**Human Rights Council**

**High-level Panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming**

*The protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants*

Tuesday 4 March 2014, 09:00-12:00, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

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**Background**

Pursuant to its resolution 16/21, the Human Rights Council decided to “hold a half-day panel discussion once a year to interact with heads of governing bodies and secretariats of United Nations agencies and funds within their respective mandates on specific human rights themes with the objective of promoting the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system”.

In the context of the 25th session of the Human Rights Council, the high-level panel focused on "the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants". The high-level panel discussion took place on 4th March 2014, from 09.00-12.00. The discussion included opening statements by Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (video-message), Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jean-Marie Ehouzu, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and Benedetto della Vedova, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy. François Crépeau, Special Rapporteur on the human right of migrants, delivered a keynote statement. Participating in the discussion as panellists were: Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization; Laura Thompson, Deputy Director-General of the International Organization for Migration; Volker Turk, Director of the Division of International Protection at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; John Sandage, Director of the Division of Treaty Affairs at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; and Christian Salazar, Deputy Director of the Programme Division at the United Nations Children’s Fund.

**Selected outcomes**

- Speakers exchanged views, challenges and best practices on mainstreaming the human rights of migrants within the work of the UN System, including in the context of the follow-up to the General Assembly’s High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in October 2013 and the post-2015 UN development agenda. Reference was frequently made to the Declaration unanimously adopted by Member States during the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which was seen as evidence of the renewed commitment of UN Member States to the protection and promotion of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their legal status.

- Speakers strongly condemned acts of discrimination, xenophobia and violence perpetrated against migrants, and recognized the vulnerability of particular groups, including migrants in an irregular situation, women and children. Interventions noted that criminalizing irregular migration often leads to more abuses against migrants.

- The need for effective international cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as local, regional and international organisations to better meet the needs of migrants and respect their rights was underlined by some representatives. Participants also called for the adoption of effective legal frameworks for the protection of migrants’ rights, including through the ratification of relevant international human rights instruments.

- Speakers expressed general support for the inclusion of migrants and migration into the post-2015 UN development agenda and for the more effective recognition of the contribution of migrants to sustainable development.

- The discussion also provided suggestions on developing an effective and inclusive human rights-based agenda on migration. Participants expressed support for a human rights-based approach to migration, and the need to work towards a holistic and inclusive agenda that puts human rights at the
centre of migration discussions. Speakers suggested ways to enhance the mainstreaming of the human rights of migrants in the UN System, including through holding an annual panel discussion on the human rights of migrants under the auspices of the Human Rights Council.

Summary of the discussion

Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, opened the discussion by referring to the tragedies in the Mediterranean and in the Sahel and highlighting the magnitude of the challenges faced by migrants today, including exploitation, discrimination, stigmatization and exclusion. At the same time, Mr Eliasson expressed encouragement of the growing political willingness to discuss the situation faced by migrants. The Declaration on International Migration and Development adopted unanimously at the General Assembly High-Level Dialogue in October 2013 was a landmark and a significant step forward in the mainstreaming of the protection and promotion of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migrations status. The Deputy Secretary-General called for the human rights of migrants not to become a rhetorical flourish when considered along with the economic, political and financial implications of migration.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navi Pillay, recalled that abuse against migrants takes place every day and in every region in the world. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had a long-standing commitment to the issue of migration and human rights, and has ensured that migration is a continuing priority including through the production of concrete technical assistance tools such as a set of Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders. Ms. Pillay referred to the importance of including migrants in the post-2015 UN development agenda, which also presents an opportunity to enhance the knowledge base on the human rights dimensions of migration and to seek out innovative ways of measuring and monitoring the situation of migrants. The High Commissioner stated that the post-2015 agenda could incorporate closer attention to the situation of migrants inter alia through developing specific migrant-sensitive targets under relevant goals and ensuring systematic disaggregation of indicators by migrant status. The High Commissioner pointed out that the UN provides a common and norm-based platform for all stakeholders on migration for discussion and cooperation on migration, noting that discussion and cooperation on migration should take place more regularly under the auspices of the UN. Ms. Pillay reaffirmed the need for a paradigm shift in thinking about and addressing migration and noted that the Declaration of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development is the first step in that shift. The High Commissioner concluded by calling on Member States to refrain from collective expulsion and arbitrary detention, to punish those who exploit and abuse migrants, and to include migrants in decision-making.

Jean-Marie Ehouzu, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva, noted that the African Commission supports the development-based approach to migration, and emphasised the need to preserve the human rights of migrants at all stages of the migration process, regardless of their legal status, and paying particular attention to women and children. As noted in the High Level Dialogue, migration should be addressed in a holistic and balanced manner, notably through mainstreaming the human rights of migrants. Mr. Ehouzou identified the obligation of states to provide essential services such as education, health and justice, and called upon states to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICPMW). Mr. Ehouzou concluded by stating that the protection of the human rights of migrants should focus on addressing the root causes of migration.

Benedetto Della Vedova, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy, recognized that migration would increase in the near future. Mr. Della Vedova expressed the view that the national and European response should not be based only on security and police operations, as it is time to focus on the rights of migrants. Cooperation among countries of destination, origin and transit should be encouraged and supported in an effort to manage migration flows in compliance with human rights standards.
The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau, delivered a keynote statement highlighting that all migrants, by virtue of their human dignity and without discrimination, are protected by international human rights law, on the same footing as citizens, regardless of their administrative status. Irregular migrants are often those most vulnerable to human rights violations. Mr. Crépeau observed that state-led dialogues on migration tend to take place outside the United Nations and international human rights mechanisms, focusing often on economic, development and political aspects of migration, and without properly integrating human rights concerns. The Special Rapporteur highlighted the need to bring the migration dialogue inside the UN and to strengthen the institutional framework for migration inside the UN, and as such urged Member States to hold regular high-level dialogues, accompanied by a rights-based Declaration and a Plan of action that articulates responsibilities. He explained that periodic high-level dialogues, every 3 to 5 years, would expose states to new ideas as well as avenues for cooperation. Mr. Crépeau encouraged Member States to consider establishing a Standing Panel on migration and human rights, which would enable systematic interaction between all stakeholders. He also noted a general need for the Human Rights Council to engage more actively on issues related to the human rights of migrants, and to hold an annual panel discussion on the human rights of migrants, with a different thematic focus each year. The Special Rapporteur noted that the post-2015 agenda needs to recognise migrants as human beings with human rights and not exclusively agents for development. Equality should be incorporated as a stand-alone goal and cross cutting goal in the post-2015 agenda. The Special Rapporteur concluded by urging states to ratify all international human rights treaties supporting the rights of migrants, especially the ICPMW.

Mr. Ryder, Director General, International Labour Organisation, underlined the need to recognize the contribution of migrants to development. Mr. Ryder regretted that anti-immigrant sentiments keep gaining strength but noted that these should not detract the international community from the determination to protect the human rights of migrants. Too often migrant workers, notably in an irregular situation, face discrimination, exploitation, non-respect of minimum wages, non-implementation of health and safety regulations, trafficking and enforced labour. Mr Ryder emphasised the need for Member States to adopt an attitude of collective responsibility to the issues of migration. He also emphasised the need to incorporate migration into the post-2015 agenda, in the form of equal treatment in work, fair means of recruitment, provision for labour inspections, social security entitlements, skills recognition and bilateral labour agreements between sending and receiving countries.

Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organisation of Migration, noted that the human rights of migrants should be respected, regardless of their status. Migrants are the first group to be affected by economic crises, and often face violence, exclusion, discrimination and xenophobia. Ms. Thompson called on States to promote a rights-based approach to migration and create mechanisms to ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants. A commitment to human rights enhances both state sovereignty and the rule of law within a state. She noted that it is often difficult to apply categories to migrants, as an individual’s situation frequently changes along the migration journey. Hence, applying criteria with a rigid approach risks compromising the rights of migrants in those categories. Ms. Thompson underlined the importance of including the human rights of migrants in the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr Volker Turk, Director, Division of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stressed positive interaction between migration and refugee protection, which needs to be strengthened. He also warned against the negative impact of migration laws and policies, such as building of walls and tight border controls, on the refugee protection regime. For instance, Mr. Turk noted that measures based on criminalisation, such as border controls, carrier sanctions, interception and detention negatively impact on the ability of governments to differentiate amongst categories of migrants, with the effect of undermining the fundamental right to seek asylum. Many tools are available to assist governments, but their implementation remained a challenge.

Mr John Sandage, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime acknowledge the importance of protecting the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their legal status. Rule of law-based responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are essential to the effective prevention and prosecution of those crimes, as well as to ensure the protection of the rights of the victims. Mr,
Sandage identified the importance of cooperation between member states and stakeholders, including civil society, in addressing the issues of trafficking and smuggling. Mr. Sandage identified a need for the post-2015 development agenda to promote safer, more orderly and more humane migration, and to include appropriate indicators.

Mr Christian Salazar, Deputy Director Programme Division, United Nations Children’s Fund noted that there are 35 million international migrants under 20 years of age, representing 15% of migrants. International standards for the treatment of children on the move have been set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and these standards apply to children in countries of origin, transit and destination. Mr. Salazar suggested to the members of the Council to take note of the Recommendations on the rights of all children in the context of international migration that the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted last year, which provides a roadmap for States for concrete action: migrant children should never be detained, States should cease the detention of children, and family reunification should never be an argument for placing children in prison facilities with their families. Mr Salazar expressed hope that the outcome of the High Level Dialogue would be a stronger commitment to protect the human rights of children and provide for their basic needs.

In the ensuing interactive discussion, 21 State representatives, one United Nations observer, one national human rights institution and two representatives from non-governmental organizations delivered statements. In addition, 16 Member States, one United Nations entity and one human rights institution register but were not able to deliver their statements due to lack of time. This informal summary covers all delivered and non-delivered statements.

In the discussion, Namibia stressed that that migration should never be a forced choice due to economic hardship, and inquired how the United Nations could assist countries in addressing the international economic crisis and realize the right to development.

Portugal underlined the importance of a human rights, holistic and inclusive approach to migration, addressing the key areas of employment, health, housing, language, culture and civil participation, as well as the cross cutting themes of gender, equality and diversity. All migrant children, regardless of their migration status, should have free access to healthcare and education. In addition, legal firewalls should prevent the transfer of information obtained in the health or education sectors to police or border authorities.

Burkina Faso noted the importance of elaborating of coherent, effective and integrated national migration strategies, in compliance of the international instruments guaranteeing the protection of the human rights of migrants and the recommendations provided by the Universal Periodic Review.

The Philippines regretted the inability of governments to address the rise of anti-migration sentiments. Putting migrant’s rights protection on the agenda of this high-level panel discussion is a step forward to reverse this trend. The Philippines considered mainstreaming of the human rights of migrants to be both a legal and moral obligations. Protecting the rights of migrants required both a strong normative framework and the determination and will of political leaders, including the provision of remedies for victims of human rights violations. The Philippines is engaged in migrants in crisis initiatives.

Sierra Leone described some of the barriers that migrants face, including abuse, imprisonment, harsh deportation conditions, family separation, and lack of opportunities. The difficulties seen when sending remittances, due to the imposition of safeguards by states to target money laundering and terrorism, were

1 Speaking in the discussion were the following Council members: Namibia, Portugal, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Morocco, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Senegal (speaking on behalf of the French speaking countries), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference), Costa Rica (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ethiopia (on behalf of a Like Minded Group of countries), El Salvador, Switzerland, United States, the European Union, Egypt, Indonesia, China, and Australia. Also taking the floor were the Human Rights Commission of Mauritania, Save the Children, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Committee of the Red Cross, and the National Human Rights Council of Morocco. The statements from the following were delivered due to lack of time: Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Malta, Tunisia, Sudan, Thailand, Algeria, Peru, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, UNAIDS, Iran, Mozambique, Nigeria, India, National Human Rights Council of the Kingdom of Morocco.
highlighted. Sierra Leone expressed hope that the UN would continue to play a key role in migration by supporting development and eradicating poverty.

**Morocco** pointed out that although migration affects all countries, the economic crisis has triggered new forms of North-to-South and South-to-South migration, as well as new abuses against migrants. The ratification and effective implementation of human rights treaties is essential for the protection of the human rights of migrants.

**Ethiopia** delivered the position of the African Group. The African Group regretted that migrants are subject to xenophobia, discrimination and violence, while particular groups such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, victims of trafficking, undocumented migrants and those displaced by situations of crisis are particularly affected. Despite the adoption of various international instruments in their favour, migrants remain an unprotected group. The African Group stressed that there is a need to redouble efforts in the protection of the human rights of migrants, particularly in relation to education, health and access to justice. The Africa Group’s view that the MDGs did not properly address the issue of the rights of migrants was outlined. The post-2015 agenda would need to incorporate an appropriate migration dimension. The African Group recommended the establishment of a permanent forum in the Human Rights Council to discuss the human rights of migrants, and called upon the Council to consider incorporating into its programme an annual full-day meeting to discuss different specific themes regarding the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants, including challenges and best practices.

Speaking on behalf of the **French speaking countries**, **Senegal** stressed that there is a need for cooperation amongst countries as well as local, regional and international organisations working on migrants’ rights to develop global solutions based upon respect for the human rights of migrants. The Group welcomed the Declaration of the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which reaffirmed the need to promote and protect the rights of all migrants, irrespective of their migration status.

**Pakistan**, speaking on behalf of the **Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC)**, expressed concern regarding the use of criminal law and administrative detention against migrant workers and their families. The OIC strongly condemned acts of racism and xenophobia against migrants, and other violations of their rights such as the right to food. The Organization considered that migration has to be addressed bearing in mind the necessity to guarantee all rights for migrants, including their social, economic and cultural rights. Economic disparity, identified as the root cause of migration, should be addressed through international commitment to and cooperation in promoting the right to development.

**Costa Rica**, speaking on behalf of the **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**, pointed out the need for an informed, open and participative discussion on migrants’ rights. The CELAC expressed concern at the protection of human rights of migrants, particularly children and women, regardless of their status. The CELAC viewed the contribution of the Declaration of the High Level Dialogue as giving privilege to a human rights-based approach and stressed the need for further cooperative dialogues at the bilateral and multilateral level, and the importance of including migration in the post 2015 development agenda.

**Ethiopia**, speaking on behalf of a **Group of Like-Minded Countries** (Bangladesh, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Egypt, Somalia, Uganda, Viet Nam, Cuba, Venezuela and Ethiopia), regretted that migration had not been appropriately addressed in the international development framework. The Like Minded Group pointed to increasing inequalities and climate change as major causes of the displacement of peoples, and explained that migrants are subject to serious violations of their human rights, including xenophobia, discrimination, trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery. The Like Minded Group viewed the inclusion of issues of migration in the post 2015 development framework as essential. The Like Minded Group called for the Human Rights Council to give its full attention and the strengthening of the human rights component on relevant migration issues in different fora such as the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and development in the UN General Assembly, Global Forum on Migration and Development and the International Dialogue on Migration under IOM auspices.
El Salvador observed the need to find alternatives to reduce migration flows of an irregular nature, while protecting and respecting the rights of migrants, and especially of migrant women. El Salvador called on states to ratify human rights conventions for the protection of the rights of migrants.

The Human Rights Commission of Mauritania noted that States should avoid criminalizing irregular migration, which led to abuses against migrants, particularly against women and children.

Save the Children demanded that the situation of children on the move, often at high risk of human rights abuses, violence or detention, be more appropriately addressed at international and national levels. At destination countries children may face discrimination and barriers when seeking essential services. Save the Children called on states to establish and promote effective children registration systems.

The International Catholic Migration Commission emphasised the importance of the involvements of migrants in decisions that affected them, including the post-2015 agenda.

The panel consequently responded to some of the issues raised during the discussion. Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labor Organisation, identified the overall theme in the discussion as the need for concerted action to promote human rights. He addressed the recurrent theme of how to link mainstreaming efforts to wider development objectives and to provide freely chosen alternatives to migration for individuals, including the right not to migrate and remain in their communities. Mr. Ryder suggested that one answer to the questions of migration lies in the existence of decent work opportunities in all countries, and particularly improvements within work opportunities in countries of origin. He viewed it as appropriate to include migration in the post-2015 development agenda, and emphasised that the promotion of decent work and social security protection should also feature in the agenda.

Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organisation of Migration, highlighted the role that diasporas could play on the rights of migrants, including by facilitating their adaptation and protection. In IOM’s view, diasporas should therefore be engaged and factored into migration policies. Concerning the work carried out by the United Nations, Ms. Thompson highlighted advocacy and capacity building, including for local and national authorities, to manage migration in a way that is respectful of human rights. The IOM’s Deputy Director General recognized the significance of remittances in facilitating development. Ms. Thompson acknowledged the role played by civil society in prioritising and moving the migration agenda forward.

Mr Volker Turk, Director, Division of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, identified a common recognition that migration issues, policies and the human rights dimension needed to be higher on the political agenda. He explained that leadership was needed to develop new approaches to migration. Mr Turk emphasised the importance of a human rights orientated approach, balanced by pragmatism and concrete measures; and for measures to be taken to address legitimate challenges grounded on law and institutions. Mr. Turk also highlighted the importance of a participatory approach.

Mr John Sandage, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reiterated that migration is central to development, and that states need to facilitate the protection of and respect for the human rights of migrants while enforcing criminal law against criminal groups who participate in trafficking.

Mr Christian Salazar, Deputy Director Programme Division, UNICEF, stressed that the first step toward the better protection of children in migration was stopping the detention of children and increasing the national system of child protection. Little is known about children left behind and further research should be undertaken.

Following the discussion, Switzerland recognised migration as a complex multifaceted phenomenon, imposing many obligations on states. Minors, particularly unaccompanied ones, required additional protection
to ensure that the best interest of the child is always respected. Switzerland expressed the need for the post-2015 process to recognise migration in the context of the sustainable development agenda.

The United States stressed that all States have a duty to protect migrants in their territory, and that the protection of the rights of migrants and the protection of borders were not incompatible goals. In protecting human rights, states should pay particular attention to the rights of women, children and victims of trafficking. The USA supports international dialogue on the protection of the human rights of migrants and the work of the Global Migration Group.

The European Union stressed committed to protection and the principle of non-refoulement. The EU outlined the many challenges the EU faces in addressing migration, including preventing the loss of life at sea. The EU emphasised the need to consider the protection of the human rights of migrants in the post-2015 development agenda.

Egypt underlined the important role of the Human Rights Council in promoting the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system. Notwithstanding its complexity, migration is fundamentally about individual beings with human rights, who may be subject to violence, abuse, xenophobia, discrimination. In recognition of this, Egypt stressed the importance of policies that ensure the protection and promotion of human rights of migrants.

Indonesia observed that the need for joint efforts from all countries to enhance the mechanism for the better management and protection of human rights and explained that, as a transnational and cross-cultural issue, no one state can address migration alone. There was a need for coherent and comprehensive people-centred action. Indonesia called on countries to adopt legal frameworks for the protection of migrants, including through the ratification of international instruments on that matter.

China acknowledged the contribution that migrants make to economic, social and cultural development. The needs for policies that recognise migrants as creators of social value, and to take full account of rights of migrants in the post-2015 development agenda were underlined. China regretted that racism, xenophobia and human smuggling were on the rise.

Australia said that the rights of migrants were high on the domestic and international agenda, and recognised the value of the treaty bodies on that issue. Australia requested clarification of the benefits any new UN mechanisms would provide.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) noted that a greater understanding of the migration trail indicates that migrants are vulnerable to violation of their human rights at several stages of the journey, and that they are particularly vulnerable in the context of displacement caused by armed conflict. The ICRC underlined the need for effective cooperation to meet the needs of migrants and respect their rights.

The National Human Rights Council of Morocco regretted that the efforts to protect the rights of migrants were insufficient and made a series of recommendations to the Moroccan Government.

In a final intervention from the panel, Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labour Organisation, emphasised the general recognition of the need to act nationally and internationally to improve the effectiveness of the protection of the human rights of migrants. There is a general acknowledgement of the complexity of migration and its inherent role in the globalisation process, as well as the positive contribution that migrants make to the development of states.

Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organisation of Migration, in concluding remarks, emphasised that all the human rights of migrants had to be respected. There is an established legal framework and measures to protect and promote human rights. The crucial step is moving from a framework to its implementation, which could be achieved through advocacy and capacity building work with member states and organisations. The best way to prevent irregular migration is to open regular channels for migration.
Ms. Thompson concluded by highlighting that states, civil society and the media have a fundamental role to play in changing public perception of migrants.

Mr Christian Salazar, Deputy Director Programme Division of UNICEF, identified from the discussions a common plea to ensure the access of children, whether accompanied or not, to healthcare, education and protection, regardless of their status. He concluded by hoping the issue of migration to be high on the agenda of the post-2015 debate.

Mr Volker Turk, Director, Division of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regretted that anti-foreigner rhetoric, particularly in the context of elections, is used to negatively score political points. He noted with concern the lack of migration channels for family reunification. Regarding protection at sea, Mr. Turk suggested that there were outstanding issues in migration policies in countries of origin, transit and destination, and hoped that the international community could move forward with a concrete action plan.

Due to time constrains, several Member States could deliver oral statements. Their statements were published in the Human Rights Council extranet.

In its written statements, Brazil underlined the need to integrate migrants, including through policies of regularisation of undocumented migrants. Brazil highlighted the importance of this discussion to advance human rights based regulations and policies with a view to promoting access to decent work, education, health care and adequate housing to migrants.

Mexico highlighted the need to address migration in a holistic way, that recognises migrant’s contribution to development and places the protection of migrant’s rights at the centre. During the High Level Dialogue, the need to privilege a human rights-based approach was reiterated; highlighting notably the most vulnerable groups, the involvement of the United Nations System, the pertinence to include migration in the post-2015 agenda, and the importance of the regional and international fora. Mexico underlined the need to incorporate a human rights-based approach in the debates on international migration, recognising the role of OHCHR in this regard. Mexico called for the United Nations to assume a decisive role and lead to the strengthening of cooperation and coordination, notably through the Global Migration Group. Mexico concluded supporting the establishment of an annual panel in the Human Rights Council to discuss the rights of migrants.

Turkey noted with concern that the economic crisis has given rise to intolerance and anti-immigrant violence. Migrants often experience difficulties in accessing education, housing and job opportunities. Discrimination and racism are becoming a major problem. Fundamental rights and freedoms must be recognised, regardless of migration status. Turkey noted the need of international cooperation to address the situation of migrants.

Sri Lanka expressed that a human rights-based approach to migration articulates that migration is not merely a political phenomenon but a human process. Mainstreaming of human rights in migration will contribute to strengthening mechanisms to address the root causes of unsafe migration. Migrants, particularly women, children, victims of trafficking and smuggling, irregular migrants, and migrant workers in the informal sector are more susceptible of violations of their rights. Migration needs to be accorded due recognition in the post-2015 agenda. Sri Lanka highlighted the High Level Dialogue Declaration.

Malta highlighted the need for cooperation to address irregular migration more effectively, and the need to fight smuggling and related criminal activities.

Sudan noted that migration occupies an important place in the international agenda. Migrants are often subject of serious violations of human rights, xenophobia and trafficking in persons. Sudan highlighted that national development and migratory flows are interlinked, and that the protection of migrants’ human rights enhance their participation in development.
Thailand reminded that the Declaration of the High Level Dialogue called the UN System to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation to better address the issue of international migration and development. Thailand underlined that promoting migrants’ safety and enjoyment of human rights should go hand in hand with prospects of growth and development. Migrant’s rights and access to public services, including health and education, should be ensured, regardless of migration status. Regarding the post-2015 agenda, Thailand encouraged regional and global consultation on a human rights-based approach to migration, to ensure that no one, including migrants, is left behind.

Algeria recognised the contribution of international migration to development but noted with concern the rise on negative public perceptions of migrants. Algeria called on States to promote and protect migrants’ rights, and to enhance international cooperation to combat xenophobia and discrimination.

Peru noted that migration is a structural phenomenon, and that it is indispensable that international migration becomes an inherent part of the United Nations System. The adoption of the High Level Dialogue’s Declaration was underlined as an important step.

Cote d’Ivoire called for the protection of the human rights of all migrants, notably migrants in an irregular situation, and highlighted their contribution to development. Cote d’Ivoire underlined the compromise adopted in the Declaration of the High Level Dialogue on the protection of the human rights of children in the context of migration.

Nigeria expressed concern about the criminalisation of migrants. The violations of the human rights of migrants must stop. Women and children are often the most affected. Nigeria called for an end to child immigration detention.

UNAIDS highlighted that countries should ensure migrants’ full access to HIV information, prevention and treatment services. Restriction based on HIV status should be removed.

Iran noted that the negative impact of the global financial crises on migrants could be mitigated through national mechanisms and international cooperation. Particular attention should be given to the cultural and religious identities of migrants.

Mozambique highlighted the importance of the High Level Dialogue’s Declaration in which states expressed their commitment to protect the human rights of children, and provide for their health, education and psychological development.

India noted that the protection of migrants is an important facet in the creation of enabling environment for international migration. There is a need to combat anti-migrant sentiment manifested in discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance by creating greater public awareness about their situations and contributions.