9 December 2016

Excellency,

Please find attached a letter dated 9 December 2016 from H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, and H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico, as co-facilitators leading open, transparent and inclusive consultations with States with a view to the determination of modalities, a timeline, the possible holding of preparatory conferences and other practicalities relating to the intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to be presented at an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018, including the integration of the Geneva-based migration expertise.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signature]

Peter Thomson

To All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
Excellency,

We are pleased to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the modalities for the process for adoption of the Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration.

In this regard, we would like to thank all Member States for the constructive engagement in discussion of the elements paper circulated on 23 November. As a result of the exchanges held on 1 December and 5 December, in Geneva and New York, respectively, we are pleased to circulate the zero draft of the modalities resolution for the intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Before engaging in the informal consultations on this document, we are pleased to invite you to an informal expert-level "questions and answers" meeting, to be held on Tuesday, December 13 from 13:15 to 14:45 in Conference Room 8. This informal gathering is intended to assist Member States in responding to any requests for clarification that may arise.

In accordance with the roadmap circulated previously, the consultations on the zero draft will begin on 16 December from 15:00 to 18:00 in the Trusteeship Council chamber. We invite all Member States to share their reactions and highlight any priorities in the context of this meeting and look forward to count on your continued and most appreciated participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Juan José Gómez Camacho
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

Jürg Lauber
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

Permanent Missions
To the United Nations
Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Zero Draft of the Resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016, entitled “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”, and the launch of a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (global compact) at an intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018,

Recalling also that the global compact would set out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions; make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration; present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility; deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration; and be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013,

Acknowledging its decision to work towards the adoption in 2018 of a global compact on refugees, while noting that the two processes are separate and distinct but may be complementary,

Welcoming the agreement to bring the International Organization for Migration, an organization regarded by its Member States as the global lead agency on migration, into closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations as a related organization,

1. Decides that the intergovernmental conference to adopt a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

   (a) shall be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York immediately prior to the opening of the general debate of the 73rd session of the General Assembly,
   (b) shall be held at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government,
   (c) shall result in an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome, entitled “global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” the scope of which is defined in Annex II of its resolution 71/1,
   (d) shall also result in summaries of the plenary meetings and other deliberations of the conference, to be included in the report of the conference;

2. Underlines further that the outcome document to be adopted by the intergovernmental conference may include the following main components: actionable commitments, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review of implementation;

3. Decides that the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies;

4. Invites intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly and organizations and bodies of the United Nations to participate as observers in the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process;

5. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators, to lead the intergovernmental consultations on all issues related to the global compact, the intergovernmental conference as well as their preparatory process, and underlines that the consultations must be open, transparent and inclusive;
6. **Reiterates** the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities, and migrant organizations in the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process, and:

(a) **Invites** non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process;

(b) **Requests** the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, diaspora communities and migrant organizations who may attend and participate in the preparatory process, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis no later than April 2017;  

(c) **Requests** the President of the General Assembly to draw up a further list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, diaspora communities and migrant organizations who may attend and participate in the intergovernmental conference, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis no later than April 2018;  

7. **Emphasizes** the importance of contributions that take into account different realities, and therefore encourages effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the conference itself, including by the sharing of best practices and concrete policies, for example, through the convening of national multi-stakeholder consultations and participation in regional platforms;

8. **Underlines** that relevant stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, parliaments, local authorities, the private sector and migrants themselves will be able to contribute views, in particular through informal dialogues to which they will be invited by the co-facilitators; the intergovernmental nature of the negotiations, however, will be fully respected;

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system for providing support to the organization of the conference;

10. **Requests also** the Secretary-General to ensure that the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including specialized agencies, funds, programmes, related organizations, relevant Special Procedure mandate holders, and regional economic commissions, giving due regard to Geneva-based expertise, is coordinated to support the State-led preparatory process of the global compact and the intergovernmental conference;

11. **Requests** further the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the intergovernmental conference;

12. **Further decides** that the precise modalities for the intergovernmental conference for international migration shall be decided no later than January 2018;

**Phase I**

13. **Requests** the President of the General Assembly to organize a series of informal thematic sessions on, but not limited to, the elements outlined in paragraph 8 of Annex II of its resolution 71/1 organized under the following themes, co-chaired by the co-facilitators, between April

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1, 2 The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.
2017 to November 2017, at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York:

a. Sustainable development,
b. Human rights,
c. Social inclusion and anti-discrimination,
d. International cooperation and governance of migration,
e. Climate change, natural phenomena, and crisis situations,
f. Decent work and labor mobility;

14. **Decides** also that these thematic sessions shall be organized for a maximum duration of 12 working days in total, and shall each consist of 2 or 3 expert panels and an interactive exchange;

15. **Invites** the Secretary-General to submit inter-agency issue briefs in advance of each thematic session;

16. **Requests** the two co-facilitators to prepare summaries of the thematic sessions to serve as inputs in the preparation of the global compact;

17. **Calls upon** Member States to contribute to the preparatory process by providing concrete recommendations and other substantive inputs for the global compact in the informal thematic sessions;

18. **Also calls upon** Member States to make use of relevant global, regional and sub-regional processes and other existing initiatives in the field of migration, to contribute to the preparatory process of the global compact in the form of summaries and concrete recommendations which may be presented at the preparatory meeting or in the informal thematic sessions, as appropriate;

**Phase II**

19. **Decides** that a preparatory meeting chaired by the co-facilitators will be held no later than November 2017 for the duration of three days and that it shall serve to take stock of the contributions received and under way from Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant meetings and processes, with a view to set the ground to move forward to the negotiation phase of the global compact, including its means of implementation as well as its follow-up and review mechanism;

20. **Calls upon** the Secretary-General, as an input to the intergovernmental negotiations to be launched in the beginning of 2018, to synthesize the full range of inputs then available and to present a synthesis report before the beginning of phase III;

**Phase III**

21. **Decides** that the initial draft of the global compact shall be prepared by the co-facilitators on the basis of the views, summaries and recommendations provided by Member States and by taking into account relevant inputs in substantive discussions in phases I and II, and shall be presented to Member States no later than January 2018 for intergovernmental negotiations;

22. **Also decides** that intergovernmental negotiations on the global compact shall be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York as follows: in March 2018 for three days, in April 2018 for three days, in May 2018 for five days, and in June 2018 for five days;

23. **Stresses** the need for flexibility in convening the informal meetings of the intergovernmental negotiations and the possibility of convening additional consultations, as required, with interpretation services on an as-available basis;

24. **Requests** the President of the General Assembly, as part of the preparatory process for the intergovernmental conference, to organize and to preside over at least four days of informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings, between April 2017 and June 2018, with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities, migrants, migrant organizations and the private sector, and requests the
President of the General Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be made available prior to the intergovernmental conference;

25. *Decides* to establish a voluntary trust fund for the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process in order to support the activities involved, as well as the travel and participation of representatives from the least developed countries as well as other stakeholder representatives;

26. *Urges* all Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the trust fund for the intergovernmental conference and its preparatory process.