

International Dialogue on Migration
Panel 1: Migrant inclusion in COVID-19 recovery and social protection – a renewed social contract

2 March 2022 from 09:00 to 10:00 (EST)

**Remarks by the
Delegation of Portugal**

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

On behalf of Portugal, I would like to make a brief contribution to this discussion on today's panel: Migrant inclusion in COVID-19 recovery and social protection – a renewed social contract.

Portugal has long advocated for a Human Rights-based and whole-of-society approach to migration, promoting a positive narrative on migrants' contribution to societies. In this regard, our national efforts to address and recover from the pandemic fully take migrants on board.

Aiming at reducing and addressing migrants' vulnerabilities particularly during the pandemic, in 2020 Portugal has granted temporary residence status to more than 350,000 migrants, providing them full access to health care and social support, to enter into housing rental and employment contracts, to open bank accounts and to contract essential public services. These measures have removed the risk of arrest and detention. Migrants have also been included into our vaccination plan, regardless of their status.

Thus, Portugal stands for a renewal of our social contract proposed in Our Common Agenda, adapted to the global challenges our time, anchored in our shared political, civic and socio-economic human rights acquis, fully taking into account migrants, young people and future generations.

Moreover, Portugal has been strengthening integration measures, for example through the national network of Support Centres for the Integration of Migrants, functioning as "one stop shops" and providing support in different aspects, regardless of legal status and free of charge.

Finally, I would like also to mention the Welcome Guide for Migrants published in December 2021 - a guidebook designed to help public, private, and civil society institutions and support migrants intending to live in Portugal.

I thank you.