

34th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights of migrants in the context of large movements

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In its [resolution 32/14](#) entitled “Protection of the human rights of migrants: strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants including in large movements”, which was adopted on 1 July 2016, the Human Rights Council recalled its mandate *inter alia*, to promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind, and to serve as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights, and to promote the effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system.

Deeply concerned at the large and growing number of migrants, including women and children, who have lost their lives or have been injured in attempting to cross international borders, and recognizing the obligation of States to protect and respect the human rights of those migrants, regardless of their immigration status, the Human Rights Council decided in paragraph 13 of the aforementioned resolution to hold an enhanced interactive dialogue on the theme “The human rights of migrants in the context of large movements” at its thirty-fourth session, with the participation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant stakeholders, including the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization or other members of the Global Migration Group (GMG).

Selected outcomes

- A range of speakers engaged in the enhanced interactive dialogue, exchanging views, challenges and best practices *vis-à-vis* the protection and promotion of human rights of migrants. The discussion took place in the framework of the follow-up to the *United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants* held in September 2016 with the purpose of considering how best to respond to the growing global phenomenon of large and precarious movements of migrants and refugees. The vast majority of speakers made reference to the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (General Assembly resolution 71/1) adopted by Member States during the *UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants*, which was seen as evidence of the commitment of UN Member States to the protection and promotion of the human rights of all migrants, irrespective of their status and stage of their migrant journey. Notably, the *New York Declaration* paved the way to a *Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration*, to be negotiated in 2018 as well as a separate *Global Compact on Refugees*.
- Most of the States expressed their willingness to engage in the upcoming processes of the *Global Compact on Migration* and the need to ensure that the human rights of all migrants are mainstreamed throughout the procedures, by promoting a comprehensive and holistic approach to migration policies. In this respect, some speakers welcomed the first preparatory thematic session on “*Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism xenophobia and intolerance*”, which was held in Geneva in May 2017.

- The majority of the speakers recognised the existence of numerous human rights violations against migrants, including the denial of access to rights, such as the right to health and the right to education, as well as the implementation of policies with a punitive nature, such as prolonged immigration detention, push-backs and border closures.
- Participants strongly rejected all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and racism against migrants and expressed their concern over the alarming rise of such attitudes and actions towards migrants. They further noted the need to focus on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. Priority should be given to women and children.
- Many speakers welcomed the OHCHR's "Principles and guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations", as a useful toolkit in this regard. Some speakers also referred to the OHCHR's "Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders".
- The necessity for effective international cooperation among countries of origin, transit, destination and other relevant stakeholders, including the civil society, as well as the need to reaffirm the concept of international shared responsibility was highlighted by a number of speakers. Participants also called the adoption of human rights-based approaches to migration.

Summary of the discussion

Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, opened the discussion by referring to the importance of the New York Declaration, as well as to the Member States' acknowledgment of a shared responsibility towards the protection of human rights of migrants. Member States committed to craft a *Global Compact on Migration* that would enshrine a number of principles and commitments on international migration. Ms. Hicks acknowledged that the main challenge in going ahead is to translate the aspirational promises of the New York Declaration into a solid plan of action. This can be promoted by adopting human rights based approach in the overall process of the Global Compact, *inter alia*, by giving migrants the opportunity to participate in the procedures, by respecting the principle of non-discrimination and by safeguarding human rights throughout the migration cycle. Ms. Hicks further recognised that despite the existence of an international legal framework for the protection of migrants' human rights, there is still an essential gap *vis-à-vis* the rights of migrants in vulnerable situations. For this reason she invited Member States to rely on the "Principles and practical guidance on human rights protection of migrants in a vulnerable situation" in order to enhance the protection of people in such situations. She concluded by emphasising that the international community has an unprecedented chance to cooperate towards the creation of a Global Compact that respects, protects and fulfils the human rights of all migrants.

H.E. Mr. Jorge Lomónaco, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva, initiated his speech by pointing out that we often hear statements related to States' sovereign right to protect their borders. These assertions are regularly followed by harsh measures, often in disregard of the rule of law and international obligations, and without taking into consideration that this is about humans and their fundamental rights. He also identified that the large movement of people will carry on and likely increase worldwide, as a consequence of violent conflicts, poverty, inequalities or climate change. He

further highlighted that migrants can be perceived as a threat towards national security and face discrimination and are subject to all sorts of abuse. Mr. Lomónaco referred to the findings of the Special Rapporteur on migration that State's responses to the so-called "migration crisis" have generated, and stereotypes of migrants which are taken advantage of by national populist movements. Mr. Lomónaco stated that the course towards a Global Compact on migration, gives the HRC the chance to advance principles and commitments for a human rights based approach, as well as to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this vein, Member-States will be called upon to participate in this process through a number of informal thematic sessions, such as the one that will be held in Geneva in May on "*Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism xenophobia and intolerance*". He underlined that Mexico has worked towards this direction, by implementing international provisions that recognise migrants' rights. Mr. Lomónaco concluded that we ought to raise our voice when migrants are used as scapegoats, and urged the stakeholders to change the narrative focussing on the benefits of migration and underlying that it is a natural consequence of history, beneficial for people.

Mr. William Lay Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, analysed current challenges posed by migration and presented different approaches to deal with them. He welcomed the discussion as being timely *vis-à-vis* the number of migrants who died last year, the on-going negative public discourse and the growing smuggling market. He then called upon the audience to consider three issues. Firstly, he recalled that every of the 224 million international migrants is a holder of human rights and pointed out that at least half of them are women, often with children. Secondly, he stressed the need to strengthen the sense of shared responsibility in the international community although this is its main obligation in the face of the heightened vulnerability of migrants. He claimed that a lack of cooperation impedes the implementation of various treaties and agreements that are already in place and would be applicable in the context of migration. Thirdly, he stated that there are many practical ways to promote migrants' rights and that the priority must be to save lives. He further stressed the need for more legal avenues that would allow people to move freely. In this vein, he urged the stakeholders to decriminalize irregular migration, to end detention of migrant children and to take up effort to prosecute smugglers. He concluded his speech by pointing out four challenges that he thinks need to be tackled to prevent failure: demographic changes, disasters and armed conflict, the toxic political discourse about migrants and the need to embrace diversity as something beneficial to all societies. Lastly, he pointed out that enforcing the rights of migrants does not pose a threat to nations' rights to sovereignty but rather safeguards the rule of law.

Ms. Manuela Tomei, Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Division, International Labour Organization, recognised the lack of decent work as one of the major root causes of migration. According to the ILO's estimations out of 150 million migrant workers, 44% are women. Ms. Tomei recalled that ever since its inception, the ILO seeks to protect all workers, including those working abroad, and promotes international cooperation regarding large movements of people. In that context, she highlighted the adoption of the first migrant workers convention, Convention No. 97, 20 years later. Ms. Tomei underlined that human rights and decent work are cross-cutting for the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as for the realisation of commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that calls for the protection of labour rights of all migrant workers. She said that it is important that the Global Compact seeks to reinforce these standards. She further welcomed the GMG "Principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situation". Ms. Tomei concluded by emphasizing that the Global Compact can make a difference by supporting the ILO's "General

principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment”, one of the most critical areas in relation to migrant workers’ rights.

Ms. Carol Batchelor, Director, Division of International Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, recognised that while large movements of people are not new phenomena, we are now witnessing unprecedented levels of complex population movements that bring new challenges that need responses. Within these migratory movements human rights violations have been amplified. By referring to IOM’s missing migrants’ project, she indicated that in 2016 over 7500 refugees and migrants died or went missing in transit. She went on to underline that irrespective of their migration status, the human rights of all persons on the move must be protected. She further welcomed the opportunity to engage in a discussion regarding the human rights of migrants, with a view to informing the Global Compact on migration, and achieving significant improvements in migrants’ lives. As such, international cooperation can only be beneficial to international protection system. Ms. Batchelor expressed UNHCR’s pleasure to be contributing towards the development of draft GMG principles and guidelines on the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situation, co-chaired by OHCHR and UN Women. She stated that UNHCR is also closely working with IOM, in order to contribute to the informal sessions in preparation for the Global Compact through the Global Migration Group. She ended her speech by pointing out that the focus must be to protect the human rights of all people.

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, noted that over the past several years there have been a growing number of children and adolescents on the move. She expressed her concern that children’s choice to leave their country has turned out to be an “escape strategy” from political instability, violence and exploitation, rather than a positive sign of young’s people search for new and promising opportunities. She stressed that they face violence too often, especially those who travel unaccompanied or separated from their families, Ms. Santos Pais identified that due to the hardships that children can face in their country of origin, they feel ready to embark on perilous journeys and confront serious risks, such as the risk of deprivation of liberty. She highlighted that children in such situations are experiencing physical, as well as psychological problems. Ms. Santos Pais called upon the need to transform the continuum of violence that shapes their life into a continuum of protection of children’s rights. She concluded by welcoming the draft GMG Principles and Guidelines and expressing her confidence that the meeting will help strengthen children’s protection.

Ms. Marie Claude Landry, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Human Rights Commission, opened her speech by highlighting the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in promoting and protecting international human rights standards. She stated that they are well-placed in a number of ways to support process development and the implementation of a Global Compact. Even though she welcomed Canada’s approach on migration over the past few years, Ms. Claude Landry shared a story of a young mother and her daughter in order to illustrate the gaps and challenges that persist even in a country like Canada. Both of them were imprisoned for almost a year in a Canadian prison, purely because of issues relates to their identities; Ms Claude Laundry wondered whether this was reasonable. She concluded by calling upon states to create a Global Compact that will make it feasible for all migrants to pursue fully a life with dignity and without any form of discrimination.

Ms. Monami Maulik, International Coordinator, Global Coalition on Migration, recognised that migrants today, including those in the context of large movement, are facing a human rights crisis at all stages of their journey. Due to inadequate access to regular and safe channels they are forced to attempt perilous journeys, where they risk exploitation and violence. She further mentioned that States’ measures, such as push-backs,

border closures and detention, have a punitive nature and disregard human rights. Yet she observed that there is no evidence that those policies prevent people from attempting as well as succeeding in irregular entry. She also identified that migrants can experience human rights challenges without being “on the move” since they often face criminalisation solely because of their irregular status in addition to an increasing xenophobia in rhetoric and policies. Thus, she emphasized, firewalls are essential for migrants’ human rights, as they keep immigration enforcement authorities separate from law enforcement and public provision. She argued, however, that effective firewalls are far too rare. Ms. Maulik pointed out that it is central to acknowledge that migrants are right holders at every point in their journey. She further welcomed the migrant-centered perspective in the GMG Principles & Guidelines for the protection of human rights of migrants in vulnerable situation. She argued that it is important that the Global Compact process elevates genuine migrant participation, and enables migrant-led organisations to participate in a sustained and meaningful way in order to translate the commitments of the New York Declaration into solid actions. Ms. Maulik identified that, in 2017, her organisation has two objectives. Firstly, broadening the conversation to the Global Compact itself and secondly, enhancing the capacity of migrant organisations to effectively contribute to the compact process. She concluded by stressing the importance to achieve migrant rights-respecting Global Compact that includes civil society and migrant-led organisations.

In the ensuing **enhanced interactive dialogue**, State representatives, Member States, United Nations entities, human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations delivered statements.

The **European Union** endorsed the enhanced interactive dialogue on human rights of migrants in the context of large movements, underlying that human rights should be mainstreamed throughout the Global Compact as a whole, by promoting a comprehensive and holistic approach to migration policies. It was also welcomed the first preparatory thematic session on “*Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism xenophobia and intolerance*”, to be held in Geneva in May 2017. EU expressed its willingness to continue working in a close partnership with IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, WHO, ILO and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that all international standards and obligations are respected.

El Salvador speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), stressed that migration flows in the CELAC region require a coherent, coordinated and co-responsible approach, with full respect for human rights. CELAC condemned any form of discrimination and xenophobia, and called on States to agree upon policies to counter such acts. Finally, CELAC urged States to ensure full respect of migrants’ human rights.

Speaking on behalf of the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), **Pakistan** highlighted the increase of xenophobia and discrimination on the basis of religion, creed and race towards migrants. It was noted that respect for humanity and protection of human rights is a universal principle that needs to be adhered at all costs. OIC further welcomed the OHCHR’s view point that drivers for “non-voluntary” precarious movements are multiple, often intertwined, and should be addressed on an individual basis.

Tunisia delivered the position of the African Group, welcoming the OHCHR’s report that migrants deserve particular attention to the respect, protection and fulfilment of their rights, as well as that the rights of migrants to life, freedom of movement, education, work physical and mental health and adequate standard of living need to be acknowledged. The African Group went on to underline that States should respect both

the principles of international refugee law and the human rights principle of non-discrimination, regardless of migration status.

Brazil noted that is currently discussing the implementation of a new migration bill, which has as an objective to ensure the respect for the human rights of migrants, promote social inclusion and integration and facilitate safe, regular and orderly migration flows into the country. Brazil stressed that negotiations for the adoption of a *Global Compact* should be guided by the need to protect and promote the human rights of all migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations.

Sierra Leone stated that many migrants who flee in search of better economic opportunities are becoming victims of traffickers that put the lives of these victims, including unaccompanied children, at great risk. Sierra Leone inquired as to why the international community does not give more attention to identify and prosecute the organised gangs of traffickers.

Canada stressed that it supports the commitments within the *New York Declaration*, including protecting the human rights of all migrants, without discrimination. Canada suggested that international community needs to recognise more fully the gendered dimensions of international migration, with specific policies to protect the rights of women and girls. It was also suggested the need for development of sustainable strategies that respond to the realities of an incredibly mobile world. Canada concluded by expressing its confidence that the HRC and the OHCHR will play a vital role in the first thematic session in May 2017.

United Nations Children's Fund stressed that according to its recent Uprooted Report approximately 50 million children are on the move. Under the Convention of the Rights of the Child, children in a country have the same rights, including access to services, as children from the country. UNICEF is actively working with Member States and civil society, through advocacy, technical and programme support, to avoid lost education, reduce toxic stress, end violence, immigration detention and family separation so that children in the context of migration can fulfil their full potential.

Greece acknowledged that migration is a global responsibility that calls for global answers. It was stressed that the current challenges in the context of large movements can only be met on the basis of international shared responsibility and solidarity, and it was inquired the manner that such a concept can be promoted.

United Kingdom firstly welcomed the *New York Declaration* and then noted that the *Global Compact* needs to put human rights in its core ensuring that all migrants, irrespective of their status, are treated with dignity and respect towards their rights. This can take place by guaranteeing that human rights instruments are fully implemented.

Germany initiated its intervention by highlighting the need for a comprehensive and holistic governance approach in migration; an approach with a clear commitment to the human rights of all migrants. Particular attention must be given to the most vulnerable groups, including people with special needs, children and those facing any form of discrimination. Germany concluded by referring to the benefits of migration to the international community.

The **Russian Federation** noted that a special focus should be placed on migrant workers. In Russia migrant workers have been given access to free medical care and other basic rights.

Council of Europe (CoE) expressed its support to the *New York Declaration* that constitutes a significant milestone which encouraged solidarity and reaffirmed obligations to protect the human rights of all

migrants. The CoE is preparing a new Action Plan for the protection of migrant and refugee children, with a social focus on unaccompanied children. It concluded by expressing its concern over the increased xenophobia, racism, populism and nationalism in Europe.

Switzerland characterised the *Global Compact* as a unique opportunity to agree on the agenda for international cooperation in relation to migration matters. Human rights must be at the centre of our thinking. Switzerland welcomed the reports produced by the OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Peter Sutherland. Switzerland concluded by inquiring as to how we can ensure interaction between the *Global Compact on Migration* and the *Global Compact on Refugees*.

Belgium pointed out that countries of origin, transit and destination have shared responsibilities in protecting and respecting human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status. Belgium further communicated its support to the work that is currently being undertaken in the aftermath of the *New York Declaration* and stressed that the OHCHR, relevant special procedure mandate holders, as well as other relevant stakeholders should be fully involved and consulted in the process. Belgium concluded by expressing its concern regarding vulnerable groups of migrants, including women and children, and underlying that National Action Plan in Belgium effectively address gender-based violence, as well as human trafficking.

Australia noted that is a nation built on migration, and the human rights of migrants and temporary entrants are protected under robust domestic law and international human rights treaties to which the country is a party. Finally, Australia inquired as to how to improve public support for migration internationally.

Cuba stressed that migration related problems can only be tackled, only if the causes of unsafe migration are combated. This requires the substantial modification of the unjust economic order, as well as international cooperation through a genuine dialogue. The protection of human rights should not be impaired.

The **Netherlands** expressed the opinion that the international community should intensify its efforts on the protection of the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations. Moreover, the Netherlands characterised the GMG/OHCHR “Principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations”, as a useful tool, on the basis of existing legal norms, to assist states to address challenges *vis-à-vis* migrants’ human rights.

El Salvador welcomed the outcome of the *New York Declaration*, and stressed that States should respect their international human rights obligations towards migrants, especially when it comes to the rights of children.

Venezuela welcomed the “Principles and Guidelines” of the GMG/OHCHR for the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, and urged the international community to adopt a human rights-based approach to migration, by not criminalising migrants in policy or in practice.

China noted that countries should address the root causes of migration, in order to properly deal with the problems of migrants, and they should also take a more active role in migration governance. Smuggling and trafficking should be equally addressed and combated.

Egypt underlined that migration is a positive phenomenon that has to be regulated, while respecting the freedom of movement. Egypt also condemned the violation of human rights of migrants put in detention centres. Finally, it was addressed the need for technical cooperation in order to combat trafficking.

Italy recognised the historic level of displacement, thousands of deaths in transit and current asylum crisis, which have combined with rising xenophobia and inadequate policy-making. It was noted that the protection and inclusion of all migrants in vulnerable situations requires improved coordination within and across governments to align humanitarian, migration and sustainable urban development agendas. Shared responsibility will be a key principle for the *Global Compact*.

Algeria endorsed the “Principles and Guidelines” of the GMG/OHCHR for the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and stressed that it is necessary to combat negative narratives and stereotypes regarding migration. Algeria is a country of origin, transit and destination, which offers to migrants’ access to basic rights, such as to education and healthcare.

Vietnam noted that safeguarding human rights in the context of migration requires a multifaceted approach, including a large number of national, regional and international actors. Special reference was made to its national policies regarding migrant workers, and its consideration to ratify the Convention on the rights of migrant workers. Finally, Vietnam called on States to promote the welfare and protect the fundamental rights of migrant workers.

Libya stressed the need for a stable political environment. It was further underlined that the human rights of all migrants must be respected, however a concern was expressed that the country is unable to cope with the huge flows of migration.

Pakistan recognised the series of human rights violations that occur within the context of large movements of people and called on the international community to honour its commitment to the *New York* declaration, by developing a *Global Compact* with concrete recommendations and tangible outcomes.

South Africa stated that all governments must show political will and commitments to the two outcomes adopted in the *New York Declaration*. South Africa further called on the international community to undertake special measures to assist the developing countries that are hosting large number of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

The **Philippines** called on States to ensure that border procedures are consistent with international human rights and humanitarian laws, by pointing out that OHCHR’s “*Recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders*” would be a helpful toolkit in this regard. Moreover, the Philippines stressed that States and other stakeholders should ensure that safety, dignity and human rights will remain to be the foundation of the *Global Compact*.

Thailand focused on its domestic migration policies stressing that all registered migrants have access to healthcare and migrants’ children are eligible for basic education, regardless of their status.

The **United States** welcomed the OHCHR’s participation in the course of developing a *Global Compact* on safe, orderly, and regular migration. The United States after referring to its efforts to promote the human rights of migrants, inquired as to what advice the panellists would have for member states on identifying the protection and assistance needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.

The **Kyrgyz Republic** focused on its national legislation, which does not restrict the access of labour migrants and their families to basic rights, such as the right to health, education, social protection and other services. Nevertheless, it was recognised that there is still a large number of irregular migrant workers that are vulnerable due to their irregular status.

Turkey expressed the view for a human rights-based approach on migration and stressed that discrimination in any form should be prevented with all the available legal means. In relation to migrant workers Turkey noted that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers constitutes an adequate and comprehensive framework.

Bulgaria pointed out that the protection of migrants' human rights is a multi-dimensional issue and it requires the coordinated actions by the countries of origin, transit and destination throughout the entire migration cycle. It was highlighted that all human rights-related aspects should be fully incorporated in the *Global Compact*.

Sudan called for a continued focus on migration and a comprehensive dialogue in order States to gain a better understanding of how to better protect the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia welcomed the GMG *"Principles and guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situation"*. FYROM also expressed the hope that the *Global Compact* will meaningfully contribute to assist States to better comply with existing legal obligations.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross** urged States to translate the commitments of the *New York Declaration* into reality and join forces to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable migrants. It went on to point out that the right to States to regulate migration is not absolute; hence their policies should be in line with international law. States must also respect the principle of non-refoulement, they should facilitate the process of getting information about missing people to their families, and they should improve their services in relation to the identification of migrants who died along the way. Finally, the ICRC took a position against immigration detention, especially when children are concerned.

Hungary stressed that is committed to protecting the human rights of migrants and welcomed the GMG/OHCHR *"Principles and guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations"*.

Honduras was another country welcoming the *"Principles and Guidelines"* of the OHCHR for the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. It was noted that States should always respect the principle of non-refoulement, and detention of children should come to an end, as children's rights must always prevail.

Luxembourg recognised that international obligations are not fully respected, and there is a lack of proactive measures to tackle problems related to violations of migrants' human rights. International cooperation is vital and it should be based on the principle of non-discrimination and non-refoulement. Luxembourg further encouraged the OHCHR and the Human Rights Council to continue having a positive impact on the protection of the human rights of all migrants.

Portugal highlighted that the current anti-immigrant rhetoric portrays economic migrants or climate refugees as the villains and not the victims. It was also stated that the *Global Compacts* must be human rights based. Finally, Portugal welcomed the recent statement of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the duties of States towards Refugees and Migrants.

Malta noted that its immediate priority remains to make sure that all those rescued at sea are brought to safety, where their asylum claim can be processed justly and in line with the Universal Declaration of human Rights and other relevant legal instruments.

Azerbaijan underlined that common values of tolerance, mutual understanding and multiculturalism are the only way to further increase the promotion of migrants' human rights.

Senegal expressed its concern for the increasing number of migrants who have lost their lives, and advocate for long-term solutions that are not to be found in a world full of conflicts. Senegal noted that problems such as extreme poverty, unemployment and lack of education, require long-term migration policies, supported by developed countries.

Colombia expressed the view that migration should be everyone's responsibility and welcomed the United Nations' campaign against xenophobia and discrimination.

Indonesia initiated its intervention by welcoming the OHCHR's work on the principles and practical guidance. Furthermore, Indonesia expressed the view that migrant workers are often as vulnerable as refugees and asylum seekers; hence, an enhanced protection for them is needed.

Nepal emphasised that most migrant workers coming from poorer parts of the world and engaged in low skill or unskilled areas, where vulnerability is higher. This situation if not addressed properly leads to human rights violations, discrimination and exploitation of such people. Thus, coherent and comprehensive responses of international community are essential to make the phenomenon of migration safe.

Costa Rica welcomed the OHCHR's principles and guidelines on migrants in vulnerable situations and stressed that the priority should be on children. A child should not be punished for the migration status of its parents and its rights must be protected.

Albania pointed out that it highly appreciated the OHCHR's commitment and continuing contribution to develop principles and practical guidance in relation to migrants in vulnerable situation. Albania further stated that duty bearers must respect the human rights and the principle of non-discrimination.

Ghana noted that in April 2016 launched the Ghana National Migration Policy that aims to, *inter alia*, promote the benefits of migration. Ghana called on also States to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants in conformity with the *New York Declaration*.

Bangladesh expressed its appreciation towards the OHCHR's "*Principles and Practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations*", highlighting its belief that they can contribute to the on-going process of formulating the *Global Compact*. It was also stressed that any discussion of the contribution of international migrants to development should include human rights considerations.

Morocco referred to its national migration policies, underlying that in the last years more than 18.000 migrants have been regularised in the country. These strategies are based on respect for the human rights of migrants.

Ecuador expressed its support to the universal citizenship and mobility, and highlighted that there are no illegal human beings. Migration is a global trend that is beneficial and irreversible.

Argentina stressed that migration governance must adopt a multi-faceted approach, promoting inclusion of health. Argentina expressed its hope that the next interactive dialogue will take place with the participation of the World Health Organisation.

Tunisia stressed that States need to respect the principles and guidelines of refugee law, as well as of international human rights law. It was pointed out that the international community should take a comprehensive approach that takes into account security, humanitarian and development aspects. Migration should be a voluntary and informed option. Finally, the Tunisia encouraged the HRC to engage in migration dialogue more than ever before.

Angola called on the international community to support, with all means necessary, the host countries to deal with challenges arise from large migration flows.

The **International Commission of Jurists** endorsed the “*Principles and Guidelines*”, included in the OHCHR’s report and conference room paper. It welcomed the clear affirmation of the essential role of judges and lawyers in protecting the human rights of migrants. The ICJ noted that is developing a set of principles and recommendations focused on the role of judges and lawyers regarding large movements of people.

Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Genero, stressed that there will be no solution in relation to the human rights violation of migrants, unless we examine migration policies that have been adopted by States, and prioritise measures of prosecution of irregular migration; such measure constitute one of the structural causes for the vulnerability of all migrants.

Save the Children called on Human Rights Council to show leadership in addressing human rights violations against migrants and standing up for the human rights of marginalised groups and those who assist them. The OHCHR, the HRC, Special Procedures and Human Rights Treaty Bodies will have a vital role to play in ensuring that the *Global Compact* is human rights-based, and consistent with international human rights standards. Children’s rights are not optional, and cannot be taken away from them when they cross borders, regardless their status.

VIDES International, encouraged States to work towards more accessible and inclusive educational polices for migrant youth over eighteen, and to show a greater commitment to ensure the protection and development of migrant youth, enabling them to live their lives with dignity.

The **International Catholic Migration Commission** (ICMC) expressed its concerns regarding the forced returns of migrants to countries where they face gross violations of their human rights. The ICMC stressed the *Global Compact*, should guarantee respect and implementation of rights already defined, give full attention to the most vulnerable, engage all stakeholders, and set clear goals on a graduated timeline.

The **Association for the Prevention of Torture** and the **International Detention Coalition** noted that the *Global Compact* should include voices of migrants, civil society, and the particular expertise of the OHCHR, the relevant treaty bodies, special procedures, as well as National Human Rights Institutions and National Preventive Mechanisms. They also expressed their deep concern about the current climate of xenophobia and the rising criminalisation and detention of migrants. Detention must be an exceptional measure of last resort, and States should invest in human rights compliant alternatives.

In a final intervention from the panel, **Ms. Peggy Hicks**, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, underscored the need to address the root causes of migration, and establish synergies with the 2030 Agenda in relation to Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Hicks pointed out that no migrant should be left behind, and in order to achieve this international community should take up systematic violations of human rights. Finally, she stressed the need to bring in evidence and data that address the positive contributions of migration within our society.

H.E. Mr. Jorge Lomónaco, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva, in his concluding remarks, emphasised that it is unacceptable to blame migrants for all kinds of problems, and to create an atmosphere of fear, and worse, to profit from human suffering. Mr. Lomónaco concluded by highlighting that fundamental human rights and principles are non-negotiable and the Global Compact give to the international community the chance to move from words into actions regarding their effective protection.

Mr. William Lay Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, expressed the view that in many ways the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue qualifies as the first consultation towards the Global Compact, as its contribution can be used in the future negotiations. Finally, he described this process as a historic moment and the beginning of long term cooperation.

Ms. Manuela Tomei, Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Division, International Labour Organization, expressed the view that the best way to protect migrants is to provide them with decent jobs and income. She also pointed out the importance to strengthen partnerships, *inter alia* with businesses and trade unions in order to provide all migrants with greater protection. She concluded by stressing the significance to address the gender dimension within the migration context, as often women migrant workers are not equally protected at national level.

Ms. Carol Batchelor, Director, Division of International Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, reiterated the particular vulnerabilities that migrant women and children are facing during their migration journey. Finally, Ms Batchelor expressed the need for collaboration and interaction between the two Global Compacts.

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, stressed that all the relevant stakeholders need to act with a deep sense of urgency. Children are still placed behind bars and at the same time are facing the risk of trafficking. The best interest of the child is not just a principle, it has to mean everything.

Ms. Marie Claude Landry, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Human Rights Commission, in her final intervention highlighted the need to improve public support for all migrants and to focus on migrant children; national human rights institutions can assist towards that direction. Finally, she called on all the states to respect human rights.

Ms. Monami Maulik, International Coordinator, Global Coalition on Migration, reiterated the importance to translate words into concrete actions, by *inter alia* focusing on immigration detention, returns, trafficking and smuggling. She concluded by emphasizing that a deeper understanding of regional and national migration will be key to finding actionable solutions during the processes of the Global Compact.