

Statement by China

Mr. President,

First of all, on behalf of Chinese delegation, I'd like to express my gratitude to the government of Germany and International Migration Organization for all the work they have done in preparing the 10th Global Forum on Migration and Development. And I believe that under your leadership and with the active participation of all parties, the forum will be a great success.

Mr. President,

Currently, as the development of globalization, migration has become one of the most distinctive features of our era. The scale of global migration has reached a historical high level. Migration has become an important force to eliminate poverty, promote inclusive development, improve population structure as well as enhance the cultural and people exchanges. At the same time, the number of forced migrants caused by wars and conflicts continuously increases, so does the challenge of broadening the channel for legal migrants. The rights of vulnerable groups of migrant women, children and elders need more protection. And we also witness the increase of trans-national organized crimes, such as smuggling and human trafficking.

How to cope with these challenges, promote orderly flow of population, and achieve common prosperity and development is an important task for the international community. With the endeavors of all parties, the migration issue has been incorporated into the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In 2016, the 71st United Nations General Assembly hosted the High-Level Meeting on Migration and Refugees, in which the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted, and member states committed to formulate the Global Contract for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in 2018. The international migration cooperation is facing a historical opportunity. The theme of today's forum "Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development" is of significant importance, and the Chinese delegation wants to make the following comments:

First, the catalytic role of migrants to the development shall be fairly considered and fully played. President of China, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, has proposed that we should jointly build a community of common destiny for all mankind. Migration can serve as a bridge and bond to this endeavor. The Global Contract for Migration shall embody an open, inclusive and fair attitude towards migrants, and recognize the importance of migration to economy and social development impetus. The Contract shall encourage all countries to improve migration policies, normalize the legal migration channels, eliminate discrimination and xenophobia towards migrants, and protect the interests of vulnerable migrants groups, including women, children and the elders. We should help the migrants groups integrate into the local society, and at the same time, cope properly with the negative factors in migration issues by fighting

against human smuggling and trafficking crimes jointly.

Second, we shall address the issue of forced migration in a comprehensive way. Migration should be a proactive choice for people to pursue a better life other than a forced option. The Global Contract for Migration should pay particular attention to solving the forced migration problems caused by regional instabilities, climate changes and so on. We must commit to peaceful settlement of international disputes, maintain stability and implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda so as to achieve the common development. The developed countries should increase financial and technical support to the developing countries, and enhance their capacities in dealing with natural disasters and emergent diseases. In this way, we can solve the problem of forced migration fundamentally.

Third, we should respect member states' national conditions and laws and policies on migration issues. Countries vary greatly in national condition and laws and policies. Member states should play a leading role in the procedure of the Contract negotiation. And at the same time, the important role of IOM should also be brought into play. We should support UN as the main channel and advance the negotiation step by step with the principle of international cooperation and friendly consultation. While formulating the relevant proposals and actions, we should take full consideration of different national conditions, development stages and laws and policies, strict differentiate the notion of migrants from refugees, and avoid "one size fits all" approach and imposing obligation. The Contract should empathize on building international consensus including countries of origin, transit and destination, and strengthening practical cooperation.

Mr. President,

With the advancement of the reform and opening up, China enjoys increasingly frequent people-to-people exchanges with other countries and regions, and has become one of the most actively entry-and-exit countries in the world. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the migration issue, takes measures to encourage Chinese citizens and enterprises to "go-out" and provides convenience for foreigners who are working, staying and living in China. The Exit and Entry Administration Law of the People's Republic of China came into force since July 2013. In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China built the Global Consular Protection and Service Emergency Call Center, also called the 12308 Hotline, providing a 24-hour "green channel" for the overseas Chinese in emergency to turn to their motherland.

China is an active participant in international migration cooperation. China joined in the International Migration Organization in June 2016, and we actively contribute to the international endeavor in addressing the current migration and refugee crisis. In September 2016, Chinese Premier, H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang announced that China would offer in total 300 million dollar humanitarian aid to relevant

countries and international organizations during the High-Level Meeting on Migrants and Refugees in the 71st UNGA. In this January, during his official visit to UN office in Geneva, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced another 200 million RMB new humanitarian aid to the IDPs and refugees in Syria.

Not long ago, the “Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation” was successfully held in Beijing. President Xi announced on the forum a series of pragmatic measures aiming at promoting infrastructure construction, facilitating investment and trade, and improving people’s well-being of countries along the “Belt and Road”. We believe that with the implementation of the relevant measures, the construction of “Belt and Road” will definitely play a positive role in promoting economic and social development of relevant areas, enhancing and protecting the well-being of migrants. In the future, China is ready to join hands with other parties to continue to contribute to the realization of the orderly flow of population and common prosperity of all countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.