

**Speaking Notes for the Honourable Ahmed Hussen  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship**

**Speaking Notes for an Event on the Global Compact on Migration  
United Nations, New York  
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2018**

*Check against delivery*

Good afternoon.

I have been pleased to watch over the past two years how so many countries have come together to create the Global Compact for safe, orderly, regular migration.

The success of the process around the Migration Compact speaks volumes about multilateralism, rules-based order, and the willingness of States to cooperate and find ways forward on this complex issue. This is so important. And we are just at the beginning.

Indeed, this is a historic opportunity for the international community to improve the way we respond to migration.

We now have direction and a long-term vision for how to move forward together on one of the most compelling issues of our time.

Canada is pleased that the text we will be bringing to Marrakesh seeks to reconcile the many tensions that underlie international migration.

It acknowledges and draws attention to the serious challenges that irregular migration poses, while clearly emphasizing the positive contributions of migrants, as well as the benefits of regular pathways and well-managed migration systems.

While Canada's immigration system is not without its own challenges, we do believe that our planned, comprehensive approach to migration – with a diverse array of regular pathways for temporary and permanent migration, well-managed borders, and integration programming – has

created the conditions for newcomers to make real and positive contributions to our country.

Migrants help to build our economy. They also increase our cultural diversity, make philanthropic and social contributions to our societies and help us to build ties with other nations.

But without comprehensive, planned national migration systems, it is difficult to harness these benefits, or even to demonstrate them to the public.

Canada sees a comprehensive, planned approach to migration not only as an effective response to the challenges that migration can bring, but also as an opportunity for all nations.

In our experience, we have also found that the engagement of all levels of government, cities, educational and other

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public institutions, the private sector, community organizations and individuals is essential in a well-managed migration system.

As we prepare for Marrakesh and for the work that needs to be done beyond the end of this year, these partnerships will remain key to making the Compact commitments tangible and to identifying innovative initiatives for the way forward.

I look forward to continuing this conversation in Marrakesh in December.

Thank you.