



**Agenda item 12:      Update Report – Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and Global Compact on Refugees**

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**Recommendations**

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** the issues raised by panellists on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees;
  - b) **welcome** the statement drafted for the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting (the “Regional Preparatory Meeting”) by the Secretariat on behalf of Members and **thank** New Zealand for delivering the statement at the forum on behalf of PIDC; and
  - c) **task** the Secretariat to ensure that it remains updated on activities regarding the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees so that it can advise Members accordingly.
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**Purpose**

To update Members on the current status of discussions for the development of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

**Background**

2. The UN General Assembly in its September 2016 “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants” launched two separate streams of work designed to lead to the adoption of: (a) a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (the “Global Regular Migration Compact”); and (b) a Global Compact for Refugees (the “Global Refugee Compact”).

**Global Regular Migration Compact**

3. The Global Regular Migration Compact seeks to establish an inter-governmentally negotiated agreement that would set out a range of principles, commitments, and understandings among Member States covering all dimensions of international migration in a comprehensive manner. The agreement would look to improve the governance on migration, strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development, enhance global coordination on international migration, and provide a common framework for international cooperation on priority aspects of migration.

4. As part of the negotiation process to develop the Global Regular Migration Compact, PIDC was invited to attend an UN-ESCAP hosted Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Thailand in November 2017 to provide a forum to identify key migration issues, challenges, and priorities for the Asia-Pacific region and identify existing national, bilateral, sub-regional, and regional arrangements in place to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration. It was envisaged that the conclusions drawn from the Regional Preparatory Meeting would be provided as regional input into a subsequent global stocktaking meeting that was held in Mexico in December 2017.

5. While the Secretariat was unfortunately unable to attend the Regional Preparatory Meeting, it was able to prepare a statement (refer to Attachment One) that was presented by New Zealand as Chair of PIDC to the forum. The statement advised that PIDC supported the goal of the Global Compact to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration as this was aligned with the objectives and purposes for which the PIDC had been established. The statement further noted that the development of a comprehensive multilateral framework provided a valuable opportunity for the international community to develop agreed approaches and positions on key migration areas that currently impacted countries across the world.

6. As an outcome, PIDC's statement was recorded in the Meeting Report with its interventions referenced in three thematic areas. As a result of the intervention, the UN-ESCAP Secretariat subsequently expressed interest to continue working with PIDC in the future to support the common goals of ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration in the Asia-Pacific region. While this outcome is fairly minor, the Secretariat is pleased that the PIDC profile was raised in such an important forum in the discussion of such an important global immigration matter.

#### **Global Refugee Compact**

7. The Global Refugee Compact looks to protect those who are forced to flee and support the countries that shelter them. It provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations and has four key objectives being to: (a) ease the pressures on host countries; (b) enhance refugee self-reliance; (c) expand access to third-country solutions; and (d) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

8. Unfortunately, PIDC has had limited engagement in the discussions around the Global Refugee Compact and has invited UNHCR to provide the Regular Annual Meeting with an update briefing.