



Australian Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Geneva

24 July 2017

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva, Switzerland

By email: registry@ohchr.org; poberoi@ohchr.org; gsauberli@ohchr.org

Dear Sir / Madam

Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/35/L.28 on the Protection of the human rights of migrants: the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 June 2017 about A/HRC/35/L.28 seeking information from member states on principles, good practices and policies on safe, regular and orderly migration, particularly with respect to the six thematic sessions of the preparatory process for the global compact.

It is my pleasure to provide the below response on behalf of the Australian Government:

Response

Australia is strongly committed to the development of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) that effectively balances measures to enhance border control, and expands access to lawful migration pathways. This commitment is reflected in our active and ongoing engagement in all stages of the GCM consultation process agreed to in the modalities resolution of 6 April 2017, including through the thematic sessions and regional consultations.

Noting that GCM consultations are ongoing, Australia's preference is to work through the consultation process for the upcoming thematic sessions agreed to in the modalities resolution, A/RES/71/280, adopted on 6 April 2017, rather than pre-empt the process. As such, Australia did not co-sponsor resolution A/HRC/35/L.28, and will not be responding to the particulars of the information request on thematic session topics.

The Australian Government has always engaged in good faith with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We reaffirm the Australian Government's long-standing commitment to cooperating with the United Nations (UN), and the Australian Government's strong human rights record. Australia has a proud tradition of positive engagement with international human rights mechanisms. We are actively engaged in the UN human rights system, including at Human Rights Council Sessions. We also reaffirm existing international legal frameworks and welcome the opportunities the Human Rights Council provides to exchange good practices and policies on safe, orderly and regular migration.

We welcome open discussion of the complex challenges that prevent the full realisation of individuals' rights, both in Australia and across the globe. We recognise that the lack of an effective global framework for the management of migration, particularly large flows of irregular migrants, has encouraged migrants to undertake dangerous journeys, and has left

them open to exploitation by criminal human trafficking and smuggling syndicates. It has also undermined public confidence in the effective and orderly management of migration.

We also recognise that migration is an essential driver of economic development. Australia is committed to a Global Compact that provides a coherent framework to support safe and effective migration pathways, and establishes governance principles and protection frameworks for more effective responses to mass movements of displaced peoples, including within the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia has a long history of engaging cooperatively with the United Nations and welcomes open and constructive engagement with the human rights system. We trust the above information is helpful and reiterate Australia's continued engagement and interest in the preparatory process for the GCM.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Wood." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vanessa Wood
Chargé d'affaires