Talking points of the Chinese Delegation at the Second Informal Thematic Discussion on Global Compact on Migration

(ECOSOC Chamber, May 22-23)

3. Adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters as drivers of migration

I. In the final analysis, climate change and natural disasters are issues of sustainable development. As such, challenges of climate change and natural disasters and their effect on cross-border migration can only be tackled in the development process and addressed within the framework of sustainable development.

II. There is a need to adopt integrated measures to reduce the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation must be incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development. The international community needs to actively implement the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. International and regional cooperation needs to be strengthened in areas of climate change and disaster reduction and relief, in order to improve the climate change adaptability and food security of developing countries, especially the SIDS, enhance the capacity building of the affected countries in risk management and disaster prevention and preparedness, and increase their resilience.

III. Discussion on migration should be conducted within the relevant GA mandate. Displacement caused by climate change and natural disasters include

migration both within and across borders. Although they are related, the global compact on migration, per its mandate, should focus on cross-border migration, not IDPs.

IV. Guidelines and criteria proposed by some member states must be in conformity with the current international law and norms governing migration. Guidelines or criteria on which no consensus has been reached via intergovernmental negotiations at the UN are all voluntary in nature. As such, they must not be imposed on other member states leading to additional obligations.