Dear Ministers, Excellencies, Colleagues,
Dear Friends of ICMPD,

At the beginning of this year we started a project to look at the future of migration. We asked researchers and academics around the world about their views and we are very honoured to have received 10 essays, which will be published towards the end of the year. Let me use this opportunity to again thank the honourable authors for their contributions!

During the year we have had – based on these essays – discussions and round tables and today I would like to share with you our 10 observations on the future of migration, observations with a European focus but also relevant for other regions of the world.

Let me highlight a few points which I consider as the most relevant for all of us:

1) The main indicators for future migration patterns are demographic and economic disparities.

It is only during the last 40 years that more than 95% of global demographic growth has shifted to emerging markets and developing countries. The richer parts of the world are already experiencing rapid demographic aging. Mid- and low-income countries will soon face this development too.

The 2nd important indicator for future migration patterns is economic development. Today 75% of growth is coming from emerging markets. Thus, in emerging economies, emigration will sooner or later decline too (e.g. as already observed in Mexico or Turkey).

As a consequence, and this is our first observation, the current geography of migration will change [1].

The number of immigration countries will increase and the number of emigration countries will decrease –

which means that the global hunt for talent will intensify.

Europe should, therefore, prepare for a changed geography in international migration:
- East-West migration will come to an end and will be replaced by immigration from countries with youthful and growing populations in South Asia, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

- European countries will – and this is probably one of the most important points – also have to prepare their resident population for a more diverse society in terms of ethnic origin.

2)

A central question is: where will labour supplies in Europe come from in the future? Currently many states look at Asia and Latin America rather than Africa as desired regions of origin for future labour market demands. In the long run, however, Asia will be competing with Europe for labour force and China will require at least 50 million workers and will have to reach out beyond the region to recruit.

The biggest challenge is in the area of intermediate skills (skilled craft and industrial workers). So European states will have to engage in a more targeted and much more substantive cooperation with countries of origin (for example, on the formal recognition of skills and qualifications.)

Labour market segments traditionally occupied by female migrants, such as health care, domestic care, child care and tourism, can be expected to disproportionately grow in the future. Europe will have to better define the role of private households as actors in immigration and to address the specific needs of female migrants working in related segments of the labour market.

Consequently, private households will become increasingly important actors by creating jobs for immigrants [2].

3) und 4)

However, European labour migration will change from a supply-driven to a demand-driven market [3] which has to successfully compete with an increasing number of other attractive destinations.

Europe therefore needs to re-think its approach towards labour migration and focus on the three most important questions:

- How do we get the best qualified?
- How do we keep them?
- And how do we get the best out of them?

When speaking about the best qualified migrants this does not necessarily mean academics; the best are those that are needed.
In order to attract a sufficient number of required third country nationals, European States will also have to abolish restrictions on their work and social life and avoid down-skilling and brain waste.

Equal pay and social security coverage for migrants, as well as portable rights, will benefit sending countries and will make receiving countries more attractive destinations in the future race for talent.

Allowing the transfer of welfare entitlements to other countries could also serve as an incentive to mobility.

A mobile Europe in a mobile world needs mobile welfare [4] as it could be summarised.

To avoid misunderstandings:

International migration is only one possible answer to future mismatches between supply and demand of labour and skills. For countries with aging populations, it can form part of a global strategy, comprising others, such as broader labour market reforms, higher employment rates of women, longer periods of participation and family policies that result in higher birth rates.

When speaking about migration, we also have to look at the topic integration – a topic that is high on the political agenda. Integration policies are seen as a key element of migration management in order to promote social cohesion. But it would be wrong to argue that social cohesion is challenged solely by migration. Other factors like modernisation, globalisation, and changing economic structures, cultural codes and lifestyles are even more important factors in this regard. Integration policies are important instruments as long as they are embedded in overall policies promoting social cohesion both for migrants and non-migrants.

European States need to address integration in the broader context of overall social cohesion. [5]

They will have to better address all challenges for social cohesion that result from modernisation and change.

Social cohesion needs to be promoted at all levels and for the whole society. Related policies have to promote jobs and create economic opportunities but also foster exchange and interaction between the various social groups with a view to a joint sense of identity, belonging and community.

The debate on integration is multifaceted, but there seems to be a common understanding that integration is a mutual and reciprocal process which requires the involvement of both the migrants and the resident population.

Migrants have to obtain the necessary means to participate in the economic, cultural and social life of the receiving societies; they have to benefit from equal rights and equal access to
opportunities and they are subject to the same duties as the domestic population. Political exclusion should be avoided by considering the inclusion of second, and sometimes even third, generation immigrants. European societies are becoming increasingly diverse and Migration is only one axis of diversity; other axes, such as gender, religion or age, are important too.

| Diverse societies require increased political participation and representation of immigrants and their descendants. [6] |

There are, thus, no one-size-fits-all solutions to problems of political participation.

7) High on the political agenda as well is the prevention of abuse. Trafficking in human beings is one of the topics in the migration area where we all agree that it is an unwanted, criminal offence. But, unfortunately, it is reality! The current THB framework aims at fighting against a crime in the context of organised crime but does not directly aim at liberating a person from an exploitative situation. Accordingly, the criminal justice approach asks for very specific types of victims, which do not necessarily correspond with the types of victims in exploitative situations.

| We have to ask ourselves whether there is a need to adjust the existing THB framework in order to tackle trafficking for labour exploitation [7]. |

8) In the current global debate, protection is an important topic, whether we talk about the Syrian refugees mostly accommodated in the Middle East region or the refugee boats arriving in Lampedusa.

Not so prominently on the agenda is the complex relationship between climate change, conflict and displacement, the so-called 'environmental refugee'. Evidence shows that the concept of 'the environmental refugee' creates significant difficulties at the political and legislative level to develop effective international standards.

| The ‘environmental refugee’ is not a category we can use for forward-looking policies [8] |

- There is more scope for development in a bottom-up approach based on new and emerging research that specifies more closely the relationship between climate change, conflict and displacement.

9) Since the first High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 the topic has attracted global attention. But we have to keep in mind that development and migration have always been intimately linked social processes.
The main challenge European states face today is how to move from short-term and narrow migration and development measures to more coherent and longer term objectives that include all other policy domains that affect or are affected by people moving across borders.

While the management of people moving is a technical issue, setting migration and mobility governance objectives demands that other stakeholders join the migration managers around the table.

The importance of migration as a development enabler will therefore only grow in the future.[9]

10)

I have highlighted 9 observations on various migration topics and would like to now raise the question: What is the best approach to deal with it? Who is the appropriate actor?

European migration policy will continue to be characterised by multilevel governance. The involvement of different levels and the high complexity of policymaking and implementation will not automatically result in more coordination and mutual support. From a pragmatic point of view, a better definition of common interests between all levels would constitute the best possible starting point for consistent, complementary and concerted action.

Multilevel and multi-actor governance is a challenge for concerted migration policy [10]

- The next decade will be the decade of the regions. This is why ICMPD is concerned particularly with regional migration schemes. We are convinced that it is the region that holds the most potential for creating functioning mobility schemes.

- It is the EU, the regional economic communities in Africa, Asia and the Americas that have been able to progress substantially in creating greater freedom of movement of their citizens. Cooperation between and with these regions will also offer new ways of addressing some of the most notorious problems associated with international migration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, we all know that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all solution’. Migration is a multifaceted political topic that will have a big influence on how Europe will evolve in the coming years.

To harvest the benefits of migration:

we need an open and transparent debate,
we need realistic policies and strong political leadership,
we need to recognise that diversity makes our societies stronger,
and we need a fair and controlled system that people can support.

Migration is too important to fail!

Thank you!