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Statement

by

**His Excellency Mr. Rimbink Pato, OBE, MP,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister
of Papua New Guinea**

to the

**United Nations Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) on
the
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
(GCM)**

10 December 2018, Marrakesh, Morocco

"Check against delivery"

His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, President of the Conference on Compact for Migration, Your Excellencies, Madam President of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Secretary-General and distinguished participants.

Firstly, on behalf of my Prime Minister the Honourable Peter O'Neill, the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, I would like to offer our sincere appreciation and congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed the Sixth of the Kingdom of Morocco as host and Mr. President of this Conference, for your generous hospitality provided to my delegation. Your facilitation of this landmark Conference has being excellent, and I commend you for it.

It is clear, Mr President, that this Conference will be a resounding success under your leadership.

Let me also pay special tribute to the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his Special Representative for International Migration, Madame Louise Arbour, and Mexico and Switzerland, as Co-Facilitators of the Inter-Governmental Conference process, for a job well done.

Your consistent leadership and important contributions have brought us here together, to forge and further strengthen a multilateral framework through the Global Compact for Migration.

Mr. President,

The high-level and broad-based participation at this Conference reflects both the historic and symbolic value of this Session. It also sends a clear and strong signal to the world on the vote of confidence in the Global Compact for Migration.

Indeed, this is the fruit of our collective teamwork under the banner of multilateralism, worthy of commendation.

Mr. President,

The Global Compact for Migration not only marks a watershed moment for humanity on the issue of international migration but also lays a bedrock that has the potential to address international migration like never before, for the benefit of humanity.

The Compact represents not only the global community's shared aspirations to stem the tide of irregular migration, but fosters strengthened regular migration because of the diversity of important areas of concern.

It is a viable pathway for international cooperation on an important issue that is trans-boundary in nature.

Mr. President, Papua New Guinea is pleased to join the consensus adoption of the Global Compact for Migration. We are committed to play our part in accordance with our national laws and policies and our international legal obligations.

We recognise that there are certain areas identified in the Compact such as providing all refugee and migrant children with education in transit and in destination countries-- which would require us to find innovative ways to address, we require good partnership as we do have already with the Government of Australia on a refugee processing centre.

The Compact is a tool we see that has the potential to harness efforts to enhance human rights protection and promotion, support sustainable development and consolidate peace, stability and security globally.

Mr. President, we are pleased that the Compact clearly is legally non-binding on all countries and therefore national implementation of its content is voluntary and a matter for individual countries to decide.

The clear recognition in the Compact of the importance of the application of the rule of law as regards international migration is also important and we also support it.

As a country that is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, which have pressing consequences on our people's lives and livelihoods, we strongly support the coverage in the Compact on the nexus between migration and climate change, and the importance of mitigation and adaptation requirements of impacts of Climate Change.

Mr. President,

As a developing country constrained by limited resources capacity, adequately servicing our national laws and policies and international legal obligations—particularly international migration issues, remains an ongoing challenge.

This is evidenced by our recent and ongoing experience with the Refugee processing facility on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island.

It is for this reason that we are pleased with the inclusion in the Compact the leveraging of humanitarian and development assistance to impacted countries as well as the recognition of the important work of the International Organization for Migration.

Such targeted support for capacity building of national institutions managing immigration functions are and would be welcomed by my country.

In closing, Mr. President, we note with interest the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be repurposed and renamed, which a platform for the review and follow-up of the Compact's implementation.

Finally, going forward towards the first review of the Compact in 2022, the onus is now on all of us to collectively breathe life into the Compact and to sustain it for mutual benefit.

I reiterate Mr President that Papua New Guinea is committed to and endorses the Compact Instrument.

I thank you, Mr. President.