

**Preparatory process of the High-level plenary meeting of the  
General Assembly to address large movements of refugees  
and migrants**

Informal consultation

Thursday, July 14th 2016, New York

---

Madame/Mister co-facilitators:

I have the honor of making this statement on behalf of 17 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and my own country, Brazil.

We thank the co-facilitators for convening this meeting. In order to move forward with the negotiations, our group of countries has agreed to make a series of proposals to the Rev1 of the outcome document.

First, as was pointed out by many delegations in the previous rounds of consultations, we are still concerned with the negative narrative of refugees and migrants contained throughout the text, which runs counter to the very purpose of the High Level meeting. Although we acknowledge the progress between the zero draft and the rev1 in this regard, we would like to make the following suggestion:

- In paragraph 1.6, to delete the sentence “Their capacities have been stretched to a breaking point, threatening their own social and economic cohesion as well as their development and security”.

While we acknowledge the difficulties faced by States that receive large movements, it is our view that the outcome document needs to emphasize the need to promote support to host countries so that they can have the necessary capacities. Furthermore, it concerns us that a link could be established between large movements of refugees and migrants and threat to security.

Secondly, as we have stated in previous occasion, we would like to state unequivocally that criminalization of irregular migration, securitization of human movements and discrimination are tendencies that run counter to the international cooperation we need

on this subject. We would like to request the inclusion of specific language on this matter, as follows: “We will move away from policies that criminalize irregular movement and from practices of detention for the assessment of legal status”.

Third, we see a correlation between the imposition of restrictive admission policies and the rise of xenophobic and discriminatory rhetoric. We propose specific language on a commitment of Member States on opening legal pathways and channels of admission, both for refugees and migrants, as part of our collective effort to counter xenophobia.

Fourth, we would like to request the retention of paragraph 3 (iii) of the zero draft, which was not captured in the new version but contained important elements for the commitment of refugees and migrants jointly. The paragraph reads as follows: “We agree to ensure that the treatment of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants is at all times humane and dignified; that all persons in the these categories are protected from physical or psychological harm and abuse; and that their human rights are fully respected in accordance with international law.

Madame and Mister co-facilitators:

With regards the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, our group of countries would like to see a clear framework and timeline that will lead to the adoption of the Global Compact in 2018 reflected in the outcome document.

On the framework, we propose to include language stating that the Global Compact on Migration will cover the following 4 pillars: i) promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrants; ii) economic development, such as costs of remittances and contributions to the countries of origin and destination; iii) social development, including social inclusion of migrants in host societies; and iv) international cooperation and strengthening of global governance for migration.

In relation to the timeline, we propose that the next High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development be held prior to the proposed intergovernmental conference that would adopt the Global Compact, and contribute to its preparatory process."

Co-facilitators,

Our countries wish to thank you once again for your commendable efforts. We reiterate our full disposition to continue engaging constructively in the negotiations.

Thank you very much.