

**Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
Intergovernmental Conference  
UNHCR Statement  
Marrakech, 11 December 2018**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We arrive in Marrakech for this Intergovernmental Conference with a sense of accomplishment for the adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration - a first ever framework of cooperation on international migration. UNHCR would like to extend congratulations to the President of the General Assembly, the Co-Facilitators of the drafting process and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration for their effective stewardship of the process.

We take note, with some trepidation, of the deeply divided political climate in which the discourse on human mobility is conducted. The language used to discuss migration has become ruthless, giving license to discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Migrants and refugees are frequently, and without justification, branded as threats to security, dehumanized and considered undeserving of dignity.

Multilateralism is and remains the most effective tool to address these complex issues.

UNHCR considers the migration compact to be both principled and actionable; respectful of state sovereignty; a catalyst for collective action; a reflection of current migration dynamics with a forward looking objective of identifying those areas where more evidence and thought is needed. The compact has resulted in the creation of the UN Network on Migration, of which UNHCR is part. We anticipate a significant and positive role for the Network in strengthening coordination of UN capacity in support of Member States implementation of the compact.

Next week, the General Assembly will consider its annual resolution on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - the UNHCR omnibus resolution. This year is significant as its adoption will herald in the Global Compact on Refugees. The refugee compact offers an approach for securing more predictable and sustained support for countries hosting refugees.

Together both compacts mark a watershed moment in fulfilling the objective of the New York Declaration of more effectively and equitably addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.