

Canadian Statement, Puerto Vallarta, December 6, 2017

As we move forward, Canada supports a global migration structure that brings coordination and coherence to the many players who work on migration issues.

Discussing this question today is timely, since views on this point are relevant to the ongoing UN reform process. In our view, the UN must avoid creating new structures, must avoid duplication, and limit unnecessary expansion of the UN budget. There may even be opportunities for rationalization.

Last year, the IOM and the UN signed an agreement which brought the IOM into the UN family. The fact that we now effectively have a UN migration agency is a positive development at a time when migration issues justifiably have such prominence both internationally and domestically in many of our countries.

Implementation of the GCM will require migration expertise, strong leadership and a coordinating body. In our view, the IOM is well-placed to fulfil this function, in collaboration with other key organizations working on migration issues within the UN family: the ILO, OHCHR, UNHCR, DESA, UN Women, UNICEF and others. All players, including the IOM, would need to adapt in order to facilitate GCM implementation, and this process will require careful planning and coordination.

As many have noted, the GCM should support and align with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

In our view, the 2030 Agenda also offers a potential model for framing the GCM. Though the 2030 Agenda is non-binding in nature, its framework of clear and compelling commitments has nevertheless mobilized an impressive level of activity and follow-up by states and a diverse range of stakeholders. Like the 2030 Agenda, the GCM could provide for:

- first, a nationally-owned, 'whole-of-society' process, consistent with the principle that it is States that determine the nature of their national migration systems;
- second, voluntary - but clear - commitments, goals and targets
- third, a follow-up mechanism that includes both national and international reporting against agreed global indicators as well as indicators established at the national level, and
- fourth, a broad multi-stakeholder partnership, including significant engagement by CSOs and the private sector.

Canada looks forward to working with all of you to establishing and implementing a practical, meaningful, and balanced Global Compact on Migration.