippo Grandi
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High Commissioner for Refugees**

**'Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development'
10th Summit meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and
Development**

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Mr. Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am delighted to be here in Germany, a country that has generously welcomed many refugees and migrants, as we mark a decade of collective engagement through the Global Forum on Migration and Development. I wish to congratulate Germany on becoming co-chair of the GFMD, along with Morocco. This Africa-Europe co-chairing arrangement is an emblem of the international and cross-regional partnership cooperation needed at this vital juncture for migration governance.

UNHCR has been a supporter of the GFMD since its inception, and we look forward to contributing to the Global Compact on Migration. This offers an important opportunity to put in place a system for international governance of migration, which should ensure enhanced protection for the human rights both of migrants and refugees.

It is important to maintain the distinction between migrants and refugees – with refugees unable to return home because of conflict and persecution, and with a distinct status in international law as a result. But the tens of thousands of refugees and migrants on the move today, compelled to undertake dangerous journeys by sea and land, are exposed to many common perils – including exploitation by smugglers and traffickers, sexual and gender-based violence, and the terrible risks faced by children travelling on their own or separated from their families. We hope therefore that next year's global compacts will help reinforce the framework for delivering protection

and assistance to refugees and migrants moving together in mixed flows, and foster a more tolerant and accepting environment.

Regardless of status – refugee or migrant – saving lives, including through rescue at sea, and protecting them from these threats, is a compelling humanitarian imperative. We must also work to reduce their exposure in the first place; regular migration options should urgently be expanded to allow migrants and refugees to respond to labour market needs, and to benefit from other measures that complement third country resettlement. Enhancing and expanding regular pathways for admission can also help avoid unnecessary strain on asylum systems.

Development strategies that take account of the economic implications of migration and displacement, including the enormous potential that this brings, are also essential to achieving effective migration governance, and to ensuring both migrant and host populations are able to exercise their rights.

In the refugee context also, there is an emerging recognition that the early engagement of development actors and instruments is essential to helping host States address the impact of large-scale flows, as articulated in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework – with a focus on fostering refugee inclusion, through investment in jobs, education and resilience for both refugees and hosting communities. Momentum is now building in this respect, as we saw at the Uganda Solidarity Summit for Refugees in Kampala last week, and the growing interest and engagement of the World Bank, regional financial institutions and some bilateral actors is encouraging.

Investments are needed to support the growth of labour markets in refuge-hosting countries. National policy frameworks should facilitate access by refugees to national education and health services and justice systems, empower local authorities, support host communities, and build prosperity.

As well as financial support, instruments including market incentives, training and scholarships, and institutional capacity building are important. The Guiding Principles on the Access of Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Persons to the Labour Market adopted by the ILO last year, and the work to revise the ILO's Recommendation 71, on Employment and the Transition from War to Peace, reflect the key role of employment promotion in crisis response.

Economic self-sufficiency strengthens the prospects of sustainable long-term prosperity for host communities and refugees alike, and helps build skills and assets that can ultimately contribute to building peace. Pursuing this calls for a collaborative approach, involving local communities, civil society and other stakeholders to harness the extraordinary resilience and potential for innovation of refugees and migrants.

Development engagement should form a central element of both the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the global compact on refugees. I look forward to working with all of you to pursue this aim, and to create a better future for refugees, migrants and the communities and countries that receive them.

Thank you.