

**Intergovernmental Conference to adopt  
the Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
10 – 11 December, Marrakech, Morocco**

**UNODC Statement**

**Plenary**

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this historic occasion, UNODC would like to commend the co-facilitators as well as Madame Arbour and her Office for the outstanding work over many months to arrive at this point.

UNODC welcomes the Compact which is particularly relevant to the work that we do every day to support Member States in global, regional and national efforts in more than 150 countries around the world.

In particular, we welcome the inclusion of objectives 9 and 10 on strengthening the transnational response to smuggling of migrants, as well as on preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. These objectives reinforce the existing international legal framework, referencing the UN Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols as relevant, actionable instruments. These Protocols have almost universal acceptance today with 147 and 173 states parties respectively, yet there remains a need to fully implement the contained obligations and rights.

In this respect, UNODC welcomes the decision in October of the UNTOC Conference of the Parties to establish a mechanism for reviewing implementation of these Protocols and their parent Convention. The review mechanism will reinforce criminal justice responses and cooperation, spurred by the Compact, as well as help identify assistance needs.

Objective 10 includes a commitment to take into consideration relevant recommendations of the UNODC Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons and other relevant UNODC documents when developing and implementing national and regional policies and measures relating to trafficking in persons. We therefore encourage you to consult our wide variety of practical legal and policy tools, all available on the UNODC website, including the recent UNODC

*Thematic Paper on Trafficking in Conflict Situations*, produced in consultation with a range of UN and civil society partners.

We welcome increasing attention to the intersections between sexual violence in conflict and human trafficking and note the recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Nadia Murad, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking as a well-deserved recognition of Ms. Murad's bravery in the fight against such practices.

Finally, this is an agreement about cooperation. Cooperation between states, but also between the UN family and our partners as we position ourselves to best assist implementation of the Compact. UNODC is therefore pleased to be part of the Executive Committee of the UN Migration Network that will facilitate UN assistance to states in implementing the Compact commitments, as well as permanent Coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, the UN's main inter-agency mechanism for responding to trafficking in persons, composed of 23 agencies.

In noting the political will, the framework and the partnerships are in place to build on the commitments made in the Compact, our Office stands ready to engage with all actors to take up this historic opportunity – which we collectively cannot afford to miss.