

Panel 1: Sustainable development and poverty eradication

- The EU and its MS welcome that this second preparatory thematic session is specifically devoted to drivers of migration, and that this session is looking into sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- The EU and its MS recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development and at the same time its complex challenges for host societies; our common objective is therefore to maximize the positive effects of migration on development, minimize its negative consequences and ultimately make migration a choice and not a necessity.
- In order to achieve our goal, it is imperative to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce inequality by promoting sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Similarly, it is important to strengthen capacities in countries of origin to remedy the lack of educational opportunities which often motivates migration, particularly among young people. In this regard, we note that migration of highly skilled and educated people affect development prospects of developing countries.
- To help boost investments, economic growth and decent job creation in our partner countries, the EU plans to provide EUR 3.35 billion for its External Investment Plan, which will potentially mobilize up to EUR 44 billion in investments. Under the EUR 2.8 billion EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, economic development and resilience are at the core of numerous actions that aim to address drivers of migration.
- At the same time we recognize that drivers of migration are multi-faceted and complex as they derive from a combination of long-term and structural socio-economic, environmental and demographic dynamics and more immediate triggers; investing in knowledge and expanding our evidence-base is therefore critical.
- To achieve our objective, we need to work together. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to manage large movements of migrants and highlight the need for close cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries in this regard, including on tackling the root causes of irregular migration. In this context, we also recognize the important but not exclusive role that local, national and regional migration policies and management play, including by strengthening resilience to the drivers of migration at state, societal and community level.
- This goes beyond States. We therefore encourage all relevant stakeholders to commit to addressing specific drivers of migration and work in a collaborative, context-specific and sustainable manner.
- Guiding our work to address drivers of migration, a future Global Compact will thus help attain our migration objectives under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).