



**Save the Children**

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Oral statement by Save the Children

Mr. Chair,

On 10-11 December, UN member States will meet in Marrakech, Morocco, to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. For the first time, and after two years of consultations, negotiations and hard work amongst 192 UN Member states, the Compact sets a framework for improved cooperation on migration between countries.

The Compact is carefully crafted, in full respect of States' sovereign right to determine their national migration policy, while calling for international cooperation and joint approaches for better migration governance that aim to benefit the lives of migrants, States and host communities alike. Save the Children believes that the Global Compact will help better manage the global response to international migration and enable better protection for the nearly 50 million children on the move worldwide, at risk of falling through the cracks.

By promoting child sensitive approaches and upholding the best interest of the child as a core guiding principle and a primary consideration in situations concerning children, the Compact provides a much needed framework and a set of practical measures to turn these principles into action. The Compact provides a crucial opportunity to change the status quo and catalyse real positive change for children which we cannot afford to miss.

Mr Chair,

When it comes to the implementation, States have the primary role and leadership but it will also require concerted effort and a whole of society approach in the implementation. We see the UN Migration Network, not only as a UN –coordinated response but also as a catalyst who can bring together various stakeholders, and create platforms for the exchange of good practices and innovative solutions.

We need a long-term vision and strategy as well as short term milestones and priorities. It is also critical that the Network fully embrace and operationalise the guiding principles of the Compact throughout its work and to ensure that children and their best interests are at the very core of the implementation of the Compact. To do so, it is key that expertise on child rights is included in the working of the network at all levels and not only as a stand-alone issue.

The Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts brings together a variety of stakeholders including UN Agencies, Civil Society, Philanthropy foundations, Trade Unions, and individual experts. It is an example of a 'network' a constituency, brought together by a common purpose and where key expertise is pooled both on policy and on practice.

This collaboration has been fruitful and has benefitted from the strengths and diversity of civil society working together with UN agencies as well as with other actors and it is a collaborative model that we recommend replicating in the network.