

## UN Thematic Session on the Global Compact

### **Gregory A. Maniatis Remarks**

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1. My sincere thanks to the co-facilitators, to the SRSG, to Ola.
2. Extraordinary distance traveled since 2006, when I first started working with Peter—it would have been hard to imagine we'd be negotiating a GCM.
3. Through the Global Forum on Migration & Development, he built trust and common understanding.
4. He then gradually created the basis for common action—through the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative, and above all by ensuring the presence of migrants and refugees in the 2030 Agenda, and by proposing and fiercely advocating for the UN Summit on Migrants & Refugees.
5. His last achievement, the one that framed his entire tenure, from his first conversation with Kofi, was strengthening the UN's capacity by making IOM part of this house.
6. In the 11 interim years, we've defined our aspirations, both in piecemeal terms, and also in the broadest possible ones—safe, orderly, regular.
7. Through the GFMD — the HLDs — the 2030 Agenda —the UN Summit and the NY Declaration.
8. Now we have an unexpected opportunity, and we must make the most of it.
9. We've seen the perils of an inhumane, chaotic, disorderly, approach to migration.
  - Places publics in a state of constant anxiety, leaves them prone to exploitation by populists preying on their reasonable fears.
10. Our generation of policymakers, experts, and civil society bear this responsibility; it will be our legacy.

11. It would be easy to say today that Trump and other populists have constrained our room for action.
12. We could simply take our existing commitments—in the NYD, the 2030 Agenda, etc.—rephrase them and call it a day.
13. But I think we have the latitude to do a great deal more.
14. Kofi on Peter: A romantic pragmatist — he said this was what the position demanded. This says a lot about both Kofi and Peter.
15. By romantic, I think Kofi was evoking Peter’s ability to look past the immediate moment, and whatever constraints it implied, to imagine a better future.
16. I’d also like to think it referred to Peter’s faith in the people around him, and in their capacity to do more than what they thought might be possible.
17. This is a moment for Peter's style of romantic pragmatism.
18. We find ourselves at one those decisive crossroads in history when we as individuals cannot assume that others—governments, international institutions, political leaders—will quell the danger.
19. Each of us now bears the responsibility to act.
20. To do so, we need to understand what will be needed to keep our societies institutionally stable and vibrant *over time*.
21. Also, as we underscore in the Sutherland Report, sovereignty is best ensured through cooperation. The road to order runs through multilateralism and cooperation.
22. In the absence of such cooperation, criminals have taken control. Unscrupulous employers subvert labor conditions for all workers.
23. There are four ways in which the GCM can leave a mark:
  - FIRST: A vision and roadmap
    - How should migration occur and be managed in 20 years from now? If we can imagine this, we can start

moving together in the right direction—5 year increments.

- Rio process on sustainable development. Rio+5
- Imagine you're representing your national interests not today, but in 20 years; take yourselves out of this moment, out of a toxic political environment. I am sure the interests of most stakeholders will converge rather than diverge.
- Caveat: We have a certain set of tools at our disposal. We cannot solve root causes, IDPs, inequality—as critical and relevant as they might be to migration.

24. But Progress cannot wait for an ideal system or universal agreement: Small coalitions of states and other stakeholders can take things forward now, attract others, and move the consensus along.

25. In fact, many of the recommendations of the Sutherland Report could be pursued now, and be developed into well-considered, broadly consulted draft operational agreements by the time we reach 2018.

26. Working in this spirit of solving problems now is the best response to the assault on universal ideals and multilateralism that is taking place today.

- So this is the SECOND goal of the Compact: Operational alliances (GRSI)
  - Space between migrant and refugee compacts (tomorrow is World Refugee Day)
  - Skills recognition and labor matching
  - Recruitment
  - Remittances
  - Consular protection
  - See Sutherland Report

- THIRD: Voluntary binding agreements
    - Child detention
    - Rescue at sea
    - Coastal climate refugees
  - FOUR: Mobilize new stakeholders
    - Started w/UN summit, but most focused on refugees
    - Private sector
    - Foundations, philanthropists
    - Civil society; real self-examination of what a 20-year marathon requires
27. We are at the beginning, not the end, of a wave of anti-globalization, anti-universalist populism.
28. For many people around the world, migrants are the face of globalization, and the UN is the face of universalism. Our issues, in other words, are in the crosshairs.
29. The response of this organization, and of the multilateral system writ large, must be to show that international cooperation is indispensable in meeting the needs of member states — in protecting the rights of migrants — and promoting the wellbeing of the communities that receive them, and the communities they leave behind.