

**Remarks by Mónica Ramírez for the High-Level Side Conversation on Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, September 26, 2018  
United Nations, New York, NY**

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Dolores is a migrant woman who fled her country after years of suffering gender-based violence by her husband and who would later experience sexual harassment and abuses in her new destination country. Marisol was given the opportunity to migrate on a temporary work visa that promised good pay and work conditions, only to find herself a victim of human trafficking without the option of visa portability to a different employer in the country where she was working. Edith migrated with a student visa intent to pursue the American dream. Fortunately, she became a successful entrepreneur with a very different migration experience than her counterparts because of her education and socioeconomic strata.

Each of these stories reflect some of the factors that drive migration globally – safety, opportunity and prosperity. Their stories echo the experiences of some of the 258 million migrants worldwide, just less than half of which are women. And, their stories drive home so clearly why the *UN Global Compact for Safe, Regular, and Orderly Migration* is necessary.

I offer my deepest gratitude to the UN Secretary General, President of the General Assembly, Foreign Minister of Morocco, the UN Special Representative for International Migration, and the event co-sponsors for inviting me to be part of this critical conversation.

This historic, intergovernmental compact provides a road map for safe and orderly migration. It promotes the importance of increasing investment and strengthening infrastructure in countries of origin to help people stay in their communities, as well as a framework for the treatment of both temporary migrants and those who resettle permanently.

Migrants like Dolores, Marisol and Edith offer so much to the cultural and social fabric of the nations where they have migrated, not to mention their significant contributions to those economies. Without shared goals and norms, there will continue to be a disparity in the treatment of migrants. Individuals will be at risk of violence, human trafficking, and exploitation, including the estimated 50 million migrant children who are vulnerable to abuse. Additionally, countries will be deprived of the positive contributions that these individuals have the potential to make.

I applaud the creation this robust Compact. But, we all know that for this Compact to have its intended effect, each UN Member State must do the hard work to create laws and conditions that are safe and equitable for everyone who enters its borders. We must all work together to foster a climate that welcomes migrants and celebrates the ways that they make our world better.

People have always and will always move across borders. May you, our world leaders, show courage, vision, discernment and leadership as you work to fulfill and build on the vision you have set out in this compact. We urge you to avoid penalizing irregular migrants who leave their native lands due to circumstances beyond their control and work with each other to create an orderly process by which to receive and integrate migrants. May promoting adherence to the laws of your nations be balanced with a promise to honor and protect the human rights and human dignity of all migrants.

Our society will be much stronger when we truly embrace the fact that we are one world. May we never forget this and always treat our neighbors, including the worlds' migrants, with care and due consideration that, ultimately, is to the benefit of all.