**WORKING SUMMARY of 20 Action Points**

Without exhausting the Church’s teaching on migrants and refugees, **the 20 Action Points provide practical considerations** which Catholic and other advocates can use, add to and develop in their dialogue with governments concerning the Global Compacts. They advocate effective and proven measures which together constitute an integral response to the current challenges, highlighting the human development opportunities for all. Starting from what is currently possible, their ultimate goal is the building of an inclusive and sustainable common home for all. **The Holy See formally submitted the 20 Action Points to United Nations for the consultation and intergovernmental negotiations**, in this way making them an official UN document, posted in its six official languages: <http://www.undocs.org/a/72/528>

In accordance with Pope Francis’s teaching and approved by him, the points are grouped under four headings: **to welcome, to protect, to promote,** and **to integrate.** They are calls to action and to cooperation.

**I. To welcome**: to open and to enhance more safe and legal routes for M&R

1. Non-refoulement collective expulsions

2. Alternative pathways, reception conditions

3. Human security balanced with national security

**II. To protect**: to defend and ensure the rights and dignity of M&R

4. Labour migration issues for sending State

5. Labour migration issues for receiving State

6. Development of human capacity/use of skills

7. Rights of the Child for children on the move

8. Protection, documentation/education, acc to Convention on the Rights of the Child

9. Equal access to education

10. Access to health care/pension schemes

11. Provisions to address statelessness

**III. To promote**: to advance and foster M&R's integral human development

12. Portable certification/access to vocational school

13. Local integration procedures

14. Family unity provisions

15. Attention to people on the move with special needs

16. Development assistance to hosting countries

17. Freedom of religion provisions

**IV. To integrate**: to enrich local communities through greater participation of M&R

18. Integration legal framework

19. integrations promoting local activities

20. Support for returning communities

**I**. **TO WELCOME** means Enhancing Safe and Legal Channels for Migrants and Refugees,

Migration should be safe, legal and orderly, and **the decision to migrate voluntary**.

1 Arbitrary and collective expulsions should be banned and the *non-refoulement* principle should always be respected. This principle protects the security of the person.

Encourage States to

2 expand legal pathways for safe and voluntary migration and resettlement (through the extension of humanitarian visas, the opening of humanitarian corridors, and family reunification visas). The M&R Section encourages the adoption of special temporary visas for those forced to flee armed conflict, persecution or widespread violence, and encourages the adoption of reception programs offering appropriate decent shelter to migrants and refugees.

3 adopt a national security perspective that fully takes into account the security and human rights of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees entering its territory (e.g. adequate training of public officials and law enforcement officers who work in borders areas).

**II. TO PROTECT:** Ensuring Migrants’ and Refugees’ Rights and Dignity. Migrants must be protected by their countries of both origin and arrival in order to prevent exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking. **The right to life is the most fundamental of all rights**, and cannot depend on a person’s legal status. The Church insists on the importance of taking a holistic and integrated approach, with a focus on the **centrality of the human person**.

States of origin should adopt policies and practices which

4 provide protections (including pre-departure information) for citizens choosing to emigrate

5 protect against exploitation, forced labour, or trafficking

6 enable migrants, asylum seeker and refugees to make the best use of their skills and capacities (e.g. freedom of movement, provide work permits)

Encourage States to comply with their obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC)

7 when enacting domestic legislation to address the vulnerable situation of unaccompanied children or minors separated from their family (e.g. adopt alternative to mandatory detention, special care of unaccompanied children)

8 when dealing with all migrant minors and recommend e.g. adoption of procedures that guarantee legal protections to minors approaching the age of majority, and that permit minors close to the age of majority to continue their education without interruption.

Encourage States to adopt legislation or national policies that provide equal access

9 to education for migrant, asylum seeker and refugee learners of all levels (e.g. access to primary and secondary education no matter their migratory status), and the same standards of education as received by citizens

10 to adequate social protections (e.g. primary health-care services)

11 that prevent migrants and refugees from becoming “stateless” (e.g. adequate protection and standards of treatment, reforms that are necessary to address statelessness effectively, address the four areas of statelessness – identification, prevention, reduction and protection, and aim to grant citizenship to children at birth).

**III. TO PROMOTE:** Advancing Migrants’ and Refugees’ Integral Human Development.

The Church highlights **the need of the promotion of integral human development** of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, together with the one of the local communities. All countries should **include migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in their national development plans.**

Encourage States to to adopt laws, policies and practices

12 that enable the recognition, transfer and further development of the formal skills of all migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees residing in the host country. (e.g. access to tertiary education, and to apprenticeship and internship programmes, for qualified migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on the same basis as citizens; facilitate the assessment, validation and recognition of academic and vocational education, e.g. inter-university arrangements as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements).

13 which facilitate the local integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugee populations (e.g. freedom of movement, right to work, access to class and training in the local language as well as the printing of public notices and information in languages most common among migrants and refugees in the host country).

14 which promote and preserve the integrity and well-being of the family regardless of migratory status (e.g foster inclusive family reunification including grandparents) and which prohibit and actively prevent the abuse of minor workers, ensuring that their work is safe)

15 that provide migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with special needs or vulnerabilities with the same opportunities as other disabled citizens (e.g. access to assistance devices regardless of migratory status) and which provide rapid access to special education or vocational training as well as health care for unaccompanied or separated minors who are disabled).

16 Encourage the international community to increase its share of development and emergency

assistance to States which host and support large influxes of refugees and migrants fleeing

armed conflict so all, regardless of migratory status, may benefit.

17 Encourage States to adopt policies and practices that guarantee freedom of religion, in both belief and practice, to all migrants and refugees regardless of their migratory status.

**IV. TO INTEGRATE** Enriching Communities through Wider Participation of Migrants and Refugees, and vice versa

**The acceptance of migrants and refugees is an opportunity** for new understanding and broader horizons. Those accepted have the responsibility to respect the values, traditions and laws of the community which takes them in. Host communities are called to acknowledge the beneficial contribution which each immigrant can make to the whole community. **Both sides are mutually enriched by their interaction, and the community as a whole is enhanced by a greater participation of all its members, both resident and migrant**. This is also true for the migrant or refugee who chooses to return home.

18 Integration is neither assimilation nor incorporation, but a “two-way process,” which is essentially rooted in the mutual recognition of the other’s cultural richness, encourage States to enact legislation which facilitates local integration (e.g. adopt laws and constitutional provisions which grant citizenship at birth). Citizenship for migrants and refugees should not be contingent on economic status or the ownership of property without “new language requirements” for older applicants (over fifty years of age). Adopt laws which facilitate the legal migration of family members of foreign residents, which enhance channels for family reunification, and which allow for the regularization of status for long-term residents in the host country.

19 Encourage States to adopt policies and programmes which actively promote a positive narrative on migrants and refugees and solidarity towards them (e.g. promote events which showcase positive aspects of the newcomers’ culture; promote intercultural exchange and the culture of encounter; promote hospitality within the local communities). Public announcements should be issued in the languages spoken by larger groups of migrants and refugees.

20 When foreign nationals are forced to flee from violence or environmental crisis in a host country, they are often eligible for voluntary repatriation programmes or evacuation programmes. In these cases, the host State, donor states or State of origin should adopt policies and procedures which facilitate the reintegration of returnees (e.g. increase donor funding for enhancing the infrastructure in areas of return or transition; assistance for returning workers caught up in foreign crisis; enact laws that recognize and allow for the transfer of educational or other credentials earned abroad by returning citizens; permit rapid access to labour markets for those with professional or vocational credentials like trained teachers, electricians, medical personnel and heavy equipment operators.

For a complete version of the 20 Action Points, <https://migrants-refugees.va/20-action-points>

Migrants & Refugees Section

Rome, 8 March 2018