

Singapore

**National Statement at the Intergovernmental Conference on the Global
Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,
10 – 11 December, Marrakech, Morocco**

Thank you Madam Secretary-General.

Since the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, the international community has been engaged in an extensive process of preparatory discussions and negotiations leading towards the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Although Member States have very different views on the issues of international migration, we have listened to each other with mutual respect and recognised the importance of working towards a fair and balanced GCM text that contains pragmatic recommendations.

It is in keeping with this spirit of international cooperation, multilateralism and the UN Charter that Singapore has participated actively and constructively throughout the intergovernmental negotiations of the GCM.

For Singapore, migration is an existential issue. When migration is well-managed, migrants can play an integral role in contributing to our economy and the diversity of our social fabric. Despite our small geographical size, Singapore has kept our borders open to safe, orderly and regular migration by adopting a pragmatic and balanced approach. In Singapore's case, our balanced approach of emphasising the use of regular and legal channels, while penalising and combating the use of irregular channels, has allowed us to manage migration in a way that promotes the interests of migrants and society at large. We affirm the rights of migrants to travel safely through legal pathways, without being exploited by traffickers and smugglers. Our immigration laws and processes emphasise the use of regular and legal channels, while combating the use of irregular and illegal channels.

Madam Secretary-General,

The global phenomenon of migration has grown over the years in scale, complexity and impact. We recognise that no country can address migration alone and all Member States have a responsibility, whether as countries of origin, transit or destination, to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular.

As the international community, through the GCM, seeks to address the underlying issues affecting the safe, orderly and regular movement of people, we need to recognise and take into account the different national contexts, realities, capacities, and levels of development of Member States, and respect their national policies and priorities.

Singapore would like to place on record our understanding as follows: The GCM is a non-legally binding cooperative framework that respects the sovereign right of each State to manage migration within its jurisdiction in accordance with its domestic laws, policies and circumstances including determining the conditions in which migrants may enter, reside and take up employment in their respective territory, and in accordance with international law, including applicable human rights obligations; States also have the discretion to consider implementing the operating principles and policy options listed under the objectives of the Global Compact.

Looking ahead, it is important that States continue to cooperate closely to address the various dimensions of migration – from its root causes, to combatting trafficking, and promoting safe and legal migration pathways.

Thank you.