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Thank you very much to the Co-Facilitators for organizing this session, and to all the Panelists for their engaging presentations.

We have appreciated the opportunity to participate in this session, while we also regret the inability of many migrants and their organizations from the Global South to attend themselves, as funding was not made available to them. But, with NGO concerns about accreditation and speaking time having been duly acknowledged, we are hopeful that these conditions will improve going forward.

I would like to make 3 quick points:

1. We feel that we should **avoid** a Compact premised on the notion of a primarily **South-North flow of migration**, which looks to remedy this in the interests of the northern states. Implementing such a Compact (based on priorities that are politically driven and not based on evidence – for example, the volume of migration is much higher within and between developing countries), would risk ignoring and ultimately endangering lateral migration in the south that is important at family, local and regional levels, and much of which has historically been irregular in nature.
2. In this context, I would like to echo the emphasis placed by IDC yesterday on the **agency of migrants**, which is often disregarded in government-led processes, even those focusing on human rights. Therefore, it will be important throughout the Global Compact process to promote a more contextualised view of the inter-relationship between the clandestine spaces that irregular migrants inhabit and the forces that put them there. Yes, there is vulnerability in irregular migration contexts, but why do people choose to go there? We need to have an open and honest conversation with migrants themselves about their hopes and aspirations if we want this Compact to succeed. Related to this, while we welcome the seeming agreement on the need to **protect vulnerable migrants**, we need to make sure that this does not become an excuse for further categorizing people into more or less vulnerable migrants, those deserving and those underserving of protection, but rather a starting point for realizing the vast extent of rights violations for many migrants, and the pressing urgency to respond to their needs in a rights based manner.
3. Therefore, I would urge all of you – especially those struggling with how to communicate with electorates which they consider critical of migration – to **start talking more with migrants, instead of about migrants**. As an alliance of FBOs, we believe that perhaps one of the best ways of doing so is to engage with communities of faith in your respective countries and communities, many of whom are directly involved in supporting migrants. Go to a church, go to a masjid, go to a temple, and learn about migrants and their journeys. In addition, NGOs will be happy and look forward to carrying more of their experiences and recommendations into the consultation process going forward.

Thank you.