



**United Nations
Network on Migration**

Working Better Together

DRAFT

Coordinator's Closing Remarks

**Briefing on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:
Report of the Secretary-General**

Wednesday, 16 February 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST
General Assembly Hall, UNHQ

Word count: 640; approximately 5 minutes

Check against delivery

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Secretary-General,

Executive Director Russell,

Ms. Zanuso,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to close today's discussion.

As Network Coordinator, let me first express appreciation to those Network entities, stakeholder partners and Member States who provided much robust information for the report.

Allow me also to thank the President of the General Assembly, not only for hosting today's briefing, but for his commitment to the success of the IMRF under his leadership.

And, if I may, to commend the Secretary-General on his continued leadership on migration and multilateralism.

These past three years have seen progress in implementing the Global Compact, despite quite staggering complications arising from the pandemic. However, this progress should not blind us to the work that remains to be done – and to the setbacks we have faced – in strengthening our pursuit of safe, orderly and regular migration, and protecting the most vulnerable.

The recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General – on inclusivity; on safe and regular migration; on saving lives; and on building capacity – provide important proposals on how we might address outstanding deficits in the field of migration.

As we head into the Forum and as, in the coming period, you begin the process of consultations towards finalising the Progress Declaration, it is my hope that this report can provide you with useful guidance.



At this juncture, I congratulate the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Luxembourg on their appointments as co-facilitators and offer them the Network's full support for their important task ahead.

Beyond the Progress Declaration, the Forum has been designed to ensure that there are many avenues by which to contribute: through the plenary; the round table discussions; and the policy debate which I shall have the honour of facilitating.

There are, too, the multi-stakeholder consultations which are preceding the Forum and are designed to inform its work. Likewise, there is space to bring to discussions keynote speakers from a range of disciplines and backgrounds, including a key role for stakeholders. We encourage the creation of a Forum that is at once a high-level, and an inclusive space, bringing together actors from across governments and societies to contribute to deliberations.

In the preparation and conduct of all these aspects of the Forum, it is my hope that the Secretary-General's recommendations can be central to the deliberations on the way forward.

But let me also take this opportunity to remind us of other avenues of preparation for the IMRF.

Firstly, I repeat my proposal for states to undertake inclusive national consultations in preparation for the Forum, building on the experience of the regional reviews and bearing in mind the Compact's guiding principles on the whole of government and whole of society approaches. The knowledge harnessed from these will provide valuable inputs to the Progress Declaration.

And, secondly, I urge all participating in the IMRF to make pledges as to how they intend, concretely, to move forward with the implementation of the Compact. Pledges, including contributions to the Migration MPTF, will be testament to our commitments both to cooperate in this field and to ensure that the Global Compact is a living document which will bring a positive impact to the lives of migrants and the societies they come from and in which they reside.

To lead the way, yesterday, the Principals of the UN Network on Migration discussed a UN System common Pledge. By subscribing to it, entities of the UN system will commit to support Member States implementation of the Compact, having specific regard to the priority areas of engagement identified in the Secretary General Report and to include the voices of migrants and stakeholders.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

When Member States adopted the Global Compact in Marrakech, you sent a strong signal that you are committed to the rights, welfare and dignity of migrants and their communities around the world, and that you saw the best way to protect and promote this dignity was collectively, through cooperation at all levels.

Let us set our sights high for this first IMRF and strengthen our commitment to make migration work for all.



**United Nations
Network on Migration**

Working Better Together

Thank you.