

Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

10-11 December 2018 Marrakech

Statement Submitted by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

Thank you Mister/Madame President/Moderator for this opportunity to address the conference.

Very grateful to the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm hospitality and welcome to us participants.

Our congratulations to the Governments on their adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We rejoice with the global community that finally we have a framework for migration that respects the inherent dignity and human rights of people on the move.

The Maryknoll Sisters and other Maryknoll organizations work in cross-cultural mission for more than one hundred years in 29 countries, engaging with most vulnerable peoples, especially people on the move in Asia, Latin America, Africa and North America. We are witnesses to the dehumanizing effects of unsustainable development model in many parts of the world. These large-scale unsustainable developments have caused unmitigated destruction to nature and livelihoods of people and their communities, especially in rural areas causing extreme poverty, suffering and displacement of peoples. We all know that when families are displaced from their lands and their livelihoods, situations of extreme poverty drive people to look for better life. Migration is the pathway towards better living condition.

To address the root causes of migration, we must build sustainable, resilient and peaceful communities, not fearful of migrants taking away their economic livelihood. We must work together to build compassionate societies, that value hospitality and respect of others and compassionate to those who are most vulnerable. We can only do this if countries will commit to a sustainable development for the benefit of its people. Governments must address the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

As faith-based community who worked with people on the move, in both countries of origin and destination, we stand in solidarity with the migrants and their families. Maryknoll partners with civil society and other stakeholders in continuing our work with migrant workers in various mission countries. We welcome the Global Compact for Migration as a tool and compass to guide our work with migrants.

We align our statement with the Joint Civil Society Message to the Member States that was read in the dialogues at this conference. We amplify and support the important points highlighted in the Global Compact for Migration, such as:

Protection of vulnerable migrants in accordance with international human rights law; and facilitating access to basic services

Work to end child detention, uphold the principle of the best interest of the child at all times.

Apply due process, individual assessment, and effective remedy at borders and in return procedures and implement reintegration programs that are sustainable for returnees, families and their communities;

Guaranteeing core labor rights for all migrant workers regardless of status, with special attention on freedom of association and collective bargaining

Ensuring gender responsive policies; and promote the empowerment of women to realize their full potential;

In conclusion, faith-based organizations like Maryknoll will continue to work tirelessly with migrants and their families. We stand ready to work with member states to implement the Global Compact for Migration for a robust and swift implementation and review.

Thank you for your attention.

Sister Marvie L. Misolas, MM
NGO Representative to the UN
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic (ECOSOC/DPI Accredited)