

## UNNM AM speaking notes - Session 1

Thank you

[Thanks for sharing the work plan – good to see more detail and the reference to adjustments as needed to respond to emerging issues and concerns.]

Will speak now to two points, one substance, one process:

On lethal disregard for migrants and widespread dehumanisation

- There are multiple examples of the appalling human impacts of deterrence based and dehumanising migration policies - the reports from the Turkish/Greek border in the last two days are the most high profile most recent reminder – these policies are the antithesis of the GCM’s promise of people centred migration governance.
- Represent a fault line between State positions on facilitating migration and preventing migration and a gap between commitment and deed. The SG’s report, the IMRF and the Progress Declaration would have had little credibility if they were not able to engage with these aspects of migration governance – and as we have been hearing, thankfully despite these fault lines they did.
- Good to hear today an outline of what steps are planned to respond to the mandate from the PD on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance. The language in there (in para 76 but also para 65 which is States’ commitment) is far from perfect and was hard won. Welcome the leadership and partnership of those taking on this workstream – spoken about just now.
  - o As question for those leading on this workstream:
    - Welcome the comments on this as an op for operational responses as well as recommendations - what steps can be taken as part of the development of the recommendations to engage with States to develop the political will needed to action the recommendations?
  - o A suggestion – we would like to see links made to the new priority on preventing smuggling – especially in regard to the way in which a narrative of combatting smuggling is used in the criminalisation and suppression of humanitarian assistance, impacting on search and rescue and tracing.  
The determination of some States to keep stronger language on non-criminalisation of solidarity out of the Progress Declaration is a significant weakness in the PD. Another example of the fault line that I mentioned.
- Whilst it is not the role of the Network to mend these fault lines in States’ positioning, they are a reminder that we need to work together for the slow wins – that may be beyond the timeline of each iteration of the workplan.
- We have 4 years until the next IMRF, what additional work is needed, within the Network or alongside and complementary to it to build on the stepping stone of the successes of the IMRF (that DG Vittorino mentioned in opening) to address these fault lines?.

- In that time I would welcome conversation with others in this room and online about how to engage and shift political will, in particular to test the idea of a High Level Panel on Prevention of Deaths in Transit.
  
- Finally, briefly on process – very much welcome that the actions for this new priority include explicit reference to engagement with migrants and family members. Suggest that in answering the clear call in the IMRF for nothing about migrants without migrants every workplan for every workstream should include specific actions to engage with migrants with a relevant range of migration experiences and with families and communities. This could be well guided and informed through the creation of a migrant advisory council for the Network as a first step. And a valuable part of the stakeholder engagement strategy mentioned by the Coordinator in his opening.
  
- [There is much to do and we look forward to continuing to work with all towards shared aims] [on migration justice and people centred migration governance.]