



Statement of Rev. Monsignor John Putzer, Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International
Organizations in Geneva
at the 53rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human
rights of migrants**
Geneva, 26 June 2023

Mr. President,

The Holy See takes note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and shares deep concern over the challenges faced by those in an irregular situation. Despite the commitments and progress made at the international level, we continue to witness with great sorrow, the unnecessary loss of lives at sea and along other migration routes.

In the absence of safe migration routes and regular pathways, people on the move often find themselves with the arduous choice of taking dangerous journeys, sometimes even, *“falling victim to perilous illusions or unscrupulous traffickers.”*¹ Sadly, many of those who are forced to flee, have no choice but to work and live on the margins of society until they are able to regularize their status, leading to exploitation and the undermining of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

Echoing the appeal of Pope Francis for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, this Delegation wishes to reiterate that *“even as we work to ensure that in every case migration is the fruit of a free decision, we are called to show maximum respect for the dignity of each migrant”*² and to protect their life. We must not forget that migrants are not just numbers and statistics, but our brothers and sisters, part of the same human family with the same, God given, dignity. In this regard, States and local communities should be ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate every person without distinction.

Mr. President,

In parallel, coordinated efforts should be made at the international level to strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration to ensure that migration is truly safe, orderly, and regular. This includes expanding the number and range of alternative pathways for regular migration and resettlement, improving education and working conditions in the countries of origin, and taking into account the material as well as spiritual needs and aspirations of migrants with a view to promoting the integral development of every individual.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Pope Francis, *Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees*.

² *Ibid.*