

MADAM PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES

PART 1 – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

MIGRATION IS A FACT: MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE LIVE IN A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE ONE IN WHICH THEY WERE BORN AND THE RATE OF INCREASE OF MIGRATION AROUND THE WORLD IS HIGHER THAN POPULATION GROWTH. IN 2017, THERE WERE 250 MILLION MIGRANTS IN THE WORLD, AND 29.5 MILLION REFUGEES NOT INCLUDING OVER 40 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE.

THIS IS A TREND THAT SHOWS NO SIGN OF SLOWING DOWN. THE DRIVERS OF MIGRATION ARE ONLY GETTING STRONGER. MORE POWERFUL.

MIGRATION FOR ECONOMIC REASONS – BECAUSE OF DEMOGRAPHICS, POLITICS, ENVIRONMENT, AND POVERTY –

ALL POINT TO AN INCREASING AND CONTINUOUS
MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STATES IS THAT WE ARE ALL IN
THIS TOGETHER. WHEN ATTEMPTING TO COME TO TERMS
WITH MIGRATION, THERE CAN BE NO MORE TALK OF “US
VERSUS THEM.”

HUMAN MOBILITY IS A REALITY THAT IS BEST EMBRACED
AND MANAGED, RATHER THAN OPPOSED. THIS IS
CONSISTENT WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS OF AGENDA 2030, WHERE WE ALL COMMIT TO
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.

YET WE MUST NOT ONLY LOOK AT MIGRATION AS A
CHALLENGE. WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE IT AS AN
COPPORTUNITY.

MIGRATION CAN BE A POSITIVE FORCE FOR CHANGE. WHY?
BECAUSE IT CAN FOSTER DIVERSITY AND GROWTH.

PART 2 – AS REFLECTED IN CANADA

NOWHERE IS THAT BETTER REFLECTED THAN IN CANADA.

IN FACT, NOWHERE IS THIS BETTER REFLECTED THAN IN THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF MY VERY OWN ELECTORAL DISTRICT, A DISTRICT WITH THE HIGHEST POPULATION OF ARAB SPEAKERS IN THE PROVINCE, WHERE HUNDREDS OF LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN AND A THIRD OF MY CONSTITUENTS ARE IMMIGRANTS.

IF IMMIGRATION IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE CANADIAN ECONOMY THEN DIVERSITY IS POSITIVELY THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SOCIETY'S SUCCESS.

NEW CANADIANS HAVE HELPED OUR COUNTRY BROADEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND HAVE STIMULATED ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL GROWTH.

PART 3 – WORK IN PROGRESS

OF COURSE, WE’VE MADE MISTAKES ALONG THE WAY AND CANADA IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS.

HELPING MIGRANTS RESETTLE, INCORPORATING THEM INTO CANADIAN SOCIETY, AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE TOOLS TO SUCCEED REQUIRES THOUGHTFUL AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC POLICY.

ALL OF US MUST UNDERSTAND THAT EFFORTS TO INCORPORATE MIGRANTS WILL PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE EFFORT NEEDED TO KEEP MIGRANTS “OUT” AND, INDEED, THE RISING NUMBERS SUGGEST THAT STATES WILL NOT HAVE A CHOICE.

WE NEED A POWERFUL AND COUNTERVAILING MESSAGE AGAINST THE NOTION THAT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE WEAKENING OUR COUNTRIES. LET ME REPEAT: IF IMMIGRATION IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR ECONOMY, DIVERSITY IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUCCESS.

ALL AROUND THE WORLD, BUSINESSES WILL TELL YOU THAT DIVERSITY IS ESSENTIAL TO INNOVATE AND ADAPT IN A FAST-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. DIVERSITY IS ESSENTIAL TO GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS. WHY WOULD ANY COMPANY, ORGANIZATION, COUNTRY OR SOCIETY WANT TO FOREGO ALL OF THE TALENT IT CAN AVAIL ITSELF OF? WE MUST HARNESS THE POWER OF THAT MESSAGE. WE MUST CALL ON ALL STATES INVOLVED IN THE COMPACT TO ENGAGE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY.

PART 4 – WHAT CANADA HAS BEEN DOING

CANADA HAS BEEN TAKING STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

WE PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DRAFT THE SEPTEMBER 2016 *NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS*, WHICH INCLUDED A BROAD RANGE OF COMMITMENTS TOWARDS SUPPORTING

DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS.

CANADA IS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE IMMIGRANT-RECEIVING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, WITH ONE FIFTH OF ITS POPULATION BORN OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY.

AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT WOMEN AND CHILDREN DO LIVE MIGRATION DIFFERENTLY. CANADA BELIEVES THAT ANY PROPOSED MIGRATION POLICY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR CHALLENGES FACED BY MIGRANT WOMEN, BY CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY AND LGBTI INDIVIDUALS.

DOMESTICALLY, CANADA'S SETTLEMENT PROGRAM INCLUDES ENHANCED SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE, INCLUDING REFUGEES, WOMEN AND GIRLS, SENIORS, LGBTI INDIVIDUALS, AND YOUTH. CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT DIVERSITY IS THE NEW NORMAL AND THAT DEFENDING DIVERSITY, PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY OF ALL KINDS IS THE NEW FRONTIER.

SINCE NOVEMBER 2015, CANADA'S GOVERNMENT HAS WORKED WITH CANADIANS, INCLUDING PRIVATE SPONSORS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TO WELCOME ALMOST 50,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES.

THROUGH A SPECIAL INITIATIVE, WE RECENTLY RESETTLED 1,200 SURVIVORS OF DAESH AGGRESSION IN NORTHERN IRAQ, INCLUDING YAZIDI WOMEN AND GIRLS.

WE HAVE ALSO RELEASED NEW GUIDELINES REGARDING THE EVALUATION OF REFUGEE CLAIMS ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION.

DECISION MAKERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE, PROTECT SENSITIVE INFORMATION, AVOIDING RELIANCE ON STEREOTYPES, AND

BE CONSIDERATE ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WITH PROVIDING CORROBORATING EVIDENCE.

CANADA PUBLICLY AND PROACTIVELY ENCOURAGES THE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES WHO FACE VIOLENCE AND PERSECUTION, INCLUDING DUE TO THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION OR HIV STATUS.

CONCLUSION

THE IPU SLOGAN *FOR DEMOCRACY, FOR EVERYONE*, IMPLIES THE VALUE OF INCLUSION AND THE NEED TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND. TO DO THIS, A COMMON EFFORT FROM STATES IS NEEDED. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR THE MIGRATION CHALLENGES WE CURRENTLY FACE.

THANK YOU