



**THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MS. SHEILA CAREY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR  
SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

**MARRAKESH, MOROCCO**

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**Check against delivery**

Mr. Secretary-General, Madam President, Special Representative for the Secretary-General for Migration, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my sincere pleasure to address you at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Allow me to also take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco for its warm and gracious welcome and hospitality, and, to the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland for their expertise during the Compact's negotiation. While this occasion marks the culmination of over two years of intense consultation and debate, the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration symbolises not the end, but the beginning of the work ahead to ensure that human mobility is dignified and productive. With its people-centred approach, it is appropriate that the Compact was adopted on the same day that we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. President,

The phenomenon of large movements of migrants has reached unprecedented levels of complexities, challenges and opportunities. The Bahamas welcomes efforts to universally and effectively regularise the large movement of migrants, and, is pleased to note its prioritisation within the international community. The Bahamas recognises the incredible contributions made by global migration. It is a well-established fact that regular migration yields considerable benefits to both sending and receiving countries. Such benefits include: economic development, professional innovation, cultural exposure, diversity and the promotion of state-to-state and diasporic cooperation.

The situation of migration in The Bahamas is an exceptional one, which highlights the nuanced intricacies of mass migration and its management. The Bahamas, as a predominantly transit and receiving country, continues to represent an unusual model for migratory movement and its impacts. As a porous, archipelagic nation situated in close proximity to both source and destination countries, The Bahamas continues to experience large mixed migration from within and outside of the region. While The Bahamas appreciates the value added by the contributions of documented migrants, we are still challenged by the enormous influx of undocumented migrants, many of whom are seeking economic opportunities; oftentimes such migrants, initially in transit, make The Bahamas their destination country. It is against this backdrop that I reiterate the support of my country to the Global Compact, which, in our view, serves to complement

and advance pre-existing efforts to strengthen and promote safe, orderly and regular migration and ensure that no person is "left behind".

Mr. President,

For The Bahamas, the Global Compact represents a significant opportunity to galvanise bilateral and multilateral cooperation on international migration. Appreciating the non-legally binding nature of the Compact, and asserting the sovereign rights of all countries to determine their migration policies and management, based on their respective national needs and priorities, The Bahamas considers the objectives of the Compact as a catalogue of tools that Governments can select to best fulfil their commitment to safe, orderly and regular migration. Moreover, The Bahamas recognises the important nexus between migration, human rights and sustainable development, and, that efforts toward safe, orderly and regular migration necessarily contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights and Agenda 2030.

As Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas is acutely aware of its inherent challenges as they relate to migration – our island chain remains extremely vulnerable to natural, economic and anthropogenic external shocks, events which often impact migration flows and States' capacities to respond to such flows. We also note that there are some elements of the Compact that are not compatible with our national context, and acknowledge that may be the case for other States. This reality, however, does not limit our engagement or responsibility to the advancement of safe, orderly and regular migration. The adoption of the Compact, therefore, represents a tangible foundation upon which we can collectively, along with our regional and international partners, strengthen migration governance.

Looking to the future, The Bahamas wishes to underscore that the Compact's implementation relies on meaningful and intersecting efforts at grassroot, national, regional and international levels. In this regard, The Bahamas places particular emphasis on the value of the United Nations capacity building mechanism, as a means to enhance capacities and multi-stakeholder cooperation, including through comprehensive data collection to inform evidence-based responses. The Bahamas lends its support to, *inter alia*, the integral roles of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Secretary-General's network on migration.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I wish to reaffirm The Bahamas' commitment to the vision and purpose of the Global Compact on Migration. The Bahamas remains proud of its active engagement with its international counterparts and other partners in this process and will seize the momentum of the Compact's adoption to join others in its effective implementation to make "migration work for all".