



## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on  
International Migration  
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION**

*Inclusive and innovate partnerships for effective global governance of migration*

**27 March 2018, UNHQ, New York  
5 – 5:30pm**

**Dear Director General Swing,  
Dear Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,**

Thank you, Bill, for inviting me to join you in these closing remarks, and allow me to congratulate you on another successful International Dialogue on Migration.

I want to recall the sentiments expressed these last two days in the context of enhancing partnerships to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Working in partnership and increasing international cooperation “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person” and to “promote social progress and better standards of life” are core values on which the UN was founded.

The 2030 Agenda, an ambitious development project, fit for the ambitions of the 21st century embraced migration as a tool for the reduction of unjustifiable inequalities. And we are now in the final stages of a process to adopt a Global Compact for Migration which at its core will rest on increased inter-state cooperation through shared objectives and global governance of migration.

Inclusive and innovative partnerships for the effective global governance of migration are indeed within our reach.

Partnerships are essential for states to benefit from migration – and to regulate it effectively and such partnerships are evidently not an erosion of national sovereignty. Many initiatives already in place have shown that increased cooperation on international migration

helps to build trust, understanding, and capacities, through shared experiences and ideas, and, more importantly, yield tangible dividends for all concerned.

Cooperation exists on many levels: Within States, through a whole-of-government approach, partnerships engage the many ministries and local authorities that work with migrants, formulate migration policies and initiatives, and as such can positively influence cooperation at the regional and global levels. States are more likely to make well-informed policy decisions on migration issues if they also engage the private sector, civil society groups such as faith-based organisations and providers of social services, and if they engage in constructive dialogues with their immediate neighbours.

Strong internal partnerships can help foster a stronger sense of belonging for migrants, greater reception by host communities and more coherent support for the extended families left behind. For migrants entering a new environment and for communities hosting them, the transformative benefits of inclusion can only come from a willingness to work together.

Even with well-managed, whole of society internal migration policies in place, no state can succeed alone, and regional as well as global initiatives are critical. For the UN, partnerships signify an ability to bring decades' worth of collective expertise throughout the system together in a collaborative spirit. A principled framework and operational expertise – including and especially from IOM, but drawing on the mandates, experience and skills of many others – can enhance the UN system's partnership with Member States as they develop and implement this Global Compact.

Partnerships do not occur on their own. It is up to all of us – the UN system, states, civil society, academia, the private sector, media, migrants and host communities - to engage responsibly on migration, and use the excellent opportunity through the Global Compact to foster partnerships at all levels.

Our collective work towards a global compact stands in recognition of the quarter of a billion people on the move in this world who are seeking a better standard of life; of migrants' vast contributions to their home and host societies; of the challenges that continue to remain for migrants; and of our commitment to work towards reducing, if not removing, inequalities – not just thus endured by migrants, but by all communities.

It is recognition, too, that countries are no longer just of origin, transit and destination but all three and often simultaneously. We are, truly, all in this together, better in partnerships than in isolation.

Thank you.