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I would also like to refer to the recent statement of the Secretary-General, which highlighted the need for legal and safe pathways for refugees and migrants, so that they are not left in the hands of criminal networks and embark on perilous journeys.

We need more research, intelligence-led investigations and enhanced information sharing and cooperation.

I encourage all States to live up to their commitments under the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to ratify this important instrument if they have not yet done so.

We must stop the criminals and give migrants and refugees the protection they deserve.

UNODC stands ready to work with Member States and all our partners to ensure that collective responses are sensitive, integrated and effective.

Thank you.