

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**Final round of negotiations: Closing statement**

H.E. Mr Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly,
Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General,
Ms Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary General,
Distinguished co-facilitators,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Nelson Mandela once said: "*After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.*"

Many of us at this moment might feel the same way. After almost two years of discussions, thematic sessions, the stocktaking conference in Puerto Vallarta and negotiations we reached the top of a great hill and we realize: **This is not the end of our journey.** There are other challenges ahead of us; *many more hills to climb.*

However, this is a significant moment that we can be **proud** of. An occasion for us to pause for a moment and look back on **how far we have already come** and what we have **achieved.**

We set off to make **migration safe, orderly and regular.** Not because we think that migration is something that needs to be stopped but because we truly believe that the **positive impact of migration** can only be harnessed if migration is **well managed** and if irregular migration is reduced.

The final text of the GCM contains many commitments and actions that will help us to **improve the situation for migrants and all people in countries of origin, transit and destination.** It will help us to strengthen **international cooperation** on addressing the drivers of irregular migration, on protecting human rights of migrants and those migrants in situations of vulnerability, on fighting trafficking in human beings and on dismantling the business model of smugglers, on facilitating return and reintegration and on many other aspects.

We all know that the text is **not perfect**. My group still has important issues and concerns that are not covered by the text. And obviously, it is now up to all our political leaders to approve the outcome document.

However, we also recognize that **all of us came a long way, and made significant compromises**, in order to achieve what the co-facilitators presented as the final outcome – an outcome that in our view truly reflects a 360 degree view on migration and is forward looking and action-oriented.

What is more: We firmly uphold the **principle of multilateralism** and believe that the opportunities and challenges of migration are best addressed if we **address them together**.

Let me close by expressing my group's **sincere appreciation** for the personalities that helped us climbing this first great hill: First and foremost the co-facilitators Ambassador Gómez Camacho and Ambassador Lauber with their teams. But also the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, the Secretary General's Special Representative Ms Louise Arbour, and the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr Miroslav Lajčák. We also thank the UN agencies, especially IOM, as well as the GFMD, civil society, the private sector and many other relevant stakeholders for their valuable input to the process. And last but not least, we thank all delegations for the excellent atmosphere throughout the negotiations and for sharing your national experiences.

We are looking forward to continuing this enriching exchange at the **intergovernmental conference in Marrakesh** and we thank the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting us.