

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Third Informal Thematic Session:

“Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits”

NYC, 24-25 July 2017

United Nations Headquarters

**PANEL 1 – Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development: the linkages between migration and development
Intervention (3 min.)**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.

- Germany welcomes the paradigm shift in the public debate in recent years: from migration as a challenge for development towards migration bearing large potential for development of host and origin countries. This paradigm shift is implemented through the SDGs. It can also be seen in the New York Declaration’s focus on a whole-of-society approach in promoting development through migration. One overarching principle of German Development Policy in addressing migration issues is “migration by choice, not necessity”.
- Last month, the Tenth Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development – the GFMD – co-chaired by Germany and Morocco, was successfully held in Berlin. The discussion reflected on the facts and figures that prove that migrants and diaspora have been contributing in many ways to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
- Migrants and their families are both target groups, whose rights need to be protected, and important actors in development. Diaspora groups often strive towards the same objectives as official development cooperation. Therefore, they are considered potential partners when it comes to promoting the development of countries of origin.
- Germany acknowledges the important economic contributions of migrants to the origin countries’ development by sending remittances, but also as actors in private sector development, e.g. as entrepreneurs and traders. Migrants also transfer knowledge on markets, societies and values. Their contributions go beyond the economic realm.
- Migrants can therefore be important agents of change. For example, migrant diasporas can contribute to political and social reforms, challenge gender-roles, promote the protection of human rights, or contribute to peace and reconciliation processes. Diasporas have an important role in the reconstruction – both physical and societal – of origin countries in post-conflict situations.
- Finally, Mr./Ms Chair: In order to be truly beneficial to development, the Global Compact should mainstream a gender perspective, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and fully respect and protect the human rights of all women and girls.

Thank you.