

While we acknowledge the sovereignty of States to determine their national migration policy and make a distinction between regular and irregular migrants within their own legislative frameworks, we maintain that this **distinction cannot fall behind Human Rights Law, international labor standards and other international obligations.**

We recognise that the overwhelming majority of States have reaffirmed that this means that all migrants regardless of status must have safe access to services, such as information, shelter, health, education, and civil registration, as well as effective access to justice.

However, we are worried that certain states want to limit application of several objectives throughout the text to regular migrants in a manner that undermines human rights and contradicts the spirit of the New York Declaration, the Global Compact itself, and the Agenda 2030. It is also very proscriptive--many states, regions and cities take a more inclusive and rights-based approach in line with their local realities and priorities. Dear Co-Facilitators,

In the past days we have heard a lot about red-lines from governments. Allow me to flag a red-line which comes from Civil Society.

The preamble of the Global Compact reiterates: "They (migrants and refugees) are all entitled to the same human rights and fundamental freedoms which must be protected and fulfilled at all times."

It must be recognized that irregular migrants must also benefit from the decent work agenda including freedom of association, decent wages and conditions of work, gender-sensitive access to services, relevant documentation, fair procedures, justice and earned benefits. We must not miss the opportunity to address their situation in this Compact.

It has been stated by some States that restrictions on rights of irregular migrants are needed to promote safe, orderly and regular migration and rule of law. But limiting access to services, labour rights and justice does not prevent irregular migration; it can even cause more people to fall into precarious situations and irregularity and negatively impact public health and safety, social cohesion, gender equality, and child rights, among other public policy objectives. Moreover, it cannot be in the interest of any society/community to have a group of people who are left behind.

The Compact provides a crucial opportunity to both address the systemic reasons for irregular migration--such as lack of regular pathways and overly restrictive visa and permit regimes--and uphold the rights of irregular migrants.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that all migrants contribute to our societies, they give back in every conceivable aspect. We therefore encourage all States to invest

in the integral development of all people; investing in the dignity of people always benefits everyone.

**Statement presented by Monami (Global Coalition on Migration) and endorsed by:**

- *Caritas Internationalis*
- *Franciscans International*
- *Secours Catholique - Caritas France*
- *Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Chile*
- *PICUM*
- *Women in Migration Network*
- *MGCY*
- *Comision Argentina para los Refugiados y Migrantes (CAREF)*
- *IMUMI, Mexico*
- *Alianza Americas*
- *INEDIM (The Institute of Studies and Outreach about Migration)*
- *Act Alliance*
- *Migrant Forum In Asia*
- *RSMMS (Trade union Mediteranean subsaharan Migration)*
- *PANiDMR*
- *Migration Working Group (Malaysia)*
- *Our Journey (Malaysia)*
- *VIVAT International*
- *Solidarity Center*
- *National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights*
- *International Presentation Association*
- *Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherds*
- *Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE) Foundation*
- *NGO Committee on Migration*
- *WARBE Development Foundation*