

**Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran
in the Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Safe,
Orderly and Regular Migration
10-11 December 2018**

**Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the organizers of the conference and facilitators. We hope the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration could help most to properly find ways and means for addressing migration-related issues in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner. Migration is a global phenomenon full of mixed opportunities and challenges. The international community needs to work collectively in order to turn challenges into opportunities to the extent possible.

It has been said that migration can be a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world and that the GCM could enhance the positive impact of cross-border migration for all through effective management and international cooperation. The validity of these notions depends on taking the various and unequal capacities of Member States into account as well as the implementation of the compact by all members of the international community in good faith. In such a context, rejection of the compact by certain developed countries is quite eye-opening and means more and more pressure for certain developing countries which are already overburdened by different migratory flows. Let's not forget that the impact of migrants on their host countries is a function of the specific circumstances such as level of development and demographic situation of any given host country. We should also keep it mind that majority of developed countries have been well equipped with normative tools and natural and man-made barriers to shield themselves from negative impacts of migration and to tailor migratory flows in a way to maintain or even enhance their level of development.

Addressing drivers and root causes of migration and paying special attention to the nexus between migration and development in the implementation phase is vital. Migration in the process of implementation of the global compact should be seen from this perspective and facilitated in a way to reduce inequalities among Member States. The tendency of migration as a precursor for the brain drain for some countries and the brain gain for the others should be rectified and reversed. Migration should be transformed from a means to escape poverty for some to an instrument to eliminate poverty for all. We have to keep in mind that SDGs target

10.7 “to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration” is indeed a part of the goal 10 which aims to “reduce inequality within and among countries”. This is why the message of SDG10 should be at the heart of the global compact for migration in order to work for all.

The Islamic Republic of Iran while highlighting the non-legally binding nature of the Compact reiterates that it only sees the GCM as a voluntary vehicle to enhance cooperation among States in the management of migration flows without creating new legal obligations other than those to which it has already subscribed. Iran like any other sovereign State, decides about its migration policies taking into account its national legislations and priorities as well as economic and social circumstances.

Finally the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country which has been facing large mixed migratory flows with huge economic and social impacts for several decades reiterates that managing international migration in a way to reduce inequality within and among countries requires the most inclusive and a whole-of-the-globe approach. Only such an approach will pave the way for a fair division of shared responsibilities of all States vis-à-vis the migration flows. We hope the GCM will go in that direction during its implementation. This is the only way the international community can guarantee a sustainable solution to manage international migration while reducing inequality within and among countries.

I thank you for your attention.