**OHCHR intervention for the sixth thematic session of the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration:**

**Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures.**

**Panel 2: Decent work and labour mobility**

Madame/Mr Moderator,

Whether they moved primarily in search of decent work or not, we know that a significant majority of migrants – over 70 percent - are involved in the world of work.

As we have heard today, labour migration can contribute to economic growth, create jobs, promote innovation and increase competitiveness. At the same time, the money that they send home can be a vital lifeline for family members and communities.

Yet, even while celebrating their contributions, we must remain aware that migrant workers across the world, especially those that are in irregular situations, frequently work in incredibly dangerous, abusive and exploitative conditions.

The sectors in which many migrants work, such as construction, agriculture, food processing and fisheries, as well as domestic and care work, can be unregulated and unprotected.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has emphasized that the right to work, a right to which every human being is entitled, “is essential for realizing other human rights and forms an inseparable and inherent part of human dignity.”

What does that mean in practice? The Committee has recognized that the term “work” should be understood as “decent work”, which in turn requires respect “for the fundamental rights of the human person as well as the rights of workers in terms of conditions of work safety and remuneration”.

States can increase decent work opportunities for migrant workers in many ways. At the outset, as we have heard time and again, more safe and regular migration channels need to be put in place to meet the demands of economies and societies.

I would emphasize three additional key points:

1. States should establish clear and binding firewalls between labour inspection services on the one hand and immigration enforcement authorities on the other.
2. Migrant workers must be able to join and form associations and access remedies, on an equal footing with national workers.
3. States must implement labour protections without any derogation even in private contracts, as provided by the Migrant Workers’ Convention.

I thank you.