

**Statement of Ambassador Li Li, Leader of the Chinese Delegation and
Chinese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco,
At the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact
For Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

Marrakech, 11 December 2018

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to offer my congratulations on the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration and express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Morocco for the sound organization of this meeting. I believe this conference will be a great contribution to strengthening global governance of migration.

In the era of globalization, orderly migration flows help stimulate vitality for innovation, promote economic development and global inclusive growth, and enhance mutual understanding and cultural integration among nations. Meanwhile, one should also realize that irregular migration flows without effective governance may breed organized transnational crime and increase pressure on and challenges to countries in border control and societal governance. The protection of migrants' own rights and interests is also often under threat. We need to strengthen global governance in the field of migration to bring about safe, orderly and regular migration.

The Global Compact for Migration is the first global document for the coordinated resolution of the migration issue in all its dimensions. Member states had extensive and in-depth dialogue during the intergovernmental negotiations. On balance, the Global Compact reflects the greatest common denominator of the Member States as it accommodates the positions and propositions of both countries of origin and countries of destination. China supports the member states in pursuing the path of multilateralism and responding to global problems through international cooperation. The adoption of the Compact at this Conference marks an important step forward in the global governance of migration.

Mr. President,

On global migration governance, China would like to stress the following four points:

First, upholding the principle of respect for national sovereignty. The principle of sovereignty of states should form the basis

they face different situations in migration as well. Global migration governance should be based on full respect for national sovereignty. Each country has the right to develop its own laws and policies on migration, and deal with migration matters in areas such as employment, medical service, education and social welfare in light of its own national conditions. China welcomes the reaffirmation in the Global Compact for Migration the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the clear inclusion of the principle of respect for national sovereignty as a guiding principle.

Second, achieving safe, orderly and regular migration flows. China advocates regularization of migration flows and active efforts to meet the legitimate aspirations of regular immigrants for employment, education and health care, among others, to protect the legitimate rights and interests of vulnerable migrant groups, and eliminate the discrimination and exclusion of migrants. Countries should, in accordance with their domestic laws, relevant international law and humanitarian principles, properly address the issue of irregular migration and bolster cross-border law enforcement and security cooperation against smuggling and human trafficking. Since migrants and refugees fall under different legal categories, the non-refoulement principle should not be applied to migration issues.

Third, strengthening governance by persisting in tackling the root causes. Underdevelopment and un

implementation and review of the Compact, it would be inadvisable to have compulsory targets or a set timeline. China supports the leading role of the United Nations in international migration affairs and looks forward to the newly-founded UN Migration Network effective integration of resources and its strengthening of coordination and cooperation with the regional and sub-regional consultation processes