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Ministry of Justice
Division for Migration and Asylum Policy
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Inputs to the UN Secretary-General's report on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Sweden expresses its deep gratitude to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration and Secretary-General of the Conference, Ms. Louise Arbour, for championing the UN system and for her valuable contributions to the process leading to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Sweden views the GCM together with the New York Declaration (A/RES/71/1) and the entry of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) into the UN, as a unique opportunity to improve the global cooperation on international migration. Sweden therefore welcomes the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General as mandated by paragraph 26 in Resolution A/RES/71/280. An ambitious Secretary-General's report could help Member States' efforts in the articulation of this GCM. Sweden further appreciates the opportunity to provide inputs for this report. In this regard, Sweden aligns itself with the submission by the EU Delegation on behalf of the EU and its Member States. In addition, Sweden would like to share the following inputs in its national capacity:

Sweden considers it a priority for the GCM to improve the implementation and application of existing norms and principles, rather than developing new ones. The **purpose and goals of the GCM** could be to bring about diverse actors making mutually reinforcing commitments, designed to achieve a shared vision of safe, orderly and regular migration, embodied in existing political commitments.

In support of such a purpose, the overall **structure and elements of the GCM** could centre around three main sections: an introductory declaration outlining a shared vision with key elements drawn from *existing* human rights-based and gender-responsive normative frameworks; a Programme of Action with actionable, concrete and time-bound commitments; and a section outlining a regular mechanism for follow-up.

Sweden believes a **key challenge, but also opportunity**, for advancing international cooperation on migration through the GCM would be for the GCM to achieve a balance between the priorities of, on the one hand, Member States that are primarily concerned with ensuring migration is orderly and that irregular migration is addressed, and on the other hand, Member States that are primarily concerned with accessing international labour markets through facilitating regular pathways for migrating. All stand to gain from safe, orderly and regular migration, as uncontrolled migration has negative social and human consequences. This will require improved governance of migration at the global, regional as well as national levels.

Through its engagement with the GCM, Sweden's priorities are therefore to: i) promote sustainable labour migration with decent work; ii) strengthen the capacity to manage migration in countries of origin, transit and destination in order to address irregular migration, including by combatting trafficking and smuggling as well as to carry out effective returns, readmissions and reintegration; and iii) to promote better governance of migration.

The **actionable commitments** would usefully be structured according to a limited number of priority areas. While appreciating the wealth of exchange during the thematic consultations, the GCM could be more concisely and comprehensively clustered around such priority areas, than was the case in Resolution A/RES/71/280. In particular, the issue of irregular migration would warrant more comprehensive attention, e.g. by clustering issues related to irregular migration, borders, smuggling, trafficking and return together. Inspiration could be drawn from the recommended clustering in the Chair's summary from the GFMD Forum Meeting in Dhaka in 2016¹ and in the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration² respectively, which broadly outline the following objectives:

¹ GFMD 2016 Chair's Summary http://gfmd.org/files/documents/9th_gfmd_chairs_summary_12_dec_2016.pdf

² Report of the SRSG on Migration (A/71/728), also referred to as the "Sutherland Report".

- Protecting the human rights of migrants and providing protection for migrants in vulnerable situations, including in times of crisis;
- Facilitating safe and regular movement of migrant workers, while ensuring decent work for migrant workers, in particular migrant women;
- Addressing irregular migration, by enhancing national migration management capacity, combatting trafficking and smuggling and ensuring effective returns in dignity and safety;
- Enhancing the development effects of migration and ensuring inclusion of migrants in their host societies; and
- Improving international cooperation and governance of migration.

The Secretary-General's report could help to bridge the disconnect between, on the one hand, the ambitious political statements made during the consultation phase – often resembling the commitments already made in the New York Declaration – and, on the other hand, the detailed national experiences shared. In particular, the report could articulate how to deliver on existing norms and principles through operational commitments; and elaborate how international cooperation, through the GCM, could facilitate the kind of good practice that has been shared, including by facilitating the formulation and implementation of well-managed migration policies.

This could be done through spelling out concrete recommendations for results-oriented commitments, as a non-exhaustive and indicative list for consideration by Member States as a Programme of Action. In line with the request in A/RES/71/280 to prepare the report in close consultation with IOM, these recommendations could draw on the vast operational experience of IOM as well as, *inter alia*, the concrete recommendations in SRSG Arbour's inter-agency issue briefs and the Sutherland Report. Potential elements of such a list may include *inter alia*:

- Voluntary commitments towards capacity building initiatives to manage migration;
- Support for consular capacity and cooperation as well as for migrant support centres along key migratory routes;
- Commitment to consider adjusting national legislation, regulation and policies as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements and codes of conduct to ILO's *General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment*;
- Commitments to promote the ratification of the ILO fundamental conventions, and especially to promote or guarantee the freedom of

- association and the right to collective bargaining as fundamental rights and an enabling conditions for the realization of decent work;
- An inter-agency support function for facilitating negotiation, implementation and follow-up of bilateral and regional agreements on labour mobility;
 - Commitments to facilitate return, readmission and reintegration, e.g. through initiating return and reintegration dialogues in existing regional and international fora;
 - Concrete recommendations on how to lower remittance costs, e.g. by enhancing competition and more predictable regulation, including by reviewing anti-money laundry and anti-terror financing regulation;
 - Enhance evidence-based and gender responsive policy-making including through improving data disaggregated by sex, age and migration status on the development outcomes of migrants and on migration policy.

With regards to international cooperation and governance of migration, Sweden would like to see forms of cooperation that improve the implementation of agreed principles and commitments made, including international instruments in the field of migration setting out obligations for ratifying states. In this regard, Sweden would seek the Secretary-General's advice on how the GCM could promote streamlining of the migration function as well as system-wide coherence and more effective coordination and cooperation on migration within the UN- and multilateral systems. Particular attention would be welcome on how to draw on IOM's entry into the UN system. The report of the Secretary-General could provide a valuable guidance to Member States and indication to the various entities of the United Nations in this regard.

Finally, with regards to the **means of implementation and framework for follow-up and review**, Sweden would welcome if time-bound commitments in a Programme of Action were linked to measures of success, a regular follow-up mechanism and *voluntary* funding towards capacity-building initiatives to manage migration. Consideration would be particularly welcome to the potential role of IOM in the coordination of the follow-up of the GCM and in drawing on the mandates and comparative advantages of the different agencies of the UN system in support of Member States' implementation of the commitments made. Attention may also be given to how to link this to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.