



**108ª Sessão do Conselho da Organização Internacional para as Migrações
Debate Geral
30 de novembro de 2017, 10:20, Sala XVII, Palais des Nations**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Let me from the outset congratulate you for your election as Chairperson of the Council.

Your competence, experience and engagement will guide us through the upcoming year.

Let me also express our gratitude to DG William Swing and DDG Laura Thompson for their dedication and ability in steering this organization during our challenging times.

On behalf of the Government of Brazil, I welcome Cuba and Cook Islands to the IOM. Their participation strengthens the organization and contributes to our common goal of enhancing migration governance.

Madam Chair,

Migration can generate economic, social and cultural benefits for societies.

Migrants contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Men and women from all continents have contributed with their culture, values, diversity and knowledge to enrich my country.

As President Temer stated after the adoption of the New York Declaration, Brazil is a construct of migrants. And we are proud of it.

Against this background, it is crucial that the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration reflect these elements.

It should be guided by the need to guarantee the effective protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, including women and children, regardless of their migratory status, and the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Racism, xenophobia and other expressions of intolerance have no place in migration policies.

On the other hand, the principle of non-criminalization of migrants should be a keystone of our common understanding on the matter.

Respect for the rights of migrants, promotion of social inclusion and integration should be the north of our Global Compact.

These, Madam Chair, are precisely the elements that underpin Brazil's new Migration Law, that entered into force last week.

Without neglecting security concerns, the new Law is based on the principles of equal treatment and opportunity for migrants and their families.

It also aims at promoting migrants' social, labor and productive inclusion through specific public policies.

Madam Chair,

As we enter a decisive phase of the Global Compact, IOM will be increasingly called upon to support States in addressing migration issues.

I would like to reiterate Brazil's support for IOM as the leading United Nations organization on migration issues.

We are confident that it will rise to the occasion and continue to play a fundamental role in the negotiations of the Global Compact and beyond.

Thank you.