Intervention related to “Analysis of the impact that the availability of regular channels of migration has on reducing demand for the smuggling of migrants”

14-15 October 2021

3-min speech (400 words)

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, et je remercie les intervenants pour leurs présentations éclairantes sur ce sujet. Ma délégation tient également à remercier le secrétariat d’avoir produit les documents de travail pour encadrer ces délibérations.

Ces discussions montrent que la demande de trafic de migrants est fortement influencée par la disponibilité de filières régulières de migration. Par ailleurs, les moteurs économiques et autres de la migration et du déplacement, comme les conflits et les crises, persistent et, dans certains cas, sont renforcés par la pandémie.

Le Canada s’est engagé à protéger les droits de la personne des migrants par la promotion de filières de migration sûres, ordonnées et régulières, conformément au pacte mondial pour les migrations et au Pacte mondial sur les réfugiés. Nous restons attachés à la mise en œuvre des deux pactes mondiaux pour que personne ne soit oublié. En conséquence, nous réaffirmons nos responsabilités partagées et notre objectif commun de faire fonctionner la migration pour tous.

Mr. Chair,
Importantly, as we re-orient ourselves to focus on COVID-19 recovery, we must remember that the pandemic will continue to shape the global governance of migration management, especially in regions where access to vaccines remains a challenge. Let us remember the importance of cooperation to promote frameworks such as the Global Compacts.

As a GCM Champion country, one of Canada’s key priorities is promoting regular migration pathways. By increasing these regular pathways, we contribute to decreasing the demand for smuggling by unscrupulous criminals who place profit ahead of the safety of migrants.

In terms of protection, Canada continues to champion the third objective of the GCR: to promote expanded solutions for refugees, including community sponsorship and complementary pathways for protection. We believe that strengthened international cooperation can lead to more well managed migration globally.

The discussion paper recommends the use of gender-responsive, child-sensitive and victim-centred approaches in the identification and referral of migrants in situations of vulnerability. We are in full support of this recommendation. We also further recommend taking a human rights-based approach and applying an intersectional lens, which would consider the needs of the most at-risk and marginalized, and would lead to improved policy and migration management.

Eradication of migrant smuggling is probably unattainable, although we have seen that is possible to seriously curb these flows and to harm smugglers’ business. When countries work together towards developing safe, regular and orderly pathways for migration, we can safeguard migrants’ rights and reduce the demand for migrant smuggling. Criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants should be accompanied by strategies that address the root causes – that is poverty and the aspiration for a better life.

Thank you for this opportunity.