

Malta – TS1- P3

Panel 3: All forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance

- Malta would like to renew its call to commit jointly to the respect of our obligations under international law, prohibiting discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability or other status.

- As action-oriented commitments, the Global Compact should promote the adoption of measures aimed:

To develop and strengthen the capacities of local authorities to advocate for and protect the human rights of migrants, for example;

To combat all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance towards all migrants, and;

To support activities in the fight against hate crimes and hate speech, including online.

- I would like to highlight the following initiative taken by Malta in this context, as an example of best practice to inform the Global Compact:

- In recent years, several members of the Malta Police Force attended lectures and received training intended to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively respond to manifestations of racist expression, including online, and racially motivated conduct, and to effectively record and collect data on hate crime.

- Needless to say, legislation alone is not enough. Prosecuting hate speech is not enough, and it must be countered with a positive alternative, namely through education. Our people should be taught about respect and tolerance. We need to teach our society that though we might be different, we can still be united in diversity. To that end, the Global Compact should promote awareness raising campaigns against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in society, whilst also highlighting the benefits of an inclusive and diverse society.