

SARAJEVO DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Interior/Security of the MARRI Participants and high-level representatives responsible for migration, asylum and refugee affairs, convened within the framework of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);

Recalling the founding principles of MARRI and the commitments contained in the Declarations of the MARRI Regional Forum since 5 April 2005 in Tirana, as well as all subsequent relevant decisions shaping regional cooperation;

Reaffirming our continued commitment to the European perspective of the MARRI region and to the shared objective of a stable, cooperative region aligned with the values and standards of the European Union;

Recognising that migration, asylum and the prevention and combating of trafficking in human beings constitute shared regional challenges requiring coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable responses;

Underlining our commitment to regional security, constructive dialogue, respect for applicable international legal instruments, gender equality, and the protection of human rights of all persons on the move;

Building on two decades of cooperation under MARRI as a platform for regional dialogue, coordination and mutual support;

Determined to further strengthen the political relevance, operational capacity and regional ownership of MARRI as a key pillar of migration governance in the region;

Endorse the Annual Report of the MARRI Regional Centre for July 2025 – June 2026, the Independent Financial Report for 2025, and the MARRI RC Budget July 2026 – June 2027 as evidence of institutional development, accountability and responsiveness;

Endorse the MARRI Strategy 2027-2029, as a strategic framework for strengthening governance, ensuring sustainability and enhancing the impact of the Initiative;

Commend the Presidency-in-Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its leadership and initiative, within the framework of the Sarajevo Migration Dialogue, aimed at further strengthening the role and relevance of the MARRI Regional Centre in coordinating and supporting activities related to the implementation of the Sarajevo Migration Dialogue Regional Declaration 2026.

Welcome the renewed cooperation between MARRI and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and encourage further operational collaboration;

Emphasise the importance of integrating gender equality and gender-responsive approaches as a horizontal principle across all aspects of migration governance, including institutional frameworks, policy development, and operational work with persons on the move;

Appreciate the strengthened visibility and outreach of MARRI, including through the 2026 MARRI Friends Meeting, as well as its continued active participation in regional and international forums, cooperation platforms and partnership initiatives;

Express sincere appreciation to all partners and stakeholders supporting the work of MARRI and contributing to its institutional development, visibility and operational effectiveness, in particular the EU4FAST project, the German Cooperation (GIZ), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Hilfswerk International and the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), for their valuable support and cooperation during the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency-in-Office 2025–2026.

Express gratitude to the German Cooperation (GIZ), a long-standing MARRI partner, for its continuous support, in particular its support for the forthcoming project “Forced Child Labour as a Form of Trafficking in Human Beings”, envisaged to be implemented within the EU4FAST framework.

Task MARRI Regional Centre to focus on strengthening cooperation with institutions and bodies of the European Union, particularly in the development of regional projects, aimed at translating regional needs and priorities into meaningful and sustainable initiatives within MARRI’s mandate.

Invite the European Commission and international partners to continue supporting efforts within MARRI, particularly the MARRI Regional Centre, as a key instrument for advancing and sustaining regional cooperation.

Thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for its leadership and commitment during its 2025–2026 Presidency-in-Office in advancing MARRI’s institutional resilience, visibility and partnerships, and express confidence in the Kosovo* Presidency-in-Office to further build on these achievements and advance our shared priorities.

Express appreciation for the commitment, efforts and dedicated work of the Committee members, Representatives seconded to the Regional Centre, the Regional Centre Director and Team, as well as the MARRI Administrations, in strengthening MARRI as a unique platform for regional cooperation, coordination and joint action.

Adopted at the MARRI Regional Forum, Sarajevo, 4 June 2026

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence