



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-03407**

BY: **MR. BERNIER (BEAUCE)**

DATE: **APRIL 10, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN**

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Immigration

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration provides almost 200 examples of good practices regarding the management of migration and borders that states can use – if they so choose – to improve their migration systems. These practices include guidance on establishing pathways for temporary and permanent migration, border management, detention, returns and deportation, combatting human trafficking and smuggling, foreign qualification recognition, and integration. Canada is already well aligned with most of these practices and many of the practices were included by the international community based on Canada's experience with them.

In December 2018, the majority of United Nations Member States – 152 out of 193 – adopted the Compact. The text is not legally binding and says clearly that state sovereignty will not be affected. The Compact confirms that countries have the right to determine their national migration policies, including distinguishing between regular and irregular migrants, and determining who can enter and stay on their territory. It is clear that countries have the discretion to decide for themselves how to implement it, based on their own situations, policies and priorities.

The Compact is aimed at making migration safer, more orderly and more regular. Canada is committed to safeguarding the integrity of its borders. It has been and continues to take substantial and tangible measures for a balanced approach to ensure migration is well-managed and to deter irregular migration, while upholding our international commitments

to protect those fleeing persecution. At the same time, we have been clear that crossing our border between official ports of entry is not a free ticket to Canada. Safeguarding Canada's borders is essential to making sure we continue to keep Canadians safe, and benefit from a rules-based, world-class immigration system.

Canada has benefitted economically, socially, and culturally from regular and well-managed migration with migrants supporting the growth of our labour force and bringing new skills. Migrants also contribute through their entrepreneurship by creating new jobs, investment ties, and boosting innovation.

Canada and Canadians can only benefit from other countries improving their own migration management to deter irregular migration and provide pathways for those who want to migrate regularly. Canada will continue to share best practices and participate in international and multilateral fora to contribute to these efforts.