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**Regional Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe,  
Orderly and Regular Migration**

**New York, 22 September 2017**

**Distinguished panelists,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Let me start by thanking the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh and the UN Regional Commissions for inviting me to this discussion on the regional preparations and perspectives related to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to be adopted around this time next year.**

**Over the past four months, Member States and other stakeholders have engaged in an intensive preparatory process to inform the development of the global compact by exchanging views and experiences on a number of thematic issues at the global level. Next month we will devote the last of these global thematic sessions to the crucial issue of irregular migration and labour mobility.**

**We have also initiated a process, led by the UN Regional Commissions, to examine regional and sub-regional aspects of international migration.**

**Next week I shall travel to Beirut for the meeting of the West Asia Economic and Social Commission (ESCWA), while late last month I participated in the first of the five regional meetings organized in Chile by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). This discussion contributed immensely to grounding the global discussion in regional specificities, notably as many of these cross-border journeys occur within the same region or even sub-region.**

**The analysis of migratory trends, challenges and opportunities at the regional and sub-regional levels will be critical for the comprehensive understanding of this issue and the development of a global compact based on evidence not mere perceptions – or worse, misperceptions.**

**We cannot ignore the paradox that much of the current toxic narrative around migration is at odds with the prevailing positive reality. Migration brings benefits to millions of migrants and their families. It also undeniably contributes to economic growth, social development and cultural diversity in countries of origin, transit and destination. Yet, responses to manage migration tend to focus primarily on curtailing mobility.**

**The truth is that - as current demographics, climate change and underlying socio-economic and political contexts indicate - migration will remain in the agenda for decades ahead.**

**The development of the global compact provides the international community with an opportunity to design forward-looking responses to address the current and future challenges that this issue presents for governments and communities worldwide, while leveraging the positive benefits and opportunities it can trigger for migrants and broader society.**

**Our common objective should be to enhance international cooperation – regional as well as global – to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration grounded in the overarching objectives of the UN Charter, the Sustainable Development Goals and peace and security agendas. Solutions will require truly collective and coherent action, from all stakeholders and all regions.**

**Crucially, if we don't want to fail people on the move and the communities that they leave behind and in which they settle, we should strive to place the safety and dignity of all people at the center of our deliberations.**

**Moving forward, I count on your sustained engagement throughout the global compact process: from the preparatory discussions, through the negotiations starting early next year, and beyond 2018 in the implementation of our commitments.**

**I thank you.**