

**STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE OF MISSING MIGRANTS  
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CYPRUS, GREECE, AND MALTA  
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE JOINT PROCESS, ATHENS, 19 NOVEMBER 2021**

Since the beginning of 2014, more than 23,000 migrants and refugees have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean region attempting to reach Europe. Recognizing that accounting for the missing requires a coordinated international response, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Malta, meeting on 11 June 2018 at the initiative of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), announced the development of a Joint Process to Account for Persons Missing as a Result of Migration in the Mediterranean Region (“the Joint Process”). At their second meeting in June 2019, the four countries discussed measures to improve cooperation further, including through the appointment of Focal Points.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Process Meeting, today in Athens, Greece, the participating Countries

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- Agreed on the need for a secure way of data collection and exchange that can improve efforts to find missing migrants and reunite families, and initiated proposals in that regard;
- Invited the Joint Process Secretariat together with the Focal Points to work towards the elaboration of a proposal for such a solution, considering both technical and legal aspects and taking into account personal data processing options that are currently available to participating countries;
- Agreed to recommend that current Focal Points meet periodically to develop a strategic work-plan for the Joint Process, for consideration at the next meeting of the Joint Process; and
- Agreed to enhance the work of the Joint Process by inviting other countries to participate in the Joint Process.

The participating countries will endeavor to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Process meeting in the second half of 2022.

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\* Italy shares the above views but requires additional time for internal consultations to further consider the specifics of this document.