



**Republic of Macedonia**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador Viktor Dimovski,**

**State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia**

**Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

**Marrakesh, 10-11 December 2018**

**Mr. President,**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me start by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this historic event at the beautiful city of Marrakesh.

We have gathered here to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which is an outcome of the intergovernmental negotiation process in New York following the endorsement of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. The Declaration paved the way for a member-states driven process to develop a comprehensive framework to manage migration in an orderly, humane and sustainable manner for the first time.

The Compact is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a series of other human rights instruments. It is also rooted in the SDGs and other relevant commitments by states and follows up on a series of global and regional discussions on the issue of migration. It provides a politically binding cooperative framework recognizing that migrants are entitled to universal human rights and freedoms that must be respected, but is also reaffirms the sovereign right of states to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdictions, in conformity with international law.

In 2015 at the peak of the migration crisis in Europe, when Macedonia provided assistance to over 800.000 migrants and refugees along the so-called Balkan route, it became obvious that no country on its own may manage the mass chaotic migration flow and that the international cooperation, including the countries of origin, transit and destination, is a must. We believe that the Compact is to serve as a tool to strengthen the global governance of migration through enhanced cooperation and a range of actionable commitments and instruments for their implementation. We also believe that only joint approach and shared responsibility among various stockholders, as foreseen in the Compact, may address the current global challenges by transforming the massive and chaotic influx of people into safe, orderly and regular migration. It will benefit national security interests, on one hand, and the human life, on the other hand, by protecting the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants.

The Republic of Macedonia fully endorses the set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles, as well as the 23 objectives we set to achieve.

As a predominantly transit country, we believe that strong border control is an essential instrument to combat and reduce irregular migration, fight smuggling and human trafficking and tackle issues relating to transnational organized crime, terrorism and illicit trade, phenomena which remain a legitimate concern for member states. In parallel we must focus on the humanitarian aspects of the most vulnerable among the people on the move – woman and minors, victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence; ensuring safety and dignity of migrants as well as protection of their human rights and fundamental freedom.

Let me conclude by expressing our appreciation for the role of the IOM in the process of consultations and drafting of the Global Compact and by underlining that regional organizations including MARRI (Migration Asylum Refugees Regional Initiative), with the seat in the Republic of Macedonia, and the ICMPD (International Center for Migration Policy Development), which we chair next year, may contribute to the implementation of a number of Compact objectives.

Thank you for the attention.