

## STATEMENT

**Laura Thompson**

**Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration**

*Thematic Session 1: Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance*

**8 May 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

---

Global Compact on Migration, 1<sup>st</sup> Thematic Consultation.

Intervention by Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration, during the final discussion session on 9 May 2017.

I would like to thank the co-facilitators, the Office of the President of the General Assembly and SRSG Arbour for ensuring a substantive and inclusive first discussion amongst governments and other critical stakeholders including civil society. I think this was a very good substantive start to the Global Compact discussions.

IOM shares the rightful emphasis placed on the centrality of human rights and especially the focus on how to translate existing norms and principles into reality for migrants. Many good examples and practices were provided but clearly there is need for more work to be done in this area.

We very much value the honesty of the discussion bringing focus on the real issues. We particularly appreciate the fact that areas of convergence were identified as well as areas of divergence where much more work is needed. In this context, we appreciated the summaries on these convergences and divergences by the three Ambassadors that moderated the sessions and the statement by Special Rapporteur Crepeau.

I would like to reiterate IOM's commitment to continue to support a deepened and inclusive dialogue going forward, including with concrete examples of good practice available to us.

I would like to conclude by agreeing with Special Rapporteur François Crepeau about the incredible progress that has been made in recent years in the dialogue on the topic of international migration. This certainly gives all of us a lot of hope on what we can achieve in this Global Compact!