**Fourth informal thematic session of the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration**

**New York, 25 July 2017**

**Intervention of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

While there is increased recognition about the essential contributions that migrants make to societies and economies in countries of origin, transit and destination, it is important to underline that migrants cannot be seen merely as commodities or instruments for the development of others. They cannot continue to be marginalized, disempowered, excluded or left behind.

In the context of globalization, migration brings both development opportunities and challenges. We must recognize that human rights are at the core of development, and that if we truly wish to unlock the development potential of migration we must ensure promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status. This endeavour must be at the heart of the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration.

While many migrants are able to move, live and work in safety and dignity, others do so in precarious discriminatory and marginalized conditions, often unable to benefit from development.

Many are compelled to move as a result of poverty, lack of decent work, and environmental degradation. In the absence of sufficient regular migration opportunities, migrants are forced to resort to irregular migration channels which place them at risk during transit and upon arrival in countries of destination.

Many migrants and particularly those who are in an irregular situation as well as those who work in precarious sectors, encounter human rights violations, including lack of social protection, discrimination and xenophobia. In addition, they often face legal and practical barriers to access essential services, such as health and education.

It is evident that no society can develop to its true potential when legal, social or political barriers prevent entire sectors of that society, such as migrants, from contributing to it.

Migration should be included in national and sub-national development strategies and plans, such as poverty reductions strategies and National Adaptation Programmes of Action and migrants, including those in an irregular situation, should be included in national strategies and plans of action on health, education, housing, employment and other issues.

Further attention is required to the precarious employment and hazardous working conditions in which migrants earned the money they send through remittances, often putting their dignity and lives at risk. Remittances are private money, and efforts should be made to ensure that migrants are able to make informed choices about the use of remittances and remittances-linked services.

And finally, we urgently require more and better disaggregated data on the situation of migrants, in order to measure and monitor their development progress.

(414 words)