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**Statement by Louise Arbour
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
International Migration**

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**Concluding Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations
on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular
Migration**

UN Headquarters, 13 July 2018

Excellencies,

Dear Amina, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by joining my voice to that of the Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly in congratulating you, Excellencies, on the historic agreement that you have reached today.

Allow me to also express my appreciation to His Excellency Miroslav Lajčák for his dedicated leadership, and of course to Ambassadors Gómez Camacho and Lauber for their steady hands as co-facilitators of this process. Their skill, drive and commitment, and that of their colleagues, have been essential in bringing us to where we are today.

Please also allow me to say thank you to my small team for their very impressive work these past months.

The expertise and contributions that we received from the entire UN System – from the International Organization for Migration, and from many other UN partners – were invaluable to our efforts. I thank you all.

And I acknowledge and thank, too, the contributions we have received from civil society, the private sector, trades unions, mayors and so many other groupings these past months.

To all of them, I say your continued engagement on the road to Marrakech will be vital to the success of that conference and I stand ready to work with you to ensure your voices continue to be heard.

Excellencies, you have succeeded in anchoring your debates in reality, not mythology, and in a reality that presents itself globally in many different, complex, configurations. You have overcome differences and found common ground, in the recognition that international migration is inevitably both a matter of state sovereignty and state interdependence, and that here as elsewhere, your national interests will be best secured through international cooperation.

For migrants, for the communities in which they settle and for the people they leave behind, the Global Compact presents a blueprint for hope. Human mobility will be with us, as it has always been. Its chaotic, dangerous exploitative aspects cannot be allowed to become a new

normal. The implementation of the Compact will bring safety, order and economic progress to everyone's benefit.

The text before us is a flexible and forward-looking document, recognizing that the configuration of migration will evolve, and that we must have a framework by which to address both today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

The agreement you have reached ushers in the next phase of the process: its formal adoption in Marrakesh later this year.

The Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco on 10 and 11 December, is an opportunity for the international community to convene at the highest level and not only to celebrate this historic moment but, more importantly, to launch innovative measures to anchor it both in reality and ambition.

The coming months will be crucial to build momentum and forge partnerships in the lead-up to the Conference, and I very much look forward to working with all of you to make this event a resounding success, fulfilling the

promise of the Global Compact to make migration work for all, in a truly safe, regular and orderly fashion.

Thank you.