



Statement of Scalabrini International Migration Network

Stocktaking Meeting

UN Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

Puerta Vallarta, Mexico

December 5, 2017

The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), founded by the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrini, operates 250 programs serving migrants around the world, including shelters, schools, and educational institutes.

We regret the decision of the US government to withdraw from the process of developing a Global Compact on Migration. It does not reflect the opinion of the majority of Americans. We call upon the US to re-engage in the process, and look forward to working with the other member states involved in this historic effort

As a goal of the Compact is to provide safe, orderly, and regular pathways for migration, there should be concrete commitments by member states toward this goal.

In this regard, I have one overall point to make:

IOM has estimated that 20-25 percent of the world's migrant population is undocumented.

We encourage member states to reduce the global undocumented population by committing to increasing legal slots in their countries by an equal percentage by 2030, if not sooner, in conjunction with the sustainable development goals.

This target could be achieved several ways by each country: an increase in legal avenues, a regularization program, an improvement in the use of national laws you already have on your books, or a combination thereof. This is an imminently achievable target which could yield tangible results.

If this formula does not work, then another viable and effective target to increase regular and legal pathways should be devised. It is a commitment, and headline, the Compact needs.

While there is no magic bullet to end irregular migration, absent addressing root causes, increasing legal placements would help reduce it and give migrants an alternative to dangerous journeys across oceans or deserts. It also would help deprive smugglers and human traffickers of their markets.

We encourage that this goal be met with placements that ensure the labor rights of migrants and preserve family unity principles.

I also would like to highlight a program launched by SIMN which provides employment training, entrepreneurship, and placement of migrants, in conjunction with governments, that we operate in 8 countries. The program has been successful in integrating migrants into local communities and in growing local economies. I recommend it to you as a best practice for your consideration.

Thank you.