**Closing Statement by like-minded countries**

**Third Round of Negotiations**

**Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

6 April 2018

Thank you, Co-facilitators,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Uruguay and my own delegation, Brazil.

Once again, we must express our gratitude and appreciation for the work done by you, your team and the Office of the SRSG. Helping us to navigate through the important and sensitive issues of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is certainly not an easy task. We have confidence that your guidance will lead us to a positive outcome, and you can always count on our full support in this regard.

We would like to recall that the GCM should be considered and understood as a comprehensive tool, geared towards action and implementation, and thus would encourage us all to address it within a 360 degree perspective.

Dear Co-facilitators,

Our like-minded group is an informal coalition, comprised of countries from different regions, each with their own national priorities and circumstances. Therefore, our experiences regarding migration are not necessarily the same. Nonetheless, we are united by our support to this process and by our ambition in reaching an agreement that can have a practical and meaningful impact on the lives of all migrants and their families. We are open to work with all delegations in order for that to happen and, considering the views expressed during this third round of negotiations, we truly think that our aspirations are, to a great extent, shared by many others in this room.

For instance, we believe that this process has at its foundations the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, and that we cannot go below the aspirations and standards that we set therein. Therefore, we agree with the proposal to reaffirm this Declaration in the text, instead of simply recalling it.

We also believe that the GCM should be firmly based on international human rights law and that this, as many groups and delegations have expressed, should be reflected consistently throughout the text. In the same vein, we agree with the African Group and with the 27 countries of the European Union that we should reaffirm that States have the obligation to respect the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status. We also agree that the GCM should address the needs of those migrants in vulnerable situations, with a people-centered, child-sensitive and gender-responsive approach.

We agree with the African Group and with others that we should strive to further build a positive narrative about international migration, where “Migration works for all”. We believe that the GCM can contribute to this purpose, using language that acknowledges the contribution of migrants to our societies and the direct link between migration and development, as already stated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while also recognizing that we must work together to address the challenges regarding migration in order to harness its full potential and benefits for all communities throughout the migration cycle.

In addition, we strongly believe that States should develop policies in order for all migrants to be able to access basic services necessary for the exercise of their human rights, since, for instance, the promotion of good health and well-being, inclusive and quality education and access to justice for all, which are an integral and essential part of the goals that all Member States have agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are of the view that detention of migrants based on their migration status should always be a measure of last resort and for the shortest amount of time, applied in full conformity with international human rights law. At the same time, the GCM will be instrumental in addressing the importance of alternatives to detention, that are in line with the best interest of the child, as provided for in the UN Convention on the rights of the Child. In line with many others, we call for the prohibition of collective expulsions, as we understand that such acts fail to comply with international obligations, especially in what concerns the due process of law.

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We believe that, for a successful implementation, the commitments set in the GCM should be action oriented and clear as to what is expected of States, international and regional organizations in this regard.

Finally, we would like to affirm that all our countries recognize that sovereignty is an inalienable prerogative of all States and that it must be exercised in compliance with international law.

Dear Co-facilitators,

Our delegations reaffirm their commitment to constructively engage in this process, while stressing that we will strive to maintain, at all stages, the high standards and the good practices that we have developed in our countries concerning international and intraregional migration. We are certain that, together, we can ensure that all persons and States can benefit from the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

I thank you.