

CLOSING REMARKS

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High-level side event: “Road to Marrakech”

26 September 14:00 – 16:00

Conference room 2

It is honour to address you here today (in the presence of the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for International Migration) as we prepare for the intergovernmental conference in Marrakesh.

As usual, I would like to make 3 points.

Why a global compact?

Allow me to take just a few minutes to reflect on how we got here. Migration governance comes with long-standing challenges that you are all familiar with – managing irregular migration, combating xenophobia and discrimination, migrant trafficking and exploitation, lack of regular labour migration channels. But it was the sheer scale of migration, together with devastating - and unacceptable - loss of life of migrants and

refugees that brought home the realization that we could wait no longer to take action.

What does the Global Compact offer?

In that spirit and with admirable determination, you came together and developed the Global Compact for Migration.

This was a critical step toward rejecting the “low road” of reactive and populist policies aimed at short-term and ultimately unsustainable objectives.

The Global Compact provides a framework for action, for all of us to work toward a common vision of a world in which migrants move as a matter of genuine choice and not desperate necessity, and in which their rights are protected throughout their migratory cycle; a world in which migration is well governed, leading to positive effects for all peoples and societies, and where any negative effects of migration are limited.

How can we ensure that the Global Compact meets its objectives?

In brief, all stakeholders must be willing to work closely together. For its part, IOM takes its mandate -given by the Secretary General - to serve as the coordinator and the secretariat of the United Nations Network

on Migration, very seriously. IOM, together with its UN and other partners is committed to support Member States to implement the Global Compact – starting with its adoption in Marrakesh.