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## TIRANA DECLARATION

**We**, the Ministers of Interior/Security of the MARRI Participants and high representatives responsible for issues of migration, asylum, and refugees, convened in the format of the Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);

Guided by the spirit and commitments of the founding documents of MARRI, the Declarations of the MARRI Regional Forum since 5 April 2005 in Tirana, and subsequent joint decisions that have shaped our regional cooperation;

Affirming our unwavering support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans and the vision of a region that is stable, cooperative, and aligned with the values of the European Union;

Recognising that migration, asylum, and the fight against trafficking in human beings are common challenges requiring shared solutions, solidarity, and coordinated institutional responses;

Underlining our collective commitment to regional security, open dialogue, respect for international legal standards, gender equality in migration governance, and the protection of human rights for all persons on the move;

Building on the legacy of previous Presidency-in-Office and the progress made during two decades of MARRI's existence as a platform for pragmatic cooperation and mutual support;

Having regard to the Belgrade Declaration of the MARRI Regional Forum of 3 July 2024 and the strategic direction set by the Albanian Presidency-in-Office;

Determined to deepen the political relevance, operational capacity, and regional impact of MARRI as a pillar of migration governance in the Western Balkans:

**Endorse** the Annual Report of the MARRI Regional Centre for July 2024 – June 2025 and the Financial Report for 2024, as evidence of MARRI's growing engagement and responsiveness;

**Reiterate** our shared political will to continue MARRI's legal reform, which is vital for modernising the Initiative's governance and ensuring its long-term sustainability;

**Acknowledge** the results of the GIZ-supported project "*Fostering economic opportunities of the MARRI Participants' administrations by enhancing the system for international protection*", which has advanced our regional efforts in protection-sensitive migration management;

Welcome the outcomes of the Regional Conference on Gender-Based Violence in the Migration Context, co-organised with Hilfswerk International;

**Support** the development of the project *“Enhancing Prosecutions and Proactive Efforts in Combating Trafficking in Persons”* in partnership with the U.S. Government as a forward-looking initiative to boost institutional capacities and foster transatlantic cooperation;

**Welcome** the inclusion of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Permanent Working Group on Migration Statistics, and encourage further engagement in data harmonisation and evidence-based policymaking through the WB-MIDEX platform;

**Appreciate** the efforts to increase the visibility of MARRI and its strategic outreach to key stakeholders, including through the 2025 MARRI Friends Meeting and continued presence in regional and international fora;

**Welcome** the appointment of the new Director of the MARRI Regional Centre Ms. Angela Boranieva and trust in her ability to lead the Centre with professionalism, transparency, and vision in line with the evolving needs of the region;

**Express sincere appreciation** to Ms. Simona Krstevska, Representative of the Republic of North Macedonia to MARRI Regional Centre, for her dedicated leadership as Acting Director and for ensuring institutional continuity and operational stability during a key transitional period;

**Thank** the Republic of Albania for its outstanding and inclusive leadership during the July 2024– June 2025 Presidency-in-Office and for its strong commitment to strengthening MARRI’s institutional resilience, visibility, and cooperation with international partners. We welcome the upcoming Presidency-in-Office by Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue advancing our shared agenda.

*Adopted at the MARRI Regional Forum, Tirana, 24 June 2025*