



**Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular  
Puerto Vallarta**

***Breakfast Meeting***

***How to make the Global Compact for Migration work for children***

**Tuesday, 5 December, 8:00-9:00am. Coffee will be served from 7:30.  
Hotel Melia, Paseo de la Marina Sur, 7 Marina Vallarta, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  
Barcelona Room**

Please join us on **Tuesday, 5 December 2017, from 8:00 to 9:00am** for a breakfast meeting to discuss and explore among friends and partners how the Global Compact for Migration can welcome, empower and protect migrant children around the world. We will be joined by the UN SRSG Louise Arbour, the Co-Chairs and members of the Group of Friends for Children and the SDGS and representatives of the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts, among others.

**The Breakfast Meeting provides an opportunity for an informal and forward-looking exchange to identify child-focused actions and commitments to be agreed in the framework of the Compact.**

- Given limited seating, please confirm your participation to Mindy Strominger ([mstrominger@unicef.org](mailto:mstrominger@unicef.org)) by noon, Monday, 4 December 2017.
- For questions about the breakfast meeting, please contact Verena Knaus ([vknaus@unicef.org](mailto:vknaus@unicef.org)) or Dora Giusti ([dgiusti@unicef.org](mailto:dgiusti@unicef.org)).

**Background**

Millions of children migrate safely, for educational and employment opportunities, or sometimes just in search of a better life. Millions of children, however, are forced or uprooted from their homes by violence, war, poverty, persecution and the effects of climate change.

By adopting the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants at the United Nations in September 2016, world leaders made an important political choice. UN Member States committed to *“fully protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status.”* They acknowledged the vulnerabilities of uprooted children and committed to taking steps to protect them.

The Global Compact for Migration provides an historic opportunity for States to mobilize the resources, commitment and political will needed to protect and care for migrant children.

Children are directly and profoundly affected by migration policies, labor mobility schemes, remittances or return decisions. To improve the lot of all migrants, the Global Compact must pay specific attention to the youngest and most at risk. Children are not just another vulnerable group. Children matter.

We will discuss the new UNICEF report [‘Beyond Borders: how to make the global compacts on migration and refugees work for uprooted children’](#) which highlights examples from around the world of how national, regional and local governments are already working with partners to turn the New York Declaration commitments into practice. The examples featured show work under way for children in their communities of origin, as they transit across borders, and in countries of destination. The solutions exist.

Building on the solutions reflected in the *Beyond Borders* report, UNICEF has identified the following six essential policy areas where commitments and actions by governments and partners are needed to translate the New York Declaration into practice for migrant children:

- 1. Investing in strong national child protection systems to protect migrant children from exploitation and violence.**
- 2. Political commitment to move towards ending the practice of detaining children because of their immigration status.**
- 3. Registering the birth of all migrant children, provide reunification mechanisms to keep families together and give children legal status.**
- 4. Comprehensive care and access to services that keep migrant children learning and stay healthy**
- 5. Addressing the causes that uproot children from their homes. Migration should be a choice, not a necessity.**
- 6. Protecting migrant children from discrimination and xenophobia**