



Statement by Director General Ola Henrikson, Ministry of Justice, Sweden - IOM IDM Panel III *Applying policy and operational frameworks in a migration context* 18th of July 2017

The number of men, women and children suffering violence, abuse, exploitation and rights violations should make us all deeply concerned. Amongst migrants there is a range of legally different categories comprising people whose status may change over time.

The commitment to develop two global compacts is a unique opportunity to improve the way we cooperate on migration and refugees. The synergies and operational challenges on the ground should be reflected in both compacts. When addressing the situation of vulnerability and risks faced by migrants, the **shortcomings of the international system are first and foremost a matter of lack of implementation and coordination**. Our cooperation mechanisms should better equip us to implement agreed principles, commitments and recommendations.

Migrants in vulnerable situations is a cross-cutting issue which relates to both compacts. To avoid groups falling in between these two compacts, we would welcome a joint discussion paper by the SRSG with input from IOM and UNHCR on this issue.

I would like to highlight five ways to reduce the risk and vulnerability faced by migrants in transit and destination:

First, combatting trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. The links between these two types of crimes must not be underestimated. Enhancing the cooperation and coordination between

relevant stakeholders will contribute to a comprehensive and effective assistance to victims of trafficking and other forms of abuse. This can be done at all levels, from international to local. Common training-tools for the police, social workers, migration officers and other professionals may contribute to a holistic view.

Second, improving and increasing the management of migration along migration corridors. This can be done by increasing the number of migrant assistance centers. These centers can serve several purposes concurrently, including assessing and collecting data on the vulnerabilities faced by migrants during their journeys. They can also provide support for those in need, as well as counselling and information about the risks associated with irregular migration.

Third, combatting abuse of labour migrants. Labour migration must be regularized, fair and orderly in order to ensure proper protection of labour and human rights for all working people. For instance, instruments aimed at fair recruitment, such as the IOM IRIS initiative as well as ILO's guiding principles on fair recruitment, should be in place. An important factor is to include all relevant stakeholders in the process and dialogue –government agencies, trade unions and employers.

Fourth, improving our response to meet the specific needs of vulnerable groups. This includes implementation of protection measures concerning children. For instance, we must end the practice of detaining migrant children solely for purposes of determining their migration status. We must also address the vulnerabilities of displaced and migrating women and girls. In this regard, actors along the migratory routes should integrate a gender perspective in their work, as well as promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and combat gender-based violence.

Fifth, achieving a dignified and effective system of voluntary return. This includes strengthening the consular capacity of countries of origin, awareness raising and increased cooperation between states. Such support can prevent and protect migrants from human rights abuses, exploitation and the dangers that onward movements otherwise expose them to.

The main challenge ahead is to address the vulnerabilities faced by migrants on the move through concrete actions.