

**Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly and Regular Migration**

**The Sixth Informal Thematic Session**

**“Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures”**

**Intervention prepared for**

**H.E Ambassador Negash Kibret, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,**

**Permanent Representative of Ethiopia**

**Panel Two- Decent work and labour mobility**

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**Palais des Nations**

## **Thank You Moderator**

**I thank all the presenters for their thought provoking presentation.**

Ethiopia believes that any attempt to deal with emerging labour migration challenges should be grounded on the 1990 United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and other relevant instruments. We also believe that labour receiving countries need to adopt a labour policy guided by the need to ensure labour standards are met for both nationals and migrant workers and penalizes discriminatory practice. They should abolish practices that makes migrant workers invisible due to their migratory statuses. Low skilled migrants should also be given equal chance in expanding legal pathways. It is imperative that labour receiving countries include labour migrants in their national social protection policy, ensure occupational safety standards are observed. Origin countries capacity in pre-departure orientation and consular support should be enhanced to familiarize migrant workers with language, culture of host countries. Beefing up the Institutional capacity of origin countries in labour inspection, skilling of migrant workers should be at the centre of the Global Compact on Migration. Need based skilling of labour migrants obviously require us greater cooperation in assessing skill gaps and investing in training and in this regard having a multi stakeholder framework is vital.

About bilateral agreements for labour migration, ensuring effectiveness of this instruments in ensuring observance of rights of migrant workers through joint monitoring mechanisms is vital. Using regional economic communities could also be important to ensure effective implementation. My delegation as well believes that scaling up best experience in regional mechanisms such as the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in other regions like Africa could be an important intervention to ameliorate the plight of migrant workers. The GCM should incorporate standards and best practices generated through regional cooperation. Given that much of the labour migration is happening within the South, countries and regions who have adopted free movement of protocol in Africa should be supported in terms of capacity institutional capacity to move forward the regional integration

efforts through movement of labour, goods and capital. Our experience tells us also that regulating private employment agencies who are often engaged in smuggling of workers is critical. Labour sending and receiving countries should have a strong labour inspection policy. To share our best experience, in Ethiopia we have stipulated overseas employment law that makes all recruitment payments to be borne by overseas employers and private employment agencies to deposit 100,00 USD in blocked account to be used where there are cases of victims of exploitation workers hired by the employment agency. In closing, we call for a stronger legal instrument on fair recruitment and private employment agencies.

**Thank You**