



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



United Nations

26 May 2017

## Press release

### **The United Nations Running Together for Migrants and Refugees at the Brussels 20 Km**

***“TOGETHER let’s promote respect, security and dignity for refugees and migrants”***

(Brussels) – The UN Migration Agency (IOM) has set up a team called “**UN Migration**” to run the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the **20 km of Brussels** this Sunday 28 May in a united show of support for diversity and better perceptions about migration, migrants and refugees.

The United Nations (UN) team is participating in the half-marathon in support of the [TOGETHER Campaign](#), which is UN-led global initiative that aims to fight against racism and xenophobia and to change negative perceptions and attitudes towards refugees and migrants.

The campaign, launched last year at the 19 September UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, unites the 193 UN Member States, the private sector and civil society, the academia and citizens within the framework of a worldwide partnership in order to support diversity, non-discrimination and acceptance of refugees and migrants.

Supported by the UN Regional Information Center (UNRIC), the international UN Migration team will bring together 50 people from various UN organizations, members of the association [Play 4 Peace](#), and the general public.

UNRIC Deputy Director Caroline Petit remarked that sport is one of the best ways to come together and share the values of courage, effort, competition and participation.

“We all hope and fear the same things in life, no matter where we come from. This ‘sameness’ must be realized by those that fear the ‘other’, such as migrants and refugees, and I think the TOGETHER-campaign greatly contributes towards cultivating that shared mind-set,” she said.

“I am very much looking forward to be walking together with a group of 50 UN colleagues from 15 nationalities, many of whom also have a migration profile, running on Sunday in a spirit of togetherness,” she added.

As a “first” this year, the UN team will have a stand in front of the Cinquantaire Arch that will provide opportunities for discussion, and information on the campaign and on the UN activities in Belgium, Europe and world-wide. Balloons, bracelets and bags will also be offered to the public.

Held under the patronage of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, the 20 km of Brussels is a major event in Belgium, gathering 40.000 runners and walkers coming from 131 different nationalities.

For press interviews and requests, please contact:

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