



High-level Dialogue on
International MIGRATION
and **DEVELOPMENT**



Making Migration Work

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High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Round table 2:

Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to ensure regular, orderly, and safe migration

Friday, 4 October 2013, 17.30-18.00

**Summary by the Co-Chair
H.E. Mr. Alejandro Alday,
General Director for Human Rights and Democracy,
Foreign Ministry (Mexico)**

Mr. President,
Deputy Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to summarise on behalf of the United States and Mexico, co-chairs of round table 2, the debate that took place on the theme “Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to ensure regular, orderly, and safe migration.”

The discussion in our round table was lively and enriching, drawing wide participation from Member States, United Nations entities as well as representatives of civil society. It is thus with great pleasure that I will share with you some of the key insights emerging from the discussion.

There was consensus that States have the obligation to promote, respect and protect the human rights of all migrants in the migration process, regardless of their migratory status. Of particular relevance was the protection of the rights and freedoms of groups that were more vulnerable, such as women, girls and children.

Attention was brought to the importance of integrating human rights in migration policies and designing programs for empowering migrants, including women, to effectively address their condition of vulnerability and recognize their role as partners in the development of countries of origin and destination.

Speakers stressed that migration not only affects children who migrate, but also those who remain behind, and those born at destination. Several participants added that child-friendly procedures can help to effectively protect and fulfil the rights of children in the context of migration, especially those of unaccompanied minors, including through safe repatriation and family reunification policies.

Half of the world’s international migrants are women. They are agents of change; however, they are highly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, violence and discrimination. Speakers agreed that governments should develop and implement gender-sensitive policies.

There was general agreement that manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them aggravate their vulnerability.

Speakers encouraged countries to ratify or accede and implement relevant international instruments, consider national legislation and reinforce cooperation to strengthen protection of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, combat trafficking in persons and ensure regular, orderly, and safe migration.

Intervenors noted that irregular migrants are most at risk of abuse, extortion, violence, discrimination and other human rights violations, and encouraged states to implement programs that would allow for regular migration.

Participants also stressed that migrants can be vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling in persons. Speakers supported UNODC's and IOM's calls to ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, and called on governments and civil society to partner together to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

There was general agreement that States and international organizations must pay special attention to the plight of migrants stranded due to dire humanitarian situations and natural disasters. States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector all have roles to ensure protection and assistance in such cases. Protection and assistance should be prioritized on the basis of need, and not on the basis of migratory status.

Lastly, several delegations expressed satisfaction with the opportunity, afforded by the High-level Dialogue, to discuss international migration, development and human rights. They expressed interest in developing action-oriented initiatives to take this agenda forward.

Thank you, Mr. President.