

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



**Statement by Mr. Felipe González Morales,  
Special Rapporteur on  
the human rights of migrants**

**Closing Panel**

**Geneva, 13 October 2017**

**GCM**

Dear panellists,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the rich discussions we had over the last two days.

In the New York Declaration, States committed to “consider facilitating opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration, including, as appropriate, employment creation, labour mobility at all skills levels, circular migration, family reunification and education-related opportunities”. The Global compact should reflect that commitment. In order to implement that commitment, States need to develop and implement migration policies, in line with their obligations under international human rights law, ensuring that regular, safe, affordable and accessible avenues are available for all migrants. A human rights based approach to this commitment would mean that States;

- in partnership with the business communities involved, considerably enlarge the elements of human mobility and labour migration in trade negotiations, and representatives of migrants should be offered meaningful opportunities to comment on draft trade agreements as key stakeholders.
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- SCreate multiple labour migration opportunities at all skill levels, including for low-skilled migrants, to incentivize their use of regular migration channels, by establishing accessible visa and work permit regimes
- Abolish all temporary migration schemes, such as those based on single-employer sponsorship mechanisms or kafala systems, in favour of open work visas
- Facilitate labour mobility for migrants at all skill levels through regional organizations, regional consultative processes, bilateral and regional agreements for the free movement of persons and bilateral and regional trade agreements
- Promote the optimal matching of job skills to jobs and of labour supply to labour demand between countries
- Counteract deskilling and increase the proportion of migrants who are working at the skill level that is most relevant to their education, training and work experience, so as to facilitate their integration into the local labour force and their reintegration into the labour market in the country of origin
- Provide access to permanent residency (or long-term residence permits) and citizenship to all migrants after a reasonable period of effective residence under any temporary migration regime
- Promote a strategy to enable, engage with and empower migrant diasporas and their entrepreneurship
- Last but not least, the private sector must become part of the solution. In accordance with international human rights standards, the private sector, including recruitment agencies and employers recruitment agencies and their intermediaries must, respect the human and labour rights of their workers.

I thank you for your attention.