**UNECE Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration**

11 March 2024

Session 2: Covering GCM Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21

I will focus my comments on Objective 8 on saving lives.

The statistics for loss of life in migration remain distressing. According to IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, 2023 was the deadliest year on record. Outstripping the years where the scale of loss of life helped galvanise the political will for States to come together and create the GCM.

This is devastating. But not news to anyone in this room. We are at a point where we are appalled but not shocked and so, little happens to change the policies and practices that lead to loss of life.

What can be done in this region and in the framework of the GCM to ensure that this changes?

Re-find that political will to work together, to address the deadly impacts of migration governance that fails to – or chooses not to – put migrants, that is people – at the centre. That fails to – or choses not to – uphold obligations to a human rights based approach regardless of status.

This is a global concern needing a global response – but this regional discussion space can help shape – and reshape – regional and global responses.

The Secretary General will deliver actionable recommendations on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance mandated by Member States later this year. This must spur action – individually but also collectively (as has been referred to throughout interventions).

Nationally: we call on you to demonstrate that you have the political will to increase efforts through preventive action that understands that seeking to prevent migration does not prevent loss of life.

And we call on you to show the political will needed to work together to make real change – be bold and be creative – but be honest that accountability and resourcing is needed for these recommendations to change action and change lives – come ready to propose or support new or strengthened mechanisms – enhancing the tools in the toolbox mentioned in the keynote – that will:

* Enable investigation of and accountability for incidents resulting in loss of migrants’ lives
* Increase human rights border monitoring
* Review and reform national and multilateral policy and practice that creates or exacerbates risk – and include the expertise of migrants in this process
* Enable high level convening on specific migration routes to identify individual and collective measures to reduce the loss of life – enhancing and leveraging the route based approach referred to by other speakers

We suggest a high level panel or a group of eminent experts to help maintain focus and sustain the political will to meet that determination to save lives that has been stated time and time again.

We encourage everyone in this room to draw on their courage and compassion to continue to be moved by loss of life and human suffering to further the implementation of Objective 8.

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