

**Statement by**

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**Dialogue #1**

**Promoting action on the commitments of the Global Compact for Safe,  
Orderly and Regular Migration, Intergovernmental Conference**

**Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe,  
Orderly and Regular Migration**

**Marrakech, 10-11 December 2018**

Madam/Mr. Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates.

Finland welcomes the comprehensive approach towards migration governance encompassed in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

We support the creation and maintaining of global statistics and databases to allow for evidence-based policies and better utilization of information. We hope that objectives included in the GCM will enhance the cooperation on information sharing and improve our understanding of all aspects of migration. Improved knowledge of migration trends and patterns, and

sharing of information are essential also in prevention of smuggling and trafficking.

We continue to support coordinated solutions and a comprehensive approach to migration governance. To control and even reduce migration flows in a sustainable manner, we need a whole toolkit of actions. We need effective cooperation and shared responsibility. International cooperation in border management and efficient and timely information sharing are key to better migration governance.

Addressing the root causes behind migration and making a good life possible in the countries of origin are central to migration governance. We want to highlight the need for a comprehensive approach involving all relevant policy sectors both in migration governance and in addressing the root causes of migration. We welcome the inclusion of Agenda 2030 in the GCM and want to underline the importance of its implementation in addressing the root causes of migration.

It is important to understand the root causes as well as the push and pull factors of irregular migration. In this respect, Finland has recently been studying how to tackle harmful factors like violent radicalization and terrorism, and for example how to promote peace building and development through communication.

We should pay more attention to the situation in transit countries and ensure that we can assist people close to their countries of origin where possible. This makes controlled reintegration easier in those cases where the situation in the countries of origin allows it.

During the past years, Finland has actively carried out migration communication in third countries like Iraq and Somalia. The aim of the communication is to provide relevant and accurate information on irregular migration and related issues. Work is done, for example, by giving a voice to individuals: to those who have left their home country, to those who have decided to return and to those who have never left. Depending on the different media landscapes, these voices and dialogues have been released and echoed in various channels: TV, radio, social media and face-to-face events.

We see voluntary return as the primary method for returns and we cooperate on this with the IOM. Efficient and well-functioning return mechanisms are central question on migration. In this sphere, continued and enhanced cooperation with all countries is essential.

Thank you.