

**Check against delivery.**

1. Migration holds great potential for development. Migrants have traditionally contributed to labour markets, trade and investment.
2. Yet this potential can easily be lost if states do not cooperate, if human rights are not respected and if migration is not managed responsibly.
3. Sadly, we are now in a period of crisis of historic proportions.
4. More than 65 million people have been forced to flee from their homes. Millions turn to irregular channels of migration. The number of men, women and children dying on the migration route should make us all deeply concerned.
5. In this period of crisis, countries closest to ongoing conflicts have shown a heart-warming generosity by hosting millions of refugees.
6. This has naturally put enormous strains on these societies, not least on public resources and services.
7. The European Union, as you all know, has faced its own challenges, and continues to do so, in handling the over a million asylum seekers and irregular migrants entering the Union annually over the last couple of years.
8. At its peak, Sweden alone received more than 160,000 asylum seekers, by far the greatest number per capita in the European Union.
9. No one country can handle migration alone. It is an international phenomenon and it demands an international response.
10. Cooperation is needed now more than ever before.
11. The commitment of the New York Declaration is therefore very welcome and timely.
12. Importantly, this includes the pledge to develop two compacts: one on enhancing responsibility sharing for refugees; and the other to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda – to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration.

13. In terms of migration, the Global Compact offers a unique opportunity to improve cooperation in an area that has been neglected for far too long.
14. Sweden therefore welcomes the ambitious process set out in the modalities resolution and the successful facilitation by the co-facilitators Mexico and Switzerland.
15. As we proceed into the substance of this negotiation, we need a long-term vision.
16. Drawing on our long-term commitment to international cooperation on migration, Sweden will be actively involved in the preparations with a goal to promote an ambitious outcome in 2018.
17. This should build on shared priorities, such as managing crisis-related movements and protecting migrants at risk; fostering the inclusion of migrants and their contribution to development; and strengthening our collective capacities to govern migration.
18. But for an ambitious outcome, we need to be frank.
19. We need to acknowledge that there are different interests at stake; and that these interests will require a grand bargain.
20. Some Member States are primarily concerned with improving access for their citizens to global labour markets.
21. Others are justifiably more preoccupied with ensuring that migration is orderly; that irregular migration is brought under control; and that returns can be effectively carried out.
22. While these may at first seem incompatible positions, it is important to recognize that even in these areas we have shared interests.
23. No country benefits from the spread of corruption, organized crime and erosion of the rule of law. No country wants to see their own citizens – or those of fellow nations – perish along dangerous journeys or be exploited in the parallel structures of society.
24. Sadly, these are all part of the brutal reality of irregular migration and the exploitation of migrant workers.

25. Similarly, all countries have an interest in effective labour markets that guarantee decent working conditions for their workers – whether at home or abroad.
26. While the working age population is growing in many countries in the South, many countries in the North face demographic developments that will bring about a declining labour supply and critical skills shortages at different skills levels.
27. If we cooperate, we can find common ground in these areas.
28. Sweden will therefore focus its efforts for the global compact on migration on two priority areas that are at the heart of advancing international cooperation on migration:
  - a. Promoting sustainable labour migration for decent work; and
  - b. Enhancing capacity for managing migration in countries of origin and countries of transit. This includes promoting safer migration by combating human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and contemporary forms of slavery.
29. Only by bringing irregular movements under control will publics and nations be ready to welcome additional regular migrants.
30. Similarly, we will only come to terms with irregular migration if we take concrete measures to provide legal pathways for regular migration.
31. We need to see an end to people migrating out of desperation. This requires an end to conflicts, improvement in living conditions and investment in decent work at home.
32. Ultimately, the Global Compact should be about delivering real change on the ground. It needs to include operational commitments, be supported by measures of success, a robust follow-up mechanism and a funding mechanism for relevant commitments.
33. For this to happen, we also need the UN System to enhance its capacity to address migration coherently and effectively.
34. We therefore welcome the expanded role for the new Special Representative and the prominent role given to IOM in cooperation with the UN Secretariat and the wider UN system, to service the global compact process.

35. We equally hope that this leading role for IOM will be reflected in the UN's broader work on migration; that the UN will draw on the full potential that IOM's entry into the family brings, and that the body will enhance its cooperation in this field.
36. This will put the United Nations in a strong position to support Member States in their work on migration. In particular to deliver on the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda.
37. Crises also open up for opportunities. Let us turn this period of crisis into a period of hope. Let us cooperate – to make migration a choice not a necessity; to make migration safer; and to make it more orderly.
38. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SRSG Sutherland for his important work and tireless efforts over the past decade. His forthcoming report will no doubt be a crucial contribution to the Global Compact process.
39. Thank you!