

# **GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration**

## **Working Session 1: GCM Cluster 1- Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance**

### **Statement by Amb. Rosemary McCarney, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UNOG**

The process to develop the Global Compact for safe, orderly, regular migration provides us, the international community, with an opportunity to bring coherence and coordination to the disparate discussions that touch on migration, so that we can identify and build on existing ideas and ongoing discussions.

Canada is keen to ensure that in developing this compact we do not reinvent the wheel, but that we move forward ideas where seeds have already been sewn. Valuable ideas that already exist must not be lost, but serve as the basis for constructive and forward-looking consultations.

The New York Declaration and SRSG Sutherland's Report call on the GFMD to contribute to the process towards the Global Compact on Migration. The current migration work underway could build on the body of work carried out by GFMD over the past 10 years. The international community could draw from a wealth of past GFMD discussions and recommendations to move forward in implementing the migration-relation goals of Agenda 2030.

Canada encourages the GFMD to develop targeted summaries of its effective practices, outcomes, and lessons learned and use them as concrete contributions towards each of the thematic meetings of the Global Compact for Migration.

Canada is particularly pleased that various contributions are being recognized in the compact, including those of migrants themselves. States cannot and should not address migration alone; while the global compact process should be state-driven, it must involve the many other actors that contribute to migration governance: citizens, migrants, international organizations, the private sector, unions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, religious organizations and academia. The GFMD leads by example, as it brings together and builds on the vital insights of civil society, business community and international organizations.

Going forward, the GFMD could closely link discussions carried out by government teams, civil society, and the platform for partnerships to the implementation of migration-related commitments in the Agenda 2030.

States have the ultimate responsibility - and a legal obligation - to respect and protect the human rights of migrants and refugees within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction – regardless of their immigration status. Equally, migrants and refugees must obey the laws and should be respectful of the customs or values of the countries in which they transit or reside.

We do not view a sovereign state's efforts to ensure the safety and security of its citizens and residents as incompatible with upholding the human rights of migrants. Improving safe, orderly, and regular migration and protection pathways can allow states to support their sovereign interests while also ensuring effective enjoyment of the human rights of people on the move.

We know Canada is in a unique position. We are a nation of immigrants, with a geography that isolates us to a certain extent.

Canada has not, however, been immune to reactionary, discriminatory incidents or perspectives. But instead of giving in to fear and hatred, Canada has taken an approach to welcoming and including immigrants that acknowledges and builds upon the value of peaceful pluralism and diversity. We have also realized that creating a positive narrative requires a conscious effort on the part of all levels of government and civil society. Canada's positive narrative on migration is central to our government's brand. At the same time, this positive narrative is supported by Canada's planned and managed migration model, and investments in the successful integration of immigrants and refugees into Canadian society.

The human rights of all persons, including migrants, are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and by virtue of the provisions of human rights instruments to which Canada is party. Compliance is firmly entrenched within the Immigration Act.

We must acknowledge that migration is a complex reality that presents both challenges and opportunities. We need to look beyond crisis responses and develop longer-term, coherent strategies that respond to the realities of an increasingly mobile and connected world.

In this vein, Canada would like to particularly underline the value and importance of countries implementing more comprehensive, planned systems of migration which offer more diverse and predictable opportunities for regular movement, including for work, study and family unification, and assistance for those in emergency or vulnerable situations. Few countries remain distinctly sending, transit or destination countries; most are now a combination of all three and this type of comprehensive approach can benefit all countries, as well as migrants, and can contribute to better global governance of migration.

The protection of human rights cuts across all elements of the migration process – from the fundamental drivers of migration through entry and labour mobility, to integration. For this reason, Canada considers human rights to be a cross-cutting issue which touches upon all topics and themes to be discussed as part of the global compact process.

We also need to recognize more fully the gendered dimensions of international migration and mobility – and to develop specific measures through the compact that will protect the human rights of women and girls, regardless of their migration status.

We must all work harder to ensure greater respect for human dignity, diversity, and the human rights of migrants.