



THEMATIC SESSION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

PANEL DISCUSSION 1

**STATEMENT BY GHANA, DELIVERED BY MR. JAPHET OFOSU-APPIAH, MINISTER-
COUNSELLOR ON 8TH MAY, 2017**

Ghana welcomes the organisation of this thematic session. We thank the moderator and panellists for their insightful presentations.

Ghana's democracy is underpinned by a strong culture of respect for rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights of all, persons, including migrants. During the consideration of Ghana's initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers in 2014, Ghana indicated that its approach had always been to treat migrant and any other foreigners the same way it expects other countries to treat its Ghanaians abroad. Ghana regards migrants as first and foremost human beings whose rights must be respected and protected, regardless of their nationality or status.

Ghana recognises that the Global Compact offers us all a unique opportunity to improve governance on migration in an orderly manner, to address the challenges associated with today's migration, and strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

Ghana reiterates the imperative need for the global compact to highlight human rights as the key pillar to protect all migrants regardless of their status colour, race, and religion. In particular, Ghana expects the global compact to promote and protect the human rights of women, children, the elderly and the physically challenged who are most vulnerable. Migrants must have access to decent housing, healthcare, work opportunities, access to justice, social protection, and education.

We therefore call on all Member States of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants. Ghana is of the

view that mainstreaming the global compact with the core international human rights instruments is the best way to proceed.

Ghana looks forward to engaging constructively in the months ahead in all processes leading up to the adoption of the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration.

I thank Mr Moderator.