



Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, fourth informal thematic session entitled “*Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits*”

Statement by Ambassador Riitta Resch, Finland

Adoption of Agenda 2030 was a milestone in integrating social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. Agenda 2030 also included important targets on migration. Commitments were made in target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies. The Global Compact process is a clear proof of implementing that target. Commitments on remittances which are one of the most important contributions by migrants are also included. Research (McKinsey) shows that migrants make up just 3.4 percent of the world’s population but they contribute nearly 10 percent of the global GDP. They contribute more than they would have produced in their countries of origin.

Implementation of the Agenda 2030 as a whole can have a major impact on migration and in particular on the drivers of migration. It is good to notice that the implementation of Agenda 2030 is well on its way in different parts of the world. The contributions migrants can make to the implementation of Agenda 2030 are versatile and not only financial. Diaspora can play a big role in raising awareness of conditions of migration, in integration of migrants in the countries of

destination and as investors in their own countries of origin by establishing start-up businesses or small and medium size enterprises, to mention a few.

Finland has been working with IOM for many years to improve health and well-being of migrants. Currently, Finland is supporting a project implemented by IOM in Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen. The target group of the project is migrants in vulnerable situations such as victims of trafficking, single mothers and unaccompanied migrant children. The project assists migrants in need of medical care and supports the national authorities to strengthen their capacity to respond and to provide services which are adapted to the needs of the migrants.

Finland is also supporting IOM in strengthening health sector in Somalia by developing its human resources capacities with the assistance of Somali Diaspora Health Professionals. The diaspora has taken a very active role in the development of the health sector in Somalia. Diaspora professionals are assigned for 9-18 months to contribute to improving the capacity of public sector healthcare facilities in Somaliland and Puntland to provide quality healthcare services. I'm convinced that many countries have positive experiences of constructive diaspora engagement.