

Education International Statement

Presented by Dr Dennis Sinyolo, Senior Coordinator, Education International at the UN Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018

Excellences, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends,

Education International, the global union federation of teachers and other education workers, welcomes the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration. We however regret the decision taken by some UN member states to opt out of this historic agreement. Multilateralism has to be the cornerstone for cooperation in a globalized world, and for migration, which is by nature a cross-border phenomenon and requires such cooperation and solidarity. The Global Compact offers a much-needed opportunity for Member States to work with the UN and stakeholders, trade unions and civil society organizations, to tackle the pressing challenges related to international migration.

Now more than ever before, the international community must come together to deal with the scourge of xenophobia and racism, and to make our societies, workplaces, schools and, and indeed all institutions and services truly inclusive and welcoming to migrants and refugees. After role, there is no race but the human race; not your country and our country, but our planet collectively.

The Global Compact provides an opportunity for the UN and governments to **address the root causes of migration and displacement**. The UN, its agencies and governments need to prevent and tackle conflict head on; to combat climate change and its devastating consequences on the environment and human life; and to deal with economic imbalances within and across countries and regions. Ensuring political stability and improving socio-economic conditions in source countries will make migration an option rather a necessity for millions of people on the move. Of course, we should always remember that people have the freedom to move and the right to migrate, but shouldn't be forced to do so by circumstances beyond their control.

Host and transit countries should ensure migrants' access to quality public services, in particular, their access to quality public education regardless of their migration status. We should make our education systems, schools and all education institutions more inclusive, sensitive and responsive to the needs of migrant children and youth. Governments need to ensure that the curriculum and learning materials reflect the ever increasing diversity of the student population, and are developed with the full involvement of educators and their unions. Governments should ensure recognition of the qualifications of migrant and refugee teachers, migrant workers, and indeed those of all migrants.

Ladies and gentlemen, the greatest proportion of migration is employment related. The ultimate measure of the success of the Global Compact will be whether it makes a real difference in the lives of migrant workers on the ground by ensuring their right to freedom of association, to form and join trade unions, to social protection and to engage in genuine social dialogue, including collective bargaining. Through their unions and communities, migrant workers will continue to organize and mobilize to use the Global Compact as a vehicle to promote decent work, economic and social justice.

In conclusion, I would to stress that migration is not a crisis. It is the governance of migration or lack of it that has become a crisis. The Global Compact will not succeed unless governments, the UN and all partners demonstrate clear political will and commitment to make it a reality. This will require immediate and concrete action by governments, the UN and all of us to implement its provisions and those of existing UN and ILO Migrant Conventions and other international norms and instruments. Migrants and refugees deserve better, they deserve action and deserve it now. With political will and commitment, it can be done. Let's do it!

I thank you,