

Dear Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to represent the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the world's largest humanitarian network spanning 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. We are neutral humanitarian organizations and, as such, do not seek to encourage, discourage or prevent migration. We stand ready to support States to fulfil their international obligations to migrants, as well as to provide direct assistance to those in need in accordance with our seven Fundamental Principles.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide humanitarian support to millions of migrants around the world, with services ranging from distribution of food and water to legal and other critical information and advice, first aid, basic health care, psychosocial support, restoring family links and social inclusion, among others. Through this daily work, we are increasingly concerned for the safety and well-being of vulnerable migrants.

All migrants, including those in an irregular situation, have human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of person. They must be protected from torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, *refoulement* and threats to their lives, and they must have access to justice.

All migrants, irrespective of legal status, must have access to essential services, including food, shelter, and health care, information about relevant rights and processes, and support in restoring family links, and this without fear of arrest, detention or deportation.

For this reason, we have sought to scale up our humanitarian efforts, both at the country level and in cooperation with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Network across migratory routes. We have developed Humanitarian Service Points, the concept of which resonates with the themes of both the Quito and the Dubai Summit. Humanitarian Service Points represent safe and welcoming spaces where all migrants, regardless of status, can access essential information and services. Humanitarian Service Points may be fixed or may be mobile, which means that they continue to be relevant, even when migratory routes shift. They can be located in countries of origin, transit and destination. However, for Humanitarian Service Points to be truly effectively, we need to have clear understanding and cooperation with the public authorities.

Migrants should be considered as “agents of development”, who can make a positive contribution to both the economy and the cultural richness of their new host communities. We see social inclusion of migrants as a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation and respect, where building resilience of host communities is part of it and their solidarity is fully valued. We are committed

to support States in designing and delivering social inclusion activities, which promote participation and empowerment as a key component of human dignity. National Societies promote self-reliance of migrants through access to language skills, cultural training and employment opportunities, and recognize the contributions that migrants make to their host communities. In fact, many migrants volunteer with the Red Cross or Red Crescent National Society as a way of giving back and sharing their respective experience.

On the future of the forum

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appreciates the space to engage with States as an observer to the GFMD. We value this opportunity to engage with States in discussions on our mandate, to share experience and best practice and promote our principled approach to migration. We welcome the new Mayoral mechanism that has been established as local authorities play an important role in ensuring safe and orderly migration. We also applaud the current GFMD Chair's desire to create a stronger evidence base for informed policy choices, as the Red Cross Red Crescent is able share their reflections on the impact of these policies, grounded in practical experience. We acknowledge the important role that GFMD plays in coordination with the UN Network on Migration in the formal follow up of the

Global Compact for Migration and the broader Sustainable Development Agenda.

We believe the forum should focus on the localization agenda in looking towards the future and have stronger commitment to ensuring the voices of migrants and local communities at the centre of its work. In this regard, we welcome the UAE's proposal to bring in more local perspectives to the GFMD discussions.

We also believe the GFMD should play a role in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in consulting with States and civil society in stocktaking against national GCM implementation plans and be a bridge between States and civil society.

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are key players who can help accomplish these outcomes and we encourage States and other actors to reinforce partnerships and collaboration on the ground, at national and regional level, taking advantage of our grassroots presence in the community.

Thank you.