



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Statement

Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Marrakech, 10-11 December 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to represent the Inter-Parliamentary Union on this momentous occasion.

Through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global parliamentary community has been intimately associated with the process leading to the Global Compact. Over the past couple of years, we have organized a number of debates to garner the views of parliamentarians and shared the main recommendations from those debates with the negotiators of the Global Compact. Let me highlight here two main outcome documents that crystallize the common position of the global parliamentary community. The first is the final Declaration of the 138th IPU Assembly in March this year on strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees. The second landmark IPU document is the resolution adopted at the 139th Assembly in October of this year on strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance.

Our political debates and positions indicate strong convergence with the approach taken by the Global Compact as well as parliamentary support for its implementation. Indeed, the IPU fully supports its people-centered, “whole of government” and human rights-based lens of migration and its emphasis on the fundamental notion that only by working together and in solidarity can we address the opportunities and challenges that migration brings. Indeed, at a time when some countries are retreating behind their borders in the illusion that they can

shield themselves from the rest of the world, it is all the more essential that we join hands and that everyone contributes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The IPU is very pleased that the Compact recognizes the paramount role of parliaments, particularly when it comes to implementation and oversight, including in the review of national migration policies to bring them in line with the Compact.

Indeed, the role of parliaments in the areas of legislation, oversight, budgetary allocations and representation is paramount to turn the objectives of the Global Compact into national realities. Likewise, parliamentarians have an important role as social leaders to shape public discourse on migration. As such, they can help ensure facts-based public debate, promote meaningful discussions about the benefits and challenges of migration, show their disapproval of xenophobic and racist language and adopt the appropriate legal framework to counter hate speech and discrimination.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the end of last week, the IPU and the Moroccan Parliament organized in Rabat a global parliamentary conference in support of the Global Compact. Participants at the meeting adopted a Declaration in which they commit themselves to doing everything in their power to implement the Global Compact. They also called on the IPU to be fully engaged in the follow-up to the Global Compact by mobilizing parliaments across the world and by assisting them, whenever necessary, to meet their responsibilities in making migration truly safe, orderly and regular. In our view, the next important step for parliaments is to help devise concrete national action plans on migration that map out what action is needed to implement the Global Compact. Indeed, it is our hope that parliaments will use their powers to the full to bring about such action plans and will see to it that they are applied in practice.

Thank you.