

Template of letter to governments

/with wording that you can consider, adapt or change completely as you like

[Your organization's letterhead or logo]

[Name, Title and Address of recipient]

[Date letter being sent]

Subject: Three urgent messages from civil society on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Your Excellency, [Or *Dear Minister XY*, etc.: Please adapt with official name and appropriate salutation]

We are writing to you about practical solutions; about concrete mechanisms, cooperation and partnership that rise to the challenge of addressing the challenges, rights and opportunities in international migration today. We do so together with hundreds of civil society organizations and networks worldwide: migrant, refugee and diaspora groups; human rights, development and faith-based organizations; trade unions and workers associations, and others across every sector and region, many working with governments on these matters at local, national, regional and international levels.

Specifically, we write on the urgency of rising together to the occasion of the positive commitments that all 193 UN Member States made at the Summit on Refugees and Migrants at the UN General Assembly in September 2016, and also in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the SDGs) the year before. One follow-up to those commitments is the states-led process now underway to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, for the UN General Assembly to adopt in September 2018.

We take heart from the call that Member States made in the final Declaration of the 2016 Summit for "*deeper interaction between Governments and civil society to find responses to the challenges and the opportunities posed by international migration*". We take this opportunity to bring **three urgent messages** to you, together with the full civil society document ***Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact***, attached.

1. A Global Compact worth agreeing to

We want to work with you on a Global Compact that is complementary to the SDGs, specifies and fulfils the commitments on all migration-related SDGs and targets on the ground, and cooperates directly with the Compact on Refugees that is also being developed. In practical terms, the Global Compact should include commitments to a set of ACTS and corresponding targets and actions that are ambitious but achievable on a graduated timeline of 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12 years until 2030. The Global Compact should also include a comprehensive annex with existing norms and principles on the protection and treatment of migrants and refugees.

The Compact should identify more difficult issues and gaps on which states and other stakeholders will need to work after the Compact is adopted to develop agreement on principles, practices and partnering. This should include clear, time-limited multi-stakeholder processes that take forward and complete current work on principles and voluntary guidelines regarding the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations, climate- and environment-induced displacement, regularization, return and reintegration, and migration governance.

2. Principles in practice.

The Global Compact should stand on three basic principles. First, the Compact must directly benefit migrants, refugees and societies. Second, the Compact should focus on ratification, expansion and implementation of rights and agreements that already exist — not simply restate them. The Compact does not need to “reinvent the wheel”, it needs to get the wheel *rolling*. And third, civil society, including migrants, refugees and diaspora organizations, must be meaningfully part of the discussion and solutions.

3. Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact

As further presented in the attached document, we urge you to include the following ten Acts and two crosscutting themes in the Global Compact:

- ACT 1. Drivers of human mobility:** Act to end the drivers of forced displacement and normalize and facilitate migration by choice.
- ACT 2. Safe pathways for human mobility:** Act to enhance safe, regular and affordable pathways and opportunities for human mobility that comply with human rights.
- ACT 3. Protection:** Act to meet the needs and respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants and refugees in distress, in transit, at borders and at destination, and end their criminalization and detention.
- ACT 4. Decent work and labor rights:** Act to promote safe and decent labor mobility, working conditions and labor rights for migrants and refugees.
- ACT 5. Decent living conditions and access to justice:** Act to ensure safe and decent living conditions and access to social services and justice for all migrants and refugees.
- ACT 6. Education and skills:** Act to provide quality education and developmental care for all children, and improve student mobility, learning opportunities and recognition of skills and qualifications.
- ACT 7. Inclusion and action against discrimination:** Act to promote social cohesion and inclusion of migrants and refugees into societies and combat all forms of xenophobia, racism and discrimination.
- ACT 8. Transnational and sustainable development:** Act to foster transnational connections and contributions of migrants, refugees and diaspora to sustainable development, and reduce transaction costs for remittances and investments.
- ACT 9. Rights, return and reintegration:** Act to develop global principles on the governance of return, reintegration and alternatives to return that guarantee the rights, safety and dignity of all migrants and refugees in these contexts
- ACT 10. Governance, implementation and monitoring:** Act to create transparent, accountable and participatory mechanisms and means of implementation for rights-based global governance of human mobility and migration.

Crosscutting all ten Acts:

- A. **The rights of children**, and primary consideration for sustainable solutions in children’s best interests in all policies, decisions and actions as detailed in the ‘*Child Rights in the Global Compacts*’ document.
- B. **Gender-responsive policies** that take into consideration the different needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of all migrants and refugees, and that ensure the full achievement of the rights and empowerment of women and girls.

We and our other civil society partners are sharing and discussing these TEN ACTS with governments everywhere, in the lead-up to and during the Compact negotiations next year.

With that in mind, may we ask to meet with you, or whoever in your government you might suggest instead, at the earliest possibility? We would be grateful if you could respond to us in that regard, by telephone or at the email address indicated below the signature.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to discussing and partnering with you, both in this process and on the implementation of the new Global Compact ahead.

Respectfully yours,

[Your name and title]

[Your network, organization, or consortium]

[Your email contact and telephone number:]

[Do not forget to attach the TEN ACTS document!!]