

World Leaders Adopt First-Ever Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration in Marrakech, Outlining Framework to better manage international migration

Marrakech, 11 December 2018—The Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration concluded today following the adoption of the Global Compact.

“The Global Compact expresses our collective commitment to improving cooperation on international migration,” world leaders declared, acknowledging that migration affects countries, communities, migrants and their families in different and sometimes unpredictable ways.

Member States came together in Marrakech to embrace the Compact that represents the first-ever global framework aimed at fostering greater international cooperation to better address the complex situation facing the world’s 258 million migrants — 3.4 per cent of its population.

The Special Representative for International Migration, Louise Arbour, in her role as Secretary General of the Conference, emphasized that “the overwhelming support of the international community for this Compact is also the expression of multilateralism at its best.”

“Governments committed to a global migration framework based on facts not myths, a framework that protects their national interests and in fact advances them through better cooperation”, she added.

The Compact is not legally binding. Its guiding principles reaffirm States’ sovereign rights to determine their national migration policies and to govern migration within their jurisdictions. As migration experiences and challenges vary across the world, the Global Compact is a flexible instrument that can meet the needs of every country and stimulate joint cooperation at all levels.

The broad participation of many stakeholders has insured that the Compact is people-centered and responsive to the lives of migrants, their home and host countries alike. Prior to the conference over 60 events were organized by civil society, the UN system, Member States and other partners focusing on how best to build on the progress represented by the Migration Compact.

During the conference the UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched a new UN Network on Migration to best position the United Nations to support Member States as they implement the Compact. The Network will actively engage with external partners, including migrants, civil society, the private sector and others.

The Marrakech Conference was hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco. It was the largest ever meeting of UN Member States on international migration, attended by over 2500 participants and some 800 journalists. Now that the Compact has been adopted by the conference, the document will be presented to the UN General Assembly in New York for its endorsement at the end of next week.