

Official statement by UNICEF at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak here today on behalf of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

UNICEF is the world's largest provider of humanitarian assistance to children. We work in more than 190 countries and territories, and our work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We believe that every child has the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

We are deeply concerned about the growing number of migrant children around the world. Migrant children are often the most vulnerable members of their families and communities. They face a range of challenges, including separation from their parents, lack of access to basic services, and exposure to violence and abuse.

UNICEF calls for a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that protects the rights of migrant children. This compact should include measures to:

- Address the causes that push children from their homes, provide migrant children with better opportunities to stay in their communities, and support families to remain together.
- Ensure that migrant children have access to basic services, including education, health care, and protection from harm.
- Protect migrant children from exploitation and abuse, and ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.
- Provide migrant children with opportunities to participate in decision-making processes that affect them.

Mr. Secretary-General, we urge all governments to work together to implement the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and to ensure that migrant children are at the center of these efforts. Let us work together to protect the rights of migrant children and ensure that they have a bright future.

Thank you.

means to keep families together at all times and tackle xenophobia and discrimination.

The challenge for the compact partners is to protect the population from vulnerability to potential discrimination, from exclusion, from change to opportunity.

Special thanks to the UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNDP

and the UN Global Compact

and all individuals who made this possible

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from countries' experiences in integrating child migrants when designing policies, as UNICEF is encouraged by the strong expressions of support by Member States. Many speakers have said that this is now belonging to us all.

Secretary said in her opening remarks: "We are encouraged by the strong expressions of support by Member States. Many speakers have said that this is now belonging to us all."

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Let me conclude by saying thank you. The Special Representative, Miss Louise Arbour and her team, Ambassadors Gomez Camacho and Lauber have done an incredible job getting us here. Together with other UN agencies,