

## **Concept Note – High-level Side Event on the margins of the UNGA 73 “Road to Marrakech”**

**26 September 2018, 2-4pm**

### **1. Background & Significance**

After some 18 months of consultations and negotiations, on 13 July 2018, Member States of the United Nations finalized the text of the first Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (the Global Compact).

Firmly rooted in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the commitments made in the New York Declaration, the Global Compact will be the first global agreement designed to better manage international migration in all its dimensions, for the benefit of all States and communities, and with the rights of all migrants at the fore.

In Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10-11 December 2018, Member States will gather at the highest political level to adopt the text of the Global Compact. Marrakech will also be an opportunity to begin the collective project of breathing life into the Global Compact by outlining initiatives for its implementation.

### **2. Format & Focus Area**

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration will organize a side event during the high-level week of the forthcoming UN General Assembly on the Global Compact. The event – titled the **“Road to Marrakech”** – will focus on building up momentum towards the Morocco conference among Member States and other stakeholders.

The Permanent Missions of Brazil, and Canada have agreed to co-sponsor the event, along with the conference host, Morocco. There has also been discussion about possible lead involvement from other missions.

The participation of Secretary-General António Guterres is scheduled for 26 September at 14:00. And we are hopeful that the incoming President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, will also be in a position to participate. Mr. William Lacy Swing, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration plans to participate as well.

### **3. Objectives**

The side event will serve to galvanize participation at the Intergovernmental Conference at the highest political level, including Heads of State or Government, and build a bridge between the end of the negotiations in July and the final conference in December.

Importantly, the event will provide an opportunity for governments to highlight initiatives already in place as well as the types of actions, partnerships and innovative ideas they foresee in coming years as means of implementing the agreement, particularly at the regional and national level.

For example, the momentum towards freer trade and human mobility across Africa could be featured as reflecting the nexus between migration and development.

Likewise, there will be many other examples from all regions highlighting and quantifying some of the key benefits of meeting the objectives of the Global Compact. The aim is to mobilize states and other concerned actors to come to Marrakech ready to think creatively, share initiatives, and make commitments, including through partnerships, in the spirit of international cooperation which is at the heart of the Global Compact.

#### **4. Envisioned Program**

The event, which will be livestreamed on UN Web TV, will be moderated by the SRSG. The Secretary-General will deliver the opening remarks, along with the President of the General Assembly, schedule permitting.

The SRSG will outline, in her capacity as Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference, the major steps in the process leading to the intergovernmental conference in Morocco.

The event's co-sponsors will take the lead to share their respective countries' actions and innovative ideas on the topic. The moderator will then open the floor to the other Member States and to stakeholders to participate in the conversation and share their perspectives and priorities on international migration.

#### **5. Participants**

The event will be targeted at Member States and Representatives of the UN system, civil society, private sector institutions, regional bodies, and parliamentarians. While invitations have not yet been sent out, the Office of the SRSG will invite representatives of national governments at the head of state/government and ministerial level, alongside other stakeholders.