



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. We thank the Kingdom of Morocco for its warm and generous hospitality.

These are days of fear, fury and confusion. Some of our friends in endeavor have withdrawn under pressure from their constituencies. And they must indeed respond to them for we are democracies. But while some of the lights are going out in the West as once they did, the bright shining lights of the likes of Germany, France and Spain continue to push back the darkness enveloping the migrant experience. The Philippines is not discouraged. The GCM enjoys near universal support and those not yet ready to commit recognize the clear need to discuss migration.

We have defeated the notion that migration is bad; quite the opposite. And we did this with facts and not frightful fantasies of losses of jobs no Westerner would take. We did it with reason by showing that migrants have been useful additions to host countries. Not fear but facts shaped our perception; reason not passion distinguished discussion at the UN if nowhere else, and we should be proud to acknowledge that a decent

regard for the opinion of mankind dictated our decision to adopt the Global Compact today.

Migration is a shared responsibility of sending, receiving, and transit states. No one state can address it alone; nor should any leading state take the lead in saying what can be done for and about it. That, simply, is the message of the Global Compact for Migration. Not just the Compact of Marrakech but the Global Compact for Migration at all times and in all places.

The Compact does not derogate one iota from sovereignty. On the contrary, it reveals a fundamentally moral nature. A key aspect of sovereignty is the care states must take of people under them even if they are on the move from countries of origin, through countries in transit, to where finally they end up. The Compact merely speaks truth to sovereign power. The Compact merely speaks the truth to sovereign power.

Sovereignty is as much a duty of care as it is an assertion of unlimited freedom of action. The two combine in the willing assumption of that duty on the part of states. And that is the problem. States wish they could pick and choose which migrants to take; and for the the0000000092 0 62 7 re 1

To select from a moving tide of humanity fleeing the injustice of places with bad governments or the injustice of God putting them there at birth cannot be a neat process. Migrants are not slaves in transport but free human beings on the move, with more courage to improve their condition abroad than endurance to persist in the wretched places they must flee or perish. And while the lust to wander is immemorial, still there is no place like home if you can live in it.

Sometimes the needs of state and migrants overlap; sometimes not; hence the false and ugly narratives of migration peddled by those who have benefited from migration but fear too much of it. Western cities would be cesspools without migrants;

