

Addressing the humanitarian consequences of large movements – Taking stock and looking ahead two years on from the New York Declaration

Concept Note for Migration Week side-events, 10:30 – 12:30 on 8 December 2018. Marrakesh, Morocco

Organizers: IOM, the OSRSG for International Migration and UNHCR.

Venue: Orangerie, Le Palais des Congrès de la Palmeraie

1. Background & themes:

The New York Declaration, which laid the foundation for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), was adopted at the 2016 High-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. This high-level meeting was motivated by the emerging consensus in 2015 that the crises and vulnerability along key migratory routes, most notably the Mediterranean, the Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Central American corridor were morally indefensible and politically untenable.

While the New York Declaration acknowledged the positive contribution of migrants to sustainable development, it also pointed to the vulnerability and complex challenges of forced displacement and irregular migration in large movements. It did so recognizing that we are witnessing an unprecedented level of human mobility and that large movements of refugees and migrants have political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights ramifications, which cross all borders. As noted in the GCM, refugees and migrants are entitled to the same human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times. While both may be particularly vulnerable to the risk of violations and abuses of their rights, only refugees are entitled to additional protections under international refugee law.

2. Content and expected outcomes:

Keeping in mind the moral and humanitarian challenges identified in the New York Declaration, this side-event will explore concrete action already taken to deliver on the promise of 2016 to address the humanitarian concerns of migrants in transit. Specifically, it will demonstrate how action and lessons from international cooperation, regional and inter-regional responses and partnerships, if replicated and up-scaled, can guide the international community in its implementation of aspects of the GCM objectives to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration (objective 7), save lives (objective 8) and enhance availability of pathways for migrants in a situation of vulnerability (objective 5). In so doing, it will also explore further efforts that could be taken to reduce vulnerability as well as combat the abuses and exploitation of migrants in situations of vulnerability, consistent with States' obligations under international law, as well as the commitment in the New York Declaration to consider developing non-binding principles and voluntary guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations, the Secretary General's recommendation that Member States lay out a strategy for dealing with large movements of migrants, as well as broader efforts to address displacement.

Programme:

H.E. António Vitorino, Director General, IOM: *The escalation of the humanitarian situation for migrants in large movements, responses to date and looking ahead*

H.E. Louise Arbour, Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Conference and U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration: *The humanitarian and political landscape of 2015/2016 and the GCM's response to large movements*

H.E. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: *Ensuring refugee protection in mixed movements*

H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohammed, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission: *African Humanitarian report and continental and regional humanitarian responses*

S.E.M. Negash Kebret Botora, Chair of the IOM Council and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations in Geneva: *TBA*

H.E. Dónal Cronin, Director Multilateral Unit, EU, Development Cooperation and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland: *Working with partners to address vulnerability in large movements*

Facilitator: Michele Klein Solomon, Director, Global Compact for Migration, Office of the Director General, IOM