

GHANA

**STATEMENT**

**FOR USE AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT  
THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION**

**MARRAKECH, MORROCCO  
10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Ghana joins other speakers in thanking the Government of Morocco and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (OSRSG) for collaborating to host this historic Conference to formally adopt the Global Compact for Migration, as agreed by the Member States of the United Nations on the 13th of July, 2018.

We also wish to thank Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his active support and to all Member States for their hard work in developing the agreed text of the Global Compact which will be adopted in this Conference after eighteen (18) months of negotiations.

Ghana shares the view that migration is a multi-faceted phenomenon involving humanitarian, human rights, and demographic issues. It has deep economic, environmental and political implications and forms part of the way the world develops, interacts and interconnects.

In recent times we have seen unusual migration flows that need to be handled and addressed multilaterally. Unregulated migration has created false and negative perceptions of migrants that feed into a narrative of xenophobia, intolerance and racism.

The global compact to be adopted today by Member States is, therefore, a welcoming development since it is a landmark agreement which will help ensure that migrants everywhere in the world have their rights safeguarded and are treated fairly. This compact sets clear objectives to make migration safe, orderly and regular; addresses the concerns of signatory governments and reinforces national sovereignty; it also recognizes the vulnerabilities faced by migrants.

Ghana welcomes the measures introduced by the Secretary-General to make migration work for all. These measures recognize the contribution of civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, National human Rights Institutions, the international Red cross and Red Crescent, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders. The establishment of the UN Network on migration to ensure

effective and coherent system-wide support for implementation, including a capacity-building mechanism, as well as follow-up and review of the Global Compact, in response to the needs of Member States is well-placed.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

Africa negotiated as a group based on the Common African Position (CAP) leading to the development of the agreed text of the global compact. We are pleased with proposals that were taken on board in the final text of the GCM. Among the proposals taken on board were:

- objective 23 on international cooperation; a specific sub-objective on disaster and climate induced migration;
- clear distinction in the text between migrants and refugees;
- emphasis on the importance of providing safe and legal migration pathways; and
- commitment to address socio-economic root causes and driving factors, including through international cooperation;

The positive contribution of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development, the recognition of their skills, the promotion of knowledge and skills transfer, diasporas mapping as a means to maintain the link with their countries of origin and the differentiation between remittances and the Official Development Assistance (ODA), were all integrated in the text as advocated by the Africa Group.

Ghana, however, would have wished that particular concerns raised could have been taken on board and included in the compact to ensure a complete and holistic approach to the issues of migrants. These include the call for absolute prohibition of "migration holding camps and shelters" and "disembarkation platforms", "processing centers" or other similar *de facto* migrant detention centers, as they may lead to serious violations and abuses to the human rights of migrants. Again, the need to uphold the immediate and absolute end to child detention, did not receive the attention it deserved, in view of the fact that it is in clear contravention with the

principle of the best interest of the child and States' obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Even though the Compact does not address all the concerns raised by Africa and the other regional groups, we understand that the process is a multilateral one, where compromise is instrumental and necessary towards building a stronger global architecture on migration governance. We encourage all stakeholders to continue to pursue and promote their priorities and concerns at the bilateral, regional and international for a, including through the processes dedicated to the implementation, follow up and review of the compact.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Beyond the adoption of the Compact, we now need to focus our energies on its implementation. At the national level, the Government of Ghana has taken a keen interest in migration management which subsequently led to the launch of a National Migration Policy (NMP) and an implementation plan in 2016, to help manage its internal, intra-regional and international migration flows for poverty reduction and sustained national development. The major policy objective is to promote and protect the interests, rights, security and welfare of citizens and migrants within and outside Ghana. The NMP had been formulated against the backdrop of several policy frameworks, including the 1992 Constitution of Ghana .The document is anchored within the context of the 2006 African Union Strategic Framework for Migration and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration.

With the adoption of this global Compact, I wish to assure you of the unflinching commitment of the Government of Ghana to align its policies, including its national migration policy to the Compact and work in collaboration with Member States to ensure its implementation. We, therefore, urge all Member States to do same in order to ensure the full realization of the aims of the Compact.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Moving forward, Ghana welcomes the establishment of a robust follow-up and review mechanism as well as the senior experts meeting, scheduled for every two years, to evaluate the implementation of the GCM. Additionally, the establishment of an implementation matrix, for voluntary use, in order to assist countries to implement the GCM, including at regional and international levels is well placed.

There is the need to strengthen international cooperation for the implementation of all commitments of the GCM. It is also important for Member States to build effective partnerships, governed by mutual accountability towards the implementation of the Compact. Priority should be given to efforts aimed at finalizing the modalities of the Review Forum, as well as on the expeditious and effective operationalization of the capacity building mechanism.

Ghana supports the view that the Compact is an all-encompassing one, which will better manage international migration, address its challenges, strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development. Its implementation will go a long way to bring safety, order and economic progress for the benefit of all stakeholders, including the countries of origin and countries of destination of the migrants. In the light of the above benefits and many more to be derived from the Compact, the adoption of this agreement should not be the end of our undertaking, but rather the beginning of a new historic effort to shape the global agenda on migration for decades to come.

**In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,**

We wish to call for political will and commitment by leaders at the national level as well as support from the international community to see through the obligations we have enshrined in this Compact. Member States are also encouraged to develop as soon as practicable, ambitious national responses for the Compact's implementation, and to conduct regular and inclusive reviews for the overall attainment of the goals of the Compact for the benefit of all migrants, wherever they are in the world.

I thank you for your attention