



**GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION:
THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION
GENEVA, MAY 8-9, 2017
Check Against Delivery**

Panel 3: All Forms of Discrimination, Including Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance

Thank you Mr. Moderator, and thank you to the panelists for their presentations.

No country is immune to discrimination, racism, xenophobia, intolerance. But no society can benefit from fear and hatred.

Canada hopes we can use the Global Compact to strengthen our collective action and concrete engagement on this issue.

We would like to share five specific ideas for inclusion in the Compact.

First, let's commit to using balanced language when we talk about people on the move. We must agree on our terminology, and agree on clear definitions. We especially need to be mindful of language that views migration solely from a crisis-response lens. While there are indeed humanitarian issues to address, the vast majority of global migration happens voluntarily and without incident. The media has a key role to play here and would benefit from clearer, consistent terms.

In support of this commitment, we as Member States should develop national and public communications that reflect the dignified, humane, people-centered language of the New York Declaration.

Second, as governments we must commit to political discourse that promotes respectful, open dialogue. By acknowledging the existence and impact of intolerance and xenophobia, leaders can take the lead and provide positive examples for dealing with it as a society. The Compact should also promote constructive, respectful dialogue between governments, communities, citizens and newcomers. This leadership must go hand and hand with strong institutions and policies that ensure the right to equality and protections against discrimination. In this vein, we would like to note the *Club de Madrid's 10 Commitments and Approaches for Shared Societies*ⁱ for further consideration as we move forward.

Third, the Compact should include recommendations and insights from migrants themselves, civil society and national human rights institutions. Migrants often lack representation in public discourse and policy-making. Those on the ground naturally form constituencies that are well-placed to help citizens and migrants tell their stories of mobility, integration, and community interaction.ⁱⁱ

Fourth, to provide an evidence base for more positive discourse and fact-based policies, the Compact should call for the regular collection by states of accurate and comprehensive national migration data, including on national policies and integration outcomes.

Canada condemns racially and religiously motivated crimes and acts of violence. The final element we would like to see in the compact is a commitment by states to implement measures that address discrimination. This should include commitments to combat discrimination-related crimes through, for example, their criminal law systems and national Human Rights Tribunals that protect citizens and migrants alike against all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

ⁱ The Commitments and Approaches are key policy areas identified as essential features of a shared society and are grouped into four categories (Institutional Arrangements, Safeguards, Service Provision, and Inter-Community Development) http://www.clubmadrid.org/sspblog/?page_id=79.

ⁱⁱ Private refugee sponsorship programs, often viewed only as settlement mechanisms, are one example of constituencies that can positively influence the public discourse about migrants. They mobilize and amplify the good will of citizens who are eager to welcome. The Compact could also promote citizen engagement along the lines of Refugees Welcome to Dinner, a US campaign that fosters cultural dialogue by helping citizens share, learn, and build community by organizing dinners with refugees in their communities. Additional examples include The City of Ottawa's annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards, which acknowledge the business success and contributions to the community by newcomers, and the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Program, another example of tangible municipal engagement.