



## Joint Statement

### International Migration Review Forum 2026

#### Towards a Human Mobility Governance Centered on Dignity, Rights, and a Culture of Migration

#### Preamble

**The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) and the Fundación Scalabriniana, inspired by the values of the Catholic Church of Welcome, Promotion, Protection, and Integration of Migrants and Refugees, present this Joint Statement within the framework of the Second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF 2026).**

#### Guiding Principles

We reaffirm the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** as a non-binding cooperative framework guiding global migration governance, based on cross-cutting and interdependent principles: a people-centered approach, human rights, sustainable development, gender and child-sensitive perspectives, the rule of law, international cooperation, and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

We recognize that **all migrants, regardless of their migration status, are holders of human rights**, and we reaffirm the obligation to respect, protect, and guarantee their dignity, safety, and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind.

#### Shared Assessment

We acknowledge that although **real but uneven progress** has been made since 2018 in the implementation of the Global Compact, a **structural gap persists between commitments made and practices effectively implemented**, particularly in contexts of transit, return, and high political pressure.

We consider that the current deportation and externalization practices being implemented are incompatible with the respect for the human rights of people on the move.

Based on the evidence presented, we affirm that **without social inclusion there can be no sustainable migration governance**, and that exclusion increases irregularity, exploitation, and xenophobia, while **rights-based inclusion** strengthens social cohesion and benefits communities as a whole.

We promote differentiated attention to groups in situations of greater vulnerability, including unaccompanied children, women, and LGBTQIAPN+ persons.

We also recognize that critical challenges persist: insufficient safe and regular pathways, immigration detention, deportation — including that of children and adolescents — deaths and disappearances along migration routes, labor exploitation, unsafe returns, data gaps, and the use of border technologies that pose risks to human rights.

We emphasize the incompatibility between detention in migration contexts and the best interests of the child, reaffirming that the deprivation of liberty of children and adolescents is contrary to their best interests and to international human rights standards.

## **Commitments and Strategic Directions**

In light of IMRF 2026, we affirm a **global vision of human mobility governance centered on the dignity and rights of migrants and migrant families**, articulated through the following commitments:

### **1. Inclusion as a Condition of Human Dignity**

We maintain that inclusion is not an optional measure, but an inherent condition of human dignity, which must translate into:

- a) Effective access to basic services protected by **firewalls from immigration enforcement**;
- b) Regularization policies and **legal pathways** as tools for integration;
- c) Recognition of the central role of **local governments and civil society**;
- d) Promotion of **responsible narratives** to counter xenophobia.

### **2. Safe, Orderly, and Regular Pathways Based on Rights**

We urge the expansion and diversification of pathways for labor, educational, humanitarian, and family reunification mobility, prioritizing people in vulnerable situations and reducing complex, costly, and discriminatory procedures.

We recommend that documentation for all people on the move be immediate and accessible in order to facilitate effective access to fundamental rights such as health, education, housing, and employment. No one should be undocumented in their own country.

### **3. Differentiated Attention to Women, Girls, and Boys**

We reiterate the urgency of strengthening migration policies with differentiated approaches to guarantee safer migration for women, girls, and boys, as well as specific initiatives for reception, inclusion, psychological assistance, and monitoring of integration and re-migration processes.

### **4. Decent Work and the Eradication of Exploitation**

We reaffirm the need to eliminate recruitment fees, guarantee decent working conditions, and protect migrants working in highly precarious sectors, with special attention to migrant women, girls, and boys.

### **5. Comprehensive Protection and Ending the Detention of Children and Adolescents**

We reiterate the commitment to **ending the detention of migrant children** by prioritizing non-custodial alternatives and child- and gender-sensitive approaches at all stages of migration and re-migration.

### **6. Culture of Migration**

We commit ourselves to promoting a **Culture of Migration**, understood as a social, political, and cultural framework that:

- a) Recognizes migrants as agents of development;
- b) Combats misinformation, racism, and xenophobia in order to prevent all forms of violence;
- c) Promotes social cohesion, participation, and intercultural dialogue.

This culture is essential for the **2026–2030** period, which we conceive as the cycle of inclusion, particularly in regions of origin, transit, and return.

#### **Call to Action**

We call upon States, the United Nations system, and all stakeholders to **move from normative consensus to practical action** through effective implementation, international cooperation based on safe migration routes, transparent migration governance processes, and sustained political will capable of translating the commitments of the Global Compact into tangible results for migrants and communities of origin, transit, and destination.