

## **UK Statement**

### **The Rt Hon Alastair Burt MP, Minister of State for International Development**

- Let me start by extending my thanks to the Secretary General's Special Representative for International Migration, and to the Government of Morocco for hosting this important conference.
- I would also like to thank the two co-facilitators, His Excellency Jurg Lauber and His Excellency Juan Jose Gomez Camacho for their dedication and hard work over the last two years in facilitating this important agreement, which brings us all together today.
- Safe, orderly and regular migration is in everyone's interests. It can bring great prosperity for countries of origin and destination as well as for migrants themselves. But irregular migration erodes public confidence, damages economies, and places people on the move in situations of great vulnerability.
- The UK Government is committed to tackling irregular migration and to ensuring that we have a national and global approach to migration that works for everyone.
- We are a major contributor to the international effort to address the drivers of irregular migration, and improve the management of migration.
- To date, we have committed £2.71 billion in response to the Syria Crisis, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. In addition to our contribution to EU instruments, the UK spends over £900m in bilateral migration programming.
- Our three-year £75m Safety, Support and Solutions Phase II programme (£33m in 2018/19), providing life-saving humanitarian relief

to migrants travelling along the route from West Africa to North Africa via the Sahel, and voluntary return and reintegration support.

- This Compact is a real step forward for the international community. It is the first time that member states have agreed to cooperate on migration at this scale. No State can address the challenges presented by migration on its own. International, regional and bilateral cooperation are crucial.
- The Global Compact for Migration is not legally binding. It will support international cooperation on migration without affecting the sovereignty of all countries to manage their own borders and to implement migration policies which respond to their national context.
- We have made real progress. A few years ago, we would never have had this many countries in a room discussing such important issues. It's in our interest to keep this dialogue going as we move into the implementation phase.
- We are pleased to see that the Migration Compact contains important commitments and actions which will help us tackle people smuggling, human trafficking, and Modern Slavery.
- The Call to Action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, which now been endorsed by over 80 countries, will provide a framework to achieve these objectives.
- In addition today, I am pleased to announce that we the UK will provide 1.88 million GBP across 5 countries in North Africa for the North Africa Cooperation on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Project (NACSAT).
- Migrant smuggling and human trafficking are transnational crimes that cannot be tackled by one country alone. This project will build collaboration and cooperation between judiciary officials to engage in

international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of migrant smuggling and human trafficking cases.

- It will also promote and strengthen regional cooperation amongst the five participating countries as international cooperation in criminal matters is the only way to effectively dismantle transnational criminal networks and to prevent the establishment of safe havens in the region.
- As we move into the implementation phase, the UK will also have a particular focus on supporting the international community to embed the use and collection of data within migration programming, improve the management of migration, and work to deliver on the development potential of economic migration.
- We know that additional efforts are required by the international community if we are to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. **The UK supports the Global Compact** as a means to help us deliver the commitments we have all signed up to under these global Goals.
- Thank you.