

STATEMENT OF CANADA at the GENERAL DEBATE of the 2022 INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguished Guests – I am honoured to join you here today on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Today marks an opportunity, for all of us to take stock of our collective progress in harnessing the benefits of safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways, in the spirit of the Global Compact for Migration.

VALUE OF IMMIGRATION

In Canada's experience, the benefits of immigration have never been more obvious, or important. It is not by coincidence, but by choice, that we continue to welcome record numbers of newcomers each year. We do so because we believe it serves the national interest.

Our nation is built upon immigration. Every Canadian who is not indigenous has a migrant's story in their family history.

My own ancestors arrived in as they fled Scotland 250 years ago. More recently, we have seen significant numbers of people arriving from Syria, Afghanistan, and now, Ukraine. Every chapter of our history includes the addition of newcomers from different regions of our shared planet.

The cultural mosaic that makes up our communities defines in many ways who we are as Canadians. We are proud of our diversity, and stronger for it.

En établissant des voies de migration régulières qui accueillent chaque année un grand nombre d'immigrants et de réfugiés, nous utilisons l'immigration comme un moyen de soutenir l'économie du Canada et de nous protéger contre les tendances démographiques inquiétantes.

The world should expect to see continued growth in our ambition on immigration because, simply put, we believe it is a good thing for Canada.

UKRAINE

The importance of an orderly system of migration has been brought to the fore recently in the wake of Russia's latest unprovoked and unjust invasion into Ukraine.

As Ukrainians fight on the front line, they defend not only their territory, but also the values that underpin the UN Charter – such as territorial integrity, sovereignty of nations, and the right of people to self-determination. We have seen millions of Ukrainians flee their homeland as a result of this Russian attack.

There are many Member States of this organization that have opened their doors to those Ukrainians in search of safety, including Canada.

We have created a new model of temporary protection for Ukrainians fleeing this unnecessary war that has seen tens of thousands of Ukrainians arrive in Canada, and more than one hundred thousand approved to come to date.

To see a similar and simultaneous response of so many nations demonstrates the potential of global efforts to pursue safe and orderly migration in crisis situations.

REST OF THE WORLD

Bien que l'Ukraine ait retenu l'attention du monde entier, nous devons comprendre l'importance d'utiliser nos systèmes de migration pour soutenir les personnes vulnérables et renforcer les capacités des États qui sont confrontés à des défis extraordinaires en matière de migration irrégulière dans le monde entier.

We continue to see vulnerable Afghans persecuted at the hands of the Taliban, and must support those fleeing violence. Canada has made a commitment to resettle at least 40,000 Afghan refugees and are well on our way to reaching that milestone by next year.

We are also committing to build capacity of global migration systems in a number of ways, including by:

- Helping countries undertake gender-responsive programming in immigration and integration;
- Contributing \$10 Million to assist women and girls in Central America by reducing the factors that contribute to high-risk migration and forced displacement; and

- In addition, Canada has assumed the inaugural Chair of the Global Task Force on Labour Mobility as part of a global effort, coordinated by UNHCR to promote economic migration for vulnerable workers around the world.

CONCLUSION

Canada remains a steadfast supporter of the Global Compact for Migration.

By continuing to work with signatories to the Compact, we can collectively promote a more effective and compassionate system of immigration globally, meet the needs of countless displaced persons around the world, and at the same time, come to understand that in welcoming newcomers, we serve not only their interests, but our own.

Thank you.