



### Concept Note

## ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL MIGRANTS: practitioner's perspectives and proposals in providing access to services to migrants in irregular situations

Organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Quaker UN Office, and the Permanent Missions of Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal and Switzerland

**13 October 2017**  
**13.15 – 14.45, Room VIII (Palais des Nations), Geneva**

### Background

Many migrants, particularly those who are in an irregular situation, tend to live and work in the shadows, afraid to complain, denied rights and freedoms, and disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination and marginalization. It is the experience of many human rights and humanitarian organizations, including National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, that migrants in an irregular situation are often the most vulnerable people in society, often falling victims to violence, exploitation and abuse. Irregular migrants are often unable to meet their basic. Their dignity is undermined by the significant barriers they face in accessing services like healthcare, education, housing or legal support.

Even where the entitlements are available in law, services are often not accessible, due to lack of information, language barriers, costs or because irregular migrants fear to approach service providers due to the possibility that they will be detained and deported arrest. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has highlighted the specific vulnerability of irregular migrants and guided that, without prejudice to the sovereign prerogative to order their removal, the very presence of irregular migrants under their jurisdiction imposes certain obligations on national authorities, including the primary obligation to acknowledge their presence and accept their right to claim rights

**The aim of this event is to draw attention to the human rights situation and vulnerabilities of migrants in an irregular situation. It will aim to showcase concrete examples of how to ensure that migrants are able to access services in safety and dignity.**

### Objectives

In line with the topic of this thematic consultation, this side event will focus on migrants in irregular situations. This event will identify barriers to the full realization of the rights of irregular migrants due to their migratory status. It will highlight concrete examples of how these rights can be realised, backed up by strong evidence and disaggregated data. The panellists, drawn from national, regional and international civil society and UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies will share case examples that can be implemented and/or scaled up in countries. These good practices will be presented with a view to their inclusion in the Global Compact on Migration as it seeks to uphold the human rights of migrants regardless of migratory status (in line with para 8(i) of Annex 2 of the New York Declaration) including by ensuring access to basic services (in line with para 8(o) of Annex II of the New York Declaration).

### Participants

The side event seeks to bring together critical stakeholders from States, UN human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and national, regional and international civil society organizations.