

**Statement by the United States of America
Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for
Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration
As Delivered by David Muehlke, Regional Refugee Coordinator for East Asia
March 10, 2021 – Bangkok, Thailand**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

Migration is a challenge, a responsibility, and an opportunity that we all share.

No single country can manage migration on its own. International cooperation—among states, international and multilateral organizations, and civil society—is critical to ensure safe, orderly, and humane migration.

The Global Compact on Migration underscores the importance of this international cooperation. It is a framework that can help optimize the benefits of migration, while addressing the risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit, and destination. And the Compact helps to encourage and enable governments and other stakeholders to share responsibilities more effectively, including here in Asia.

The Global Compact on Migration is grounded on the values of state sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights. The United States shares these same values. And we are committed to working with other countries to realize these values.

That is why the United States is closely reviewing our position towards the Global Compact on Migration. Our intent is to support its implementation, in close coordination with the international community.

Over the coming year, you will see America re-engaging in multilateral fora. You will see us re-establishing relationships with international organizations. And you will see us demonstrating to the world that we value humane, orderly, and fair migration policies.

We know our work starts at home. That is why, on his first day in office, President Biden proposed to the United States Congress a new immigration reform package that prioritizes keeping families together, growing the U.S. economy, managing our borders, and ensuring that the United States remains a refuge for those fleeing persecution. It has been said that America is a nation of immigrants. And our goal is to enable both newly arrived immigrants, and people who have lived in the United States for generations, to more fully contribute to our country.

Last week, the U.S. Administration released the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance. It emphasized that America will re-engage the world across a range of critical issues – from climate change to global health, peace and security, humanitarian response, revitalizing democracy and human rights, advancing gender equality, LGBTI rights, and women’s empowerment, digital connectivity and technology governance, sustainable and inclusive development, and forced displacement and migration.

As we do this, we will work with you. And as we review our policy, we look forward to working together with you on migration, to face common challenges and to find solutions that protect the human rights and dignity of all people.

Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.