

OSCE SECRETARIAT STATEMENT

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

MARRAKECH, 10-11 DECEMBER 2018

Mr. President,

Special Representative
~~Mme Arbour,~~

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for organizing this conference and their kind hospitality and 'kind' hospitality.
Never before has international migration been so high on the global agenda. As the largest regional security arrangement under Chapter 8 of the UN Charter, the OSCE, ~~which today I represent~~, cannot but look at the adoption of the Global Compact as an historic moment. Today in Marrakech, States are taking a very significant step forward in addressing one of the main inconsistencies of globalization: people move in large numbers in an increasingly interconnected world, yet the governance of the complex and multifaceted phenomenon of migration is only now coming into being.

, ON MIGRATION.

The adoption of the Compact represents both a far-reaching achievement and a starting point. The road ahead to bridge differences that persist in the way the phenomenon of migration is experienced and perceived across the

world will be ~~very~~ long. On the one hand, connectivity, demography, insecurity and instability will continue to shape an international environment that will push people to move. Socioeconomic factors and increasing insecurity will remain key drivers of human mobility. Yet, no areas of the world nor all segments of society will be equally impacted. These discrepancies are already manifest and will continue to generate divisions and tensions if not urgently addressed.

Recent large-scale migratory movements have engendered pressures at the local, regional and national levels that authorities and communities have found increasingly difficult to appropriately respond to. In some cases, public debates are being driven to extremes, dangerously and inexcusably bringing xenophobia back into the mainstream. The way migration is depicted will carry political consequences for generations to come. It is therefore our responsibility to ensure a peaceful and interconnected planet that will be that much culturally richer as people migrate, exchange and integrate.

Against this backdrop, the OSCE aims to be an inclusive, broad-based regional platform in which the migration-security nexus is constructively addressed, and where the connections between regular and irregular migration can be better understood and tackled. To do so, the OSCE offers its seminal concept of “comprehensive security” spanning human, economic-environmental, as well as politico-military aspects. For the OSCE, any serious discussion of security-related challenges of migration should ideally start with ensuring the protection of human rights of people on the move and addressing the human security of migrants.

The migration-security nexus is also void if people on the move are not protected by crimes that can be committed against them, during their travel or at destination. That is why one key area of our work focuses on combating cross-border crime, with a focus on fighting the trafficking in persons along migration routes.

Another key area is successful integration, a concept we operationalize across our three dimensions of security. Indeed, the OSCE is uniquely placed to complement ongoing efforts of the international community in its region to ensure that the protection of human rights of migrants is not sacrificed on the altar of security, while ensuring that migration's positive and necessary benefits are not undermined by ill-conceived and ill-implemented migration policies.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

~~As a representative of a regional organization, allow me to underline that in order to become a living reality,~~ New global commitments on migrants will need to be implemented by individual States, but also, and increasingly so, operationalized at the regional and interregional levels. While the Compact acknowledges the relevance of the regional dimension in migration policy-making, the post-Marrakech agenda of regional and interregional cooperation remains largely to be written.

In this context, the OSCE will strive to be one such regional forum in which the governance of migration will be constructively addressed ⁱⁿ months and years to come. We will continue to work in the areas in which we have migration-related mandates and we will look at ways to strengthen our long-standing partnerships with the IOM, the ILO, the UNHCR, and other agencies and entities. Building on this role, the OSCE is eager to ^{act} ~~play a~~ ~~constructive role~~, as a bridge builder across neighbouring regions and continents to make migration an opportunity for peace, prosperity and economic integration.

Thank you for your attention.