Oral Statement

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

III Thematic Session about International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, readmission, integration and reintegration

UN Geneva, 19-20 June 2017

Panel 3: International cooperation and governance of migration on return, readmission, integration and reintegration

Recommendations about global migration, governance and other important factors contributing to a safe, orderly and regular migration

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Migration has brought an important benefit to the countries of origin. As a result, there is a contradiction in return policies, posing an additional challenge for migrants willing to return (World Bank, 2017).

One of the main problems when talking about return is the so-called "remigration" or "rebound migration" when their country does not offer opportunities, it prevents a real reintegration and leads them to make the decision to embark on another migration.

Beyond international organizations and countries of destination, the countries of origin have the responsibility to promote the return of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations, facilitating their reinsertion into society, offering information about return plans and documentation required as well as providing financial support. However, the majority of programs for returned migrants are designed mainly for the people who return voluntarily. This fact shows an asymmetry on governance policies.

Return programs and policies for migrants are characterized by self-employment. However, there is a lack of governmental projects aimed at the insertion of migrants into the labor market, or in the public sector, in spite of the added value that migrants could bring to these economic sectors.

Many migrant-oriented policies, programs and projects are not developed in a sustainable manner and are not addressing the factors that force people to migrate. IOM understands that reintegration is the (re) inclusion or (re) incorporation of a person into a group or process”. Therefore, this process entails bilateral, regional and international cooperation to approach the social, political and economic problems facing the countries.

Another problem that counteracts the initiative of returning migrants is the difficulty in accessing basic rights and economic, cultural and social rights when moving to the country of origin.

The global governance of migration represents a challenge for the international community and it seems that currently it is fragmented and disjointed as it is based on a series of formal and informal institutions that operate at different levels.

The increase in restrictive policies in host countries towards migrants, a lack of economic opportunities, and the personal circumstances of migrants and their families creates a range of socio-economic challenges that motivates their return to their countries of origin.

Strengthen relations and connections between international actors so that they are characterized by solidarity and work for human development, to work and apply the
recommendations about global governance determined by the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is imperative to incorporate in the governments agendas in countries of destination, the issue of returning migrants without converting them into coercive instruments that serve to define the procedures for the expulsion of immigrants from their territories, but rather, that these instruments are a measure of action and motivation for the return of migrants to their countries of origin for personal and national development reasons.

Reintegration processes of migrants should be included within the policies and initiatives of return, both in countries of origin and in transit and host countries. These reintegration processes can range from financial and social assistance and psychological support to structural assistance for long-term development.

The implementation of returning policies that trigger re-emigration should be avoided. On the other hand, policies that promote sustainable return of migrants should be implemented.

Systemic public policies are needed, working from a macro-social perspective, and focused on the collective improvement of returnees while abandoning the idea of providing individual solutions that perpetuate inequalities in society.

Active participation of returnees into society, providing them with a stable socio-economic environment with training and support, both educational and financial, giving them skills to enter or re-enter into the labor market and generate income, should be promoted.

Bilateral dialogue at the international, regional and sub-regional levels should be maintained in order to promote initiatives and agreements that benefit those countries that suffer national problems, which aggravates the migratory crisis.

Women and children have been recognized as vulnerable groups regarding migration. It is therefore recommended to incorporate the gender approach into return processes to reduce discrimination and inequality and thereby promote respect and protection of their rights.