

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Informal dialogue with stakeholders Statement – Mary Robinson 9:00 – 10:00 Thursday 15 March 2018 Trusteeship Council Chamber

Thank you Co-Facilitators for this opportunity to speak, and for you and your team's hard work over the past year that has resulted in the 'Zero Draft Plus' that we have before us today. It is also good to see my friend Louise Arbour who is doing great work in shepherding this process.

I would like to begin by evoking the passion and leadership of Peter Sutherland on the issue of migration. Let us remember his powerful voice and commitment.

Overall I feel that the human rights, gender and climate change elements have been well reflected in the current draft of the Global Compact. However I feel that there is still work to be done in relation to ensuring migrant voices are embedded in the process, implementation, and follow up mechanisms of the compact going forward.

What is impressive is the way that countries and regions are listening to and learning from each other. Having accepted the principle that all migrants have human rights it is important that there is a shift to the kind of services which should be provided in support of their rights.

While I was hearted by the inclusion of overarching principles for the compact, including a people centred approach and a whole of society approach, I believe this language also needs to be reflected more fully in the operative paragraphs.

The current lack of a specific provision for the inclusion of stakeholders in the follow up process is not consistent with the approach set out in the guiding Principles and is, in my opinion, a significant gap.

This year we are marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and we should recall the 2030 Agenda which is also grounded in human rights. Human rights do not make a distinction between regular and irregular migration. They apply regardless of a person's migration status. It is critical that the compact guarantee the rights of all

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migrants, regardless of status, as is required under the core human rights treaties. I am pleased to see the inclusion of language around firewalls to support this.

Many climate displaced people, and others, will experience a form of forced migration, but they will not meet the established definition of a refugee. They will be migrants. We must resist attempts to classify all forced migration as a matter for the refugee compact. Instead we must ensure that we protect the rights of climate displaced people.

In closing, I wish all of you well in achieving a global compact on migration that enhances our sense of interconnectedness and solidarity in a world where human mobility will certainly increase yet human rights must be protected for all.

Thank you