

Marrakech, 10 December 2018

**High-level Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly
and Regular Migration**

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Martin Frick

Director, Office for Foreign Affairs, Liechtenstein

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Mister President,

Dear Secretary General of the Conference,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by first thanking the Government of Morocco for organising and hosting this Intergovernmental Conference to adopt of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Also, I would like to thank the Special Representative for International Migration, Ms. Louise Arbour, and the Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Lauber from Switzerland and Ambassador Camacho from Mexico for having led us through an intensive and inclusive negotiation process.

Two years after the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, we are here in Marrakech to adopt the text on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Liech-

tenstein recognises the importance of international cooperation in order to implement our national policies with respect to migration and to ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and regular manner. We have repeatedly underscored the need to collectively fight the drivers of irregular migration, such as poverty and human rights violations, as well as human trafficking and modern slavery. Well-managed migration, taking place in a regular and orderly manner, is in our national as well as in our collective interest and improves the situation of migrants around the globe. Through development cooperation, Liechtenstein has provided financial support to migration related projects for many years. We have supported and will continue to support projects targeting at improving migration management, reducing irregular migration, combatting human trafficking and smuggling as well as improving education and income perspectives in countries of origin. As reflected in the GCM, the primacy of national sovereignty in regulating migration is a basic principle of Liechtenstein's migration policy.

Liechtenstein has participated actively in the negotiating process resulting in the agreement of the text in July which we have before us today. In the aftermath, the Government has carefully analysed the text against the background of our key interests reflected in our negotiating positions. As a result of this analysis we have concluded that the majority of the objectives of the GCM is already implemented in Liechtenstein today. At the same time, there is a number of areas where we wish to put on the record our understanding and interpretation of certain provisions of the GCM.

A lively and critical parliamentary and public discussion of the GCM is still going on in Liechtenstein, reflecting the uncertainties of parts of the population towards the GCM. Liechtenstein therefore participates in this Conference in the understanding that States have adopted the text of the document today without prejudice to their final positions that will be expressed when the GCM is considered by the General Assembly in New York.

It is Liechtenstein's clear understanding that the GCM forms a legally non-binding document, which does not create any new rights and will not lead to any new legal obligations in the future. In our view, management and regulation of migration are subject to our national policies and matter of our sovereignty. We also wish to state for the record that Liechtenstein would not aim at full implementation of all the objectives reflected in the GCM.

In particular, we wish to place the following clarifications and interpretations on the record related to specific objectives:

- With regard to objective 5, Liechtenstein has a clear understanding that the text of the GCM does not imply and will not lead to any individual right to migration or obligation of the Member States to expand legal pathways of migration;
- With regard to objective 7, Liechtenstein wishes to clarify that the GCM cannot be interpreted in a way that provides for a universal right to family reunion or a right to regularisation of an irregular migration status;
- With regard to objective 13, Liechtenstein wishes to emphasise that child detention in the context of enforcement of migration regulations, in any case for children not younger than 15 years, can only be a measure of last resort to be taken only on the basis of the principle of the rule of law and proportionality. Liechtenstein is committed to avoid child detention to the extent possible and remains firmly committed to its international legal obligations, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- With regard to objective 18, Liechtenstein is of the view that its policy concerning the recognition of job qualifications is sufficient, taking into account the needs of the national economy.
- With regard to objective 22, Liechtenstein wishes to clarify that clear rules exist for the portability of social security entitlements and benefits of migrants. Liechtenstein does not interpret the GCM to entail a revision of these regulations.

The Liechtenstein Government will continue to actively participate in multilateral discussions on migration, notwithstanding the final position it will take when the GCM is considered by the General Assembly in New York.

Thank you.