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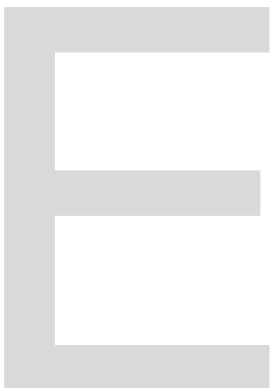
Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights

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Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. J. Echániz (Spain), Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A. Touizi (Morocco)***

1. Migration has been a feature of humanity since time immemorial. Mobility is what binds countries and cultures together. It is an essential element of sustainable development. Well-managed migration creates a wealth of opportunities for migrants and societies but it also brings challenges in a wide range of areas that can be overcome only by cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries with the migrant always at the centre of considerations. The sovereign rights of States in border management and in designing their migratory policies must always comply with international humanitarian law prescriptions. The objective to which States must commit is to make migration ever safer, voluntary and better managed and to strike a balance between responsibility and solidarity.
2. It is estimated that 244 million persons (or 3.3 per cent of the world's population) live in a country other than their country of birth. Work remains the main reason for people to migrate internationally. Most migration today occurs within the same region.
3. Recent debates at the global level have focused on unprecedentedly large movements of persons who either migrate in search for a better life or flee threats to their life, safety or integrity. Among them there are persons who put their lives at risk as they have no legal avenue to seek entry into another country. These situations have put migration management high on the global community's agenda, so as to devise common strategies and share responsibility to address the security, humanitarian and socioeconomic concerns caused by the arrival of large numbers of migrants, prevent the abuse of persons on the move, provide legal avenues for migration, and address its root causes in a 360 degrees approach.
4. There is growing acknowledgement that in order to bear its fruits and benefit all, migration must be governed in a safe, humane, regular and orderly manner. Given the scope of migration, the lack of common standards and mechanisms in this regard and the challenges related to large movements of migrants, the draft resolution focuses on migration governance and inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration. Particular focus is placed on the ongoing process that should lead to the adoption of a *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* in December 2018. A separate Global Compact for Refugees focuses on specific refugee-related aspects that are not covered by this draft resolution.



#IPU139

5. The draft resolution draws from previous IPU resolutions and statements. These include the resolution adopted at the 130th IPU Assembly on *The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of armed conflict*, the Declaration of the General Debate of the 133rd IPU Assembly entitled *The imperative for fairer, smarter and more humane migration* and the Declaration of the General Debate of the 138th IPU Assembly entitled *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions*.
6. On the occasion of the 138th IPU Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held a debate on migration. The present draft echoes the observations made on this occasion, as well as additional input received from Member Parliaments and partner organizations. The inputs made include the necessity of comprehensive migration policies and legal frameworks; the need to address all the root causes of migration, including youth unemployment and climate change, and to respond to disaster-related migration; the imperative to combat discrimination and xenophobia in the context of migration; and the need to support migrants' participation in development and political decision-making, both in host countries and in countries of origin. Parliaments have a crucial role to play in all these areas, and in ensuring that States assume their responsibilities towards their own nationals and that the human rights of migrants are protected in all aspects of the migration cycles. The IPU can and should support them in this endeavour.
7. The draft resolution reaffirms some of the principles that should be at the core of the Global Compact for Migration, such as respect for human rights and decent work, human dignity, the right to non-discrimination and protection from violence and abuse, rule of law, due process, as well as the principles of proportionality and necessity. It stresses the universality of the access to basic services, especially to education, health, justice and social protection, which must be guaranteed to all, regardless of their status as national or non-national, resident or non-resident, regular or irregular migrant. It places particular focus on ensuring migration governance is gender-responsive and upholds the best interest of the child. It also calls for legal pathways for migration, including on humanitarian grounds, so as to ensure protection of persons who cannot claim asylum under the 1951 Refugee Convention, including those fleeing natural disasters and violence. Special attention should be given to the correct implementation of the 2030 Agenda as this would have a direct impact on and reduce non-voluntary migration.
8. In addition, the draft resolution includes recommendations on actions that parliaments and other stakeholders should take in order to ensure national laws and practices, as well as bilateral, regional and global agreements, are conducive to safe, orderly and regular migration, and balance solidarity and responsibility, with full respect for the human rights of migrants. It focuses on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to migration, on the importance of integration and social inclusion policies, on ensuring policies and debates on migration are evidence-informed, on the need to combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as on preventing forced irregular migration, migrant smuggling, human trafficking and labour exploitation.
9. Finally, the resolution calls for increased efforts at the inter-parliamentary level to implement adequate migration policies. It calls on parliaments to participate actively in inter-state efforts in the area of migration governance, especially through the development of a "Parliamentary plan of action on migration". It also encourages the IPU to promote the role of parliament in such processes and foster inter-parliamentary dialogue on the matter.