**Statement by India**

**3rd Informal Thematic Session on the Global Compact on Migration**

**Panel-1: International Cooperation and Governance of Migration in all its Dimensions, Geneva 19 June 2017**

At the outset, I complement the panelists particularly Madam Margareta Wahlstrom for her reflections on this important topic. We have carefully noted the views expressed by other panelists and by previous speakers.

Although the scope of discussion of this session does not deals with the main reasons behind unprecedented large scale movement of people but, it will not be out of place to mention that unless the main causes like worsening security situation, conflicts, wars etc. are firmly dealt with, best efforts even through investing any amount of resources, international cooperation and governance will only look like a patch work and may not yield satisfactory outcome.

I may wish to draw attention to UNHCR's document dated 11 July 2016 where it attempted to differentiate between refugees and migrants. It states Migrants choose to move not because of a direct threat of persecution or death, but mainly to improve their lives by finding work, or in some cases for education, family reunion, or other reasons. Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants face no such impediment to return. Despite having a clear distinction between refugees and migrants, we have witnessed that there are interest groups which deliberately wants to create confusion between the term refugees with migrants so as to avoid their obligations. In addition, it has become a topic for discussion on almost all international forums and UN organs coming up with its own set of recommendations, despite full knowledge of the facts that a process for Global Compact on Migration and Global Compact of Refugee is going on with a mandate to finish the work by Mid 2018. Such wide ranging debate is fine but all forums including UN organs coming up with their own set of recommendations and resolutions puts those countries and delegations at disadvantage who do not have adequate resources to cover-up all such meetings. **My first practical suggestion is to respect the General Assembly approved modalities for Negotiations on Migration and have all substantive discussions on this forum.**

We feel that there is an deliberate attempts by certain quarters to reinterpret the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol so as to artificially raise the qualification bar making more and more people ineligible to claim refugee status and force them to return on the pretext of being irregular migrants. **This is a dangerous trend and needs to be dealt with all sincerity by keeping the interest of the affected people at the core.**

**We recognise that better managed migration through enhanced international cooperation is the need of the hour, and to make it effective we need to look for a robust but practical approach.** While stating so, we strongly recommend keeping the economic migration unaffected with the other forms of migration management so as to keep the wheels of world economy least affected of the ongoing migration crisis. The suggestions made in the Peter Sutherland Report and the statement made by DG IOM makes a good basis to carry forward our work.

I once again thank the panelists for rich and informative discussion.

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