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8 May 2017

**Global Compact on Migration
Thematic Session 1 (8-9 May 2017)**

Informal meeting with the Co-facilitators

Oral Statement, Association for the Prevention of Torture

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Co-facilitators and Panellists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Association for the Prevention of Torture welcomes the process established under the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants to adopt the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We would like to use this intervention to stress that the Global Compact should comply with human rights standards both in terms of its content and as a process.

On the content of the Compact, we would like to put forward three key issues that are related to the use of immigration detention. First, it is important that the Global Compact upholds the principle that immigration detention should be a measure of last resort, and consequently, measures alternative to detention should be given prevalence. Immigration detention should be employed strictly in conjunction with adequate legal safeguards. However, numerous reports indicate the broadened use of immigration detention without adequate safeguards at borders, during transit and during procedures of return and forced return.

Second, we would also like to bring to your attention the increasing use of private companies for the management and operation of immigration detention places. In many countries around the world, the operation of immigration detention by private companies has increased the risks of torture, ill-treatment and human rights violations, and decreased the level of accountability for such violations. The Global Compact should call on States to keep close scrutiny on the functioning of private companies in the area of immigration detention and strengthen accountability for human rights violations.

Third, the Global Compact should urge States to strengthen the independent monitoring of places of immigration detention, in particular by National Preventive Mechanisms established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, to contribute to prevent the risks of torture and other human rights violations.

Regarding the process, we would like to raise our concerns over the limited space afforded to civil society organizations to meaningfully participate in the process, while the General Assembly Resolution on Modalities clearly provides for effective participation of civil society in the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process.

To conclude, we would like to thank the Co-facilitators for the opportunity to intervene in the process and submit our concerns for your consideration.