

**Fifth informal thematic session of the Global Compact for Safe,
Regular and Orderly Migration**

Vienna, 4-5 September 2017

Panel 1

Statement delivered by Brazil

Brazil is pleased to take part on this fifth thematic session of the preparatory process for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. We welcome this opportunity to discuss issues that should be addressed in a comprehensive and integrated manner, from a human-rights perspective.

Brazil has recently taken a decisive step towards the full implementation of the United Nations Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants. Our new migration law defined as a crime the promotion of the irregular entry of a person into the territory of a State in order to obtain financial gain. We now have the legal basis to strengthen cooperation to dismantle criminal organizations that profit from the smuggling of migrants.

We are convinced, however, that taking action against smugglers is necessary, but not sufficient to achieve a long lasting impact against that crime. That is because it is the lack of safe and accessible pathways for regular migration that prompts people to put their lives and their well-being in the hands of criminals. The lack of opportunities for regular migration is at the root of the smuggling of migrants, and the best way to effectively prevent that crime is by promoting safe, orderly and regular migration. The Global Compact, therefore, can have a strongly positive impact on the prevention of migrant smuggling.

The non-criminalization of migrants should also be at the center of our common understanding of the matter. Smuggled migrants must have their human rights respected and be given access to appropriate care and legal aid, especially in the case of unaccompanied children. The fight against migrant smuggling cannot become a fight against migration, and cannot become a path to the securitization of this issue.

We are pleased that the Special Representative for International Migration has included among the recommendations of the issues brief the matter of accessible migration channels, in particular for family reunification and humanitarian admission, policies that would certainly contribute to preventing people from falling into the hands of criminal smuggling groups.