



**MEXICO'S REMARKS ON HIGH-LEVEL LAUNCH:
SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT
FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

New York, 1 December, 2020

Excellencies, dear colleagues:

Mexico is proud to join in welcoming the launch of the Secretary-General's report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

We welcome the report, but especially welcome the growing realization that only cooperation can effectively address a multidimensional reality like migration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has of course been a challenge for migrants. In the case of Mexico, we have worked to repatriate over 15 thousand Mexican nationals from overseas. This has highlighted the value of consular cooperation in times of crisis, as outlined in the GCM.

We hear often about the vulnerabilities of migrants in the pandemic. But migrant workers have also been on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. They are heroes. In OECD countries, 24% of doctors are migrants. 15% of nurses are migrants. Here in New York, anyone that has ordered delivery from your favorite restaurant has directly benefitted from the hard work of migrants.

Mexico has also worked with civil society and other partners to ensure that irregular migrants in Mexico are provided with alternatives to detention, thus reducing overcrowding and facilitating the physical distancing requirements imposed by the pandemic.

I am also pleased to share that the Mexican Senate has recently approved reforms to our migration law, to bring it further in line with the GCM. This includes explicit considerations for the best interests of the child and expanding protections beyond unaccompanied minors.

For Mexico, the pandemic has also highlighted the importance of cheaper, faster and more reliable transfers of remittances. Mexican migrant workers have actually increased their remittance flows to families thanks to the use of technology to keep transfer costs low.

Looking forward, major challenges are on the horizon. Because of the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, it is entirely likely that we will see a rise in migration globally. Initiatives such as



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the Comprehensive Development Plan, signed with Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, become especially relevant in addressing the adverse drivers of migration.

What underlies the multilateral commitment on this issue is our shared goal, established in the 2030 Agenda: migration should be safe, orderly, and regular. The GCM is a roadmap that tells us how.

Harnessing the human capital of 272 million people around the world will require the UN Network on Migration to continue to strengthen its work. The Resident Coordinator system should enable all governments to easily access international best practices, as well as financing through the Migration Trust Fund.

Mexico has been a champion of multilateral engagement on migration in the past, and we will continue to be so. In the face of challenges —whether they be xenophobia and discrimination, or cruel and inhumane family separation—multilateral dialogue and understanding will always be in our collective self-interest.

Thank you.