

General Statement of the Cuban delegation in the negotiation of the final declaration of refugees and migrants

Mr. Co-Facilitators

My delegation appreciates your great efforts in preparing the documents for the meeting on refugees and migrants to be held next September 19.

In this respect, we believe that both documents are a good basis for starting the negotiation. Therefore, it is the understanding of my delegation that this forum is ready to start a paragraph-by-paragraph constructive and transparent negotiation.

Generally speaking, my delegation would like to make the following comments on the Political Declaration:

- With regard to the causes leading to these phenomena, there are aspects in addition to war, like the difference in development levels and poverty, which should be also included.
- It would be fair to establish that those influencing or contributing to encourage international armed conflicts must assume most burdens and responsibilities.
- We should avoid endorsing or qualifying concepts that have not yet been governmentally agreed or negotiated, as well as initiatives that have not been sufficiently discussed by the Member States.
- The text should indicate that the developed countries are the major destination for most refugees and migrants, and that the possibilities for developing countries to take on additional burdens are limited.
- We do not favor to extend the scope of the meeting next September 19 beyond migrants and refugees, who have their own international legal regime. We do not therefore consider that the issue of internally displaced persons should be addressed.

In terms of migrants, we believe the following should be noted:

- An irregular and disorderly migration has a negative impact on developing countries in terms of brain drain, which does not contribute

for these countries to be able to achieve their internationally agreed development goals.

- Member States should eliminate the use of selective and discriminatory policies stimulating a disorderly migration and creating irregular flows that originate difficulties for transit countries and leave migrants vulnerable to human trafficking networks.
- The international community must condemn any act, manifestation and expression of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes that usually are applied to them, including those based on religion or believe.

Finally, my delegation reiterates its commitment to constructively contribute to the success of the meeting to be held next September 19.

Thank you very much