

Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration

Marrakech, Morocco, 10 – 11 December 2018

Statement by Gilles Carbonnier, ICRC Vice President, for Dialogue 2 on Partnerships and Innovative Initiatives for the Way Forward

Thank you Mr Chairman/Madam Chair

During the development of the Global Compact, the International Committee of the Red Cross (or ICRC) called on States to focus on respecting their obligations under international law, and to address the assistance and protection needs of migrants. We are pleased that many of these humanitarian concerns are reflected in the Compact.

Now comes the crucial part: to turn words into actions that will make a meaningful difference for migrants and their families. Addressing the challenges of migration require a concerted effort by a range of actors.

One major humanitarian concern for the ICRC relates to missing migrants. We have long worked with partners of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to preserve and restore family links. We help States ensure the proper and dignified management of human remains. In armed conflict, we have long helped states to search for the missing and clarify the fate and whereabouts of those who go missing. We are increasingly using this expertise for missing migrants and their families.

In line with Objective 8 of the Compact, we stand ready to work further with States to save lives and reduce the risk of people going missing along migratory routes. We can help States to set up transregional coordination channels, and share information on the missing with their families, in full compliance with international data protection and privacy standards. And we are ready to help build States' capacity to manage and identify the dead, and improve coordination between forensic services.

In the next few years we will strengthen our efforts in this domain. We will work with States to develop technical recommendations on missing migrants through an expert consultation process. We will also consult with States and other stakeholders on how to increase coordination along migratory routes.

We will engage with many of you throughout this process. We hope that this will increase our joint capacity to prevent migrants from going missing in the first place. And in case migrants go missing, we hope that this will increase our joint capacity to find and provide swift answers, in particular to families looking for their loved ones.

Thank you.