



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

(h) Parliamentary Conference on Migration in the lead-up to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration

Rabat, Morocco, 6 and 7 December 2018

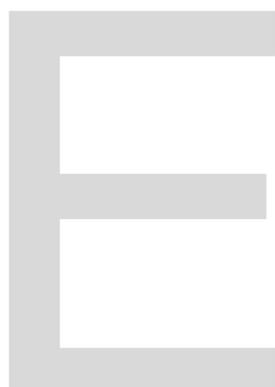
Faced with the opportunities, challenges and consequences of migration, after one and a half years of discussions and negotiations, the governments of the world gathered in Marrakesh to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Compact takes into account the concerns and points of view of the countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as of the migrants themselves.

On this occasion and to highlight the contribution of parliaments in implementing the Global Compact, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliament of Morocco organized a parliamentary conference held on 6 and 7 December in Rabat (Morocco). The Conference was attended by 220 participants, among whom there was a significant number of parliamentarians representing 50 national and regional parliaments.

The Conference was opened by the Speakers of both Chambers of the Moroccan Parliament and the President of the IPU. The Conference [programme](#) covered two days of work with a number of interactive sessions. In his conclusions, the Conference Rapporteur, Mr. José Ignacio Echániz, a Spanish MP, reviewed the key points discussed at the Conference.

The diversity of the interveners contributed to enriching discussions which paved the way for the participating parliamentarians to give an overview of their respective countries' migration policies and share their parliaments' good practices with the aim to develop concrete strategies for implementing the Global Compact and translating it into laws.

In closing the meeting, the parliamentarians adopted a final declaration where they pledged to draft and implement by the end of 2019 a "parliamentary plan of action for migration" to operationalize the commitments contained in the Global Compact. The final declaration is a confirmation of the parliamentarians' commitment to make migration a "choice" and not a "necessity" through measures that will fight the causes of forced migration, including extreme poverty and poor governance.



#IPU140



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Kingdom of Morocco
Parliament

Parliamentary Meeting on occasion of the Adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco

6 - 7 December 2018, Rabat (Morocco)

Final declaration

1. We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered in Rabat, at the invitation of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, commit ourselves to using our power fully to help implement the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which will be formally adopted in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December this year.
2. We express our appreciation to the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco for organising, together with the Inter Parliamentary Union, this parliamentary conference on migration and for hosting us in Rabat. We commend the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco with regard to the implementation of its migratory policy as well as for initiatives taken namely by offering to the international community a platform for discussion and interaction on good practices such as the meetings in Rabat and the upcoming one in Marrakech.
3. We recognize the pivotal role that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has played in the last two years in bringing a parliamentary perspective to the discussions and negotiations that led to the identification and formulation of the 23 objectives contained in the Global Compact. We welcome in this regard the adoption by IPU Member Parliaments in October 2018 of the resolution entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.
4. As parliamentarians, we are convinced that the Global Compact provides a strong framework for concerted action to help ensure that migration becomes safe, orderly and regular. The Global Compact is relevant to all people and countries, as part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, in so far as migration has become a global phenomenon.
5. We strongly believe in the Global Compact's key message that the time for silos and isolated national migration policies is over. A holistic approach to migration requires more coordinated and harmonized strategies for targeted interventions. International cooperation is essential to this end. We will therefore work to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation in order to facilitate the harmonization of strategies, the exchange of good practices, the implementation of multilateral provisions, and to develop partnerships with other stakeholders, including civil society and international organizations, so that, together we can effectively implement the Global Compact.

6. In doing so, we also believe that it is important that migration should not be considered primarily through a security lens. It is also a development, human rights issue that calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-parliament approach. This requires the development or fine-tuning of institutional capacities and the development at the national level of proper migration policies that are in sync with social, economic and environmental realities. As parliamentarians, we need to demand that, where absent, such policies be designed and implemented and that citizens and migrants themselves be involved in their design. The IPU and the international community should help those parliaments which currently lack the capacities to oversee the implementation of those policies.
7. In acknowledging the critical contribution that parliaments can and should make to the implementation of the Global Compact, we commit to demonstrating political leadership and redoubling our efforts to ensure that migration is governed properly and with respect for human dignity, in particular by:
 - Protecting migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, through the ratification and implementation of relevant international human rights treaties and ILO Conventions, and through the use of parliamentary tools to hold our governments to account for their action or inaction to uphold these rights;
 - Promoting evidence-based narratives and policies offering balanced views about migration that promote mutual understanding and respect between migrants and the host society, as a two-way responsibility, as well as migrants' integration in society; such promotion requires that we insist that accurate and disaggregated data be collected and used; it also requires us to ensure that appropriate legislation is in place to punish xenophobia, racism, intolerance and other forms of discrimination and to call out instances of abuse whenever they occur;
 - Turning migration into a "choice", not a "necessity" by tackling the drivers of forced migration, including extreme poverty, poor governance and climate change, and acting collectively to address efficiently the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons; similarly, this requires us to work towards enhancing the pathways for regular migration and hence to enlarge the "choice" of migrants to seek a better future elsewhere;
8. We commit ourselves to working within our parliaments to design and implement a "parliamentary plan of action on migration" by the end of 2019 that operationalizes the commitments contained in the aforesaid IPU resolution of October 2018, the Global Compact as well as State obligations under international human rights law and to report to the IPU on progress in 2021. We also commit to contributing to the International Migration Review Forum, to which the Global Compact refers, with a view to discussing and sharing progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, and to integrating the objectives set out in the Global Compact in our efforts to fulfil the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.