

Speech to IOM 108th Council Meeting 29 November

Delivered by Jarrod Clyne, chargé d'affaires a.i., New Zealand Permanent Mission

Mr Chair, honourable delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to present New Zealand's position, and welcome to the new members of the Organisation. In particular, I would like to recognise the presence of Ms Kairangi Samuela from the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration. New Zealand has a close constitutional relationship with the Cook Islands, and work closely together on the Immigration Cook Islands Partnership Programme. We applaud the Cook Islands for fulfilling the steps to become a member of this important international forum, we are looking forward to their Pacific perspective and contributions to the discussions at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) meetings.

We would also like to thank the IOM for their continued participation and guidance on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. New Zealand calls for the Compact to uphold human rights for all migrants, consider the benefits as well as the drivers of migration, and consider the unique drivers and effects of migration on small island developing states. In particular, the Compact should also recognise that SIDS may have different capacities to implement reporting requirements of the final Compact and reflect this in its consideration of any measures such as information or reporting requirements. The IOM, if and as requested by member states, could assist with capacity development of countries' immigration and data collection agencies.

Mr Chair, New Zealand is supportive of a rights-based approach to migration and migration policies. We agree that the Global Compact should promote the wellbeing of migrants and their families, leading to inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in societies of origin, transit and destination.

Migrants make positive contributions to society, particularly when they are fully included in the economy and cultural life of their new home. The Global Compact should emphasise the benefits of migration for both states and migrants through comprehensive, planned and well-managed migration policies. New Zealand has successful experiences with orderly labour mobility programmes, such as our circular migration Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE) scheme. The RSE scheme is seen as a 'triple-win', benefiting our economy by providing workers when there are no New Zealanders available, Pacific Island nation's economies by providing employment and remittances for development, and individual workers and their families through the work experience, skills development and income gained for their prosperity.

As international migration trends affect all countries' immigration systems, it is important that the international community responds through innovative and new partnerships as well as traditional methods to achieve the desired result. The Global Compact and IOM should encourage all states and broader civil society to combat the negative aspects of migration, such as human trafficking and people smuggling. Combating human trafficking requires both policy and operational coherence and a joined-up approach within and between Governments. The New Zealand Government takes very seriously the protection of migrant workers, who are afforded the same employment rights and protections as all other workers in New Zealand. We are committed to protecting these rights through the effective enforcement of all employment and immigration laws.

Migration is a historic and complex challenge that is not about anonymous flows of people, but which concerns the real lives and hopes of individual human beings, their partners and families. Migration, when properly managed, can and should be a source of enrichment to us all. The global community can act appropriately within the Global Compact on Migration, to achieve this. That is the challenge before us today.

Thank you.