



**GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION:  
THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION  
GENEVA, MAY 8-9, 2017  
Check Against Delivery**

Panel 1: Human Rights of All Migrants

Thank you Mr. Chair, thank you to the co-facilitators and to the panelists.

It is fitting that the human rights of migrants comes first on our agenda. This must be at the core of the Global Compact process. It cuts across all elements of migration: drivers of migration, entry and return, labour mobility, and integration.

A state's duties to ensure the safety and security of its citizens and residents and to uphold the human rights of migrants should not be seen as incompatible. By ensuring pathways for safe, orderly, and regular migration as well as for protection, states can achieve both. States have an obligation to respect and protect the human rights of migrants. Equally, migrants must obey the laws and should respect the customs and values of the countries of transit or residence.

Canada believes that the Compact is uniquely placed to strengthen human rights protections in the following areas:

First, the Compact should contain commitments that ensure women's and girls' particular needs and rights are addressed throughout the migration process<sup>i</sup>, that their access to health and social services respects their human rights and is gender-responsive, and that proper gender-based training is provided for those who play a role in assessing their cases.

Second, the Global Compact should reaffirm the right to education, which includes compulsory and free primary education, and commit to ensure that all children, especially migrant girls, have better access to secondary education, regardless of migration status.<sup>ii</sup>

Third, the Compact should include a commitment to strengthen human rights protection for those most at risk. This could include putting in place measures to prevent human rights violations at borders and throughout the immigration process, such as: establishing mechanisms to screen and identify migrants' protection and support needs and then referring them to relevant agencies or service providers; ensuring the best interests of the child are taken into account in all stages of the immigration process; and providing human rights training to border officials and immigration officers, including on measures that may be necessary to protect the rights of vulnerable migrants. It could also include

commitments to improve migrants' access to justice by providing them with information about their rights and the status of their immigration cases; and to facilitate access to legal representation as appropriate.

Thank you

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<sup>i</sup> This is in relation to their ability to obtain individual identity documents, such as birth and civil registration; to access relevant social services; and to acquire, change, retain or confer their nationality on an equal footing with men.

<sup>ii</sup> As per Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 28.