



Lebanon Remarks

by

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Counsellor

at the

**Second Informal Thematic Session of the intergovernmental negotiations
of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration**

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Madame Moderator,

We have listened with attention to the statements delivered by the panelists, and while many of the ideas that were expressed are useful and worthy, particularly in connection to conflict and post conflict situations as possible drivers of migration, we note with concern the non-useful blurring of lines between two very distinct categories of people on the move across borders, “migrants” and “refugees”.

The issue brief for this thematic session made a clear distinction between them, and we accept its assessment that the socio-economic impacts of conflicts and their legacies may be drivers of migration,

However, this does not mean that refugees fleeing conflicts in their countries of origin, and on whom the principle of non-refoulement must be applied, should be confused with migrants. The Global Compact on Refugees is the right place to address their situation.

The international legal frameworks governing both categories are different, particularly in areas related to non-refoulement, obligations on host and transit countries, and principles such as shared responsibility.

In this regard, we are fully confident that the co-facilitators will resist any confusion between these two categories of people, as such confusion would only add further complications to the already complex negotiation process that will start next year, and will make the possibility of achieving strong commitments or reaching consensus on the Global Compact for Migration a much harder task. This will neither serve the interests of migrants nor those of refugees.

I thank you for your attention.