

Statement Delivered at the

**High-Level Panel on Migration and Structural Transformation in
Africa**

25 September 2018

12:00 - 14:00, Conference Room IV, UN Headquarters

New York, United States of America

High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Structural Transformation of Africa

Statement by Norway

Your excellencies, distinguished panelists.

On behalf of the Government of Norway, I wish to thank the Governments of Morocco and Rwanda for organizing this important and timely event.

The Norwegian Government remains determined to contribute to the successful adoption in Marrakesh of the UN Global Compact on Migration. Norway wishes to contribute to the development of an international framework in compliance with international law and our international obligations. Respect for human rights and international law are cornerstones of our European identity. Future initiatives must be developed on this basis.

I welcome the positive narrative presented by UNCTAD in the report and by the speakers. We commend the work done by UNCTAD in bringing evidence on the positive effects on migration to the table.

I fully agree that partnerships are essential to harnessing the potential of migration and solving the challenges that come with irregular migration. Cooperation and partnerships between countries of transit, origin and destination must be the basis for long term, sustainable migration policy.

Norway is an active partner of the Joint Valletta Action Plan. We have contributed to the EU Trust Fund (EUTF) since 2016 and plan to provide an additional 6 million euros in 2018.

There are many reasons to be optimistic.

I would like to congratulate the African states on your efforts towards establishing an African Free Trade Area. This, as well as the Protocol relating to the Free Movement of Persons, has tremendous potential. Not only is there untapped potential for increasing productivity for goods produced and consumed regionally. Access to larger markets attracts investments.

Technology may allow African countries to leap frog certain infrastructure needs that is accelerating development progress by skipping entire phases of

infrastructure- and institution-building. To fulfill this potential investments in education, skills and infrastructure must be accelerated. Education, health, energy and private sector development are top priorities for Norway, both at home and abroad.

Thank you again to the organizers. Please be assured that Norway stands ready to work constructively towards a successful conclusion of the negotiations towards the global compact in Marrakesh in December 2018.

Thank you.