**Second informal thematic session of the GCM**
**22 May 2017**
**Panel 1: Sustainable development and poverty eradication**
**Summary Panel 23 May**
**H.E. Carlos Duarte, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil**

➢ The first panel of this consultation focused on sustainable development and poverty eradication, with a view to identifying development approaches that address poverty, lack of opportunities and access to services to create conditions for balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and employment, reducing vulnerabilities at all stages of migration.

➢ The panel explored how well-governed and well-informed migration policies can harness the development benefits of migration to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality and realize the full development potential of the 2030 Agenda for migrants and communities.

➢ In looking at the drivers of migration, and links to sustainable development and poverty eradication, it is critical to put migration in perspective. The overwhelming majority of people who migrate internationally do so through safe, regular and orderly means, with significant benefits not only to migrants and their families but also to their countries and communities of destination and origin.

➢ Migration was recognized as a positive force for inclusive growth and sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda, particularly when it takes place through planned and well-managed policies. Panellists and participants attested to the positive impacts of migration for development at local, national, and regional levels.

➢ Panellists and participants stressed that conditions in countries of origin should be created so that people can live safe and productive lives at home, and move out of choice, and not out of necessity. The goal should not be to stop migration but rather to reduce the factors that drive migration, so that the benefits of migration can be maximized and negative aspects minimized.

➢ Local, national, regional and global policies need to be adjusted so migration is addressed in a holistic manner, and in relation to development at all levels. Disaggregated data collection is a key step in

this process, together with comprehensive and complementary analysis methodologies.

➢ Participants stressed the need to strengthen regional and bilateral mechanisms to address drivers such as lack of economic opportunities and decent work, especially among youth.

➢ Labour migration was mentioned as a central issue to be addressed in the GCM, including assessment of labour market needs and appropriate skills matching, as well as measures to retain the highly skilled in countries of origin.

➢ Panellists and participants called for the Global Compact to align with existing international frameworks, in particular Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including its provisions on remittances, and the Paris climate change agreement, as well as human rights. They also pointed to the need to revise certain national frameworks on migration, especially those related to labour migration, social protection and integration to reach the poorest and the most vulnerable, including women, girls and youth, separated children and disabled people.

➢ There was widespread agreement that the SDGs provide the critical framework for addressing the factors that drive migration, including irregular. In addition, participants mentioned that the ratification and effective implementation of existing conventions, such as the Convention on Migrant Workers, would build a solid foundation for the GCM.

➢ Participants repeatedly stressed that migration is a human reality to be managed rather than a problem to be solved. When well-managed, migrants and migration provide significant benefits to origin and destination countries. Migrants address skills and demographic deficits in many destination countries, and provide remittances, knowledge, skills, entrepreneurship, investment and other benefits to the home countries and communities.

➢ Participants highlighted that migration is not only a necessity but a complex reality and the drivers are multifaceted. Consequently, there is no 'one size fits all' approach to address all migration situations. Evidence-based policies are needed, and could be scaled up to inform context-specific migration policies.

➢ Participants highlighted some of the complex challenges for countries of origin, transit and destination alike and pointed to some priorities such as: 1) promoting human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, empowerment of women and girls, as well as the rule of law, democracy and access to justice; and 2) creating safe and regular channels of migration and combating human trafficking and smuggling, including through effective border management; and promoting measures to protect migrants from violence. The right for people to remain in their countries in peace and security was also underscored.

➢ Other practical measures were mentioned to reduce unsafe migration and the risks of abuse, including ensuring access to justice and enhancing consular protection and assistance. There was also a call to develop guidelines on migrants in vulnerable situations. The discussion pointed to the need to concentrate on social inclusion policies and integration of migrant populations, including in countries of destination.

➢ Participants stressed the need to fully integrate migration into development policies and national development plans and strategies, including at the local level, as migrants contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development. The contribution of migrants to development was repeatedly emphasized, with reducing remittance costs, promoting financial literacy for migrants, promoting the portability of benefits identified as key measures to harness the positive benefits of migration. The protection of migrant workers was equally emphasized.

➢ Some participants stressed that the GCM should explore innovative measures, including greater opportunities for short-term and circular migration; enhanced intra-regional mobility; and development of comprehensive and balanced national migration systems. It was recommended to increasingly include migration into development cooperation, with emphasis on economic growth and employment.

➢ Participants also highlighted that a development-oriented perspective should be included through the whole process of the Global Compact and called for effective mechanisms to follow up and review implementation of the GCM.

➢ They also reminded of other global processes such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and existing regional and bi-lateral cooperation frameworks, emphasizing the importance of avoiding duplication and promoting synergies with existing mechanisms, in particular the SDG Agenda.

➢ Several participants highlighted the need to increase resources for development assistance, including to strengthen the capacities of national institutions to ensure data gathering, good governance and the rule of law to harness the positive potential of migration.

➢ Several examples of migrant entrepreneurship and business creation were shared, where governments can play a facilitative role. Governments and private businesses can facilitate safer, cheaper and faster remittance transfers that put more resources directly in the hands of migrants, their families and communities, with measurable impacts on access to health, education and housing. Government programs to match private remittances can significantly leverage their development effects, as several governments demonstrated. Government support for migrant businesses also can have a development multiplier effect.

➢ Participants spoke about education and training around migration, with particular emphasis on youth skills development and employment. The role of development cooperation on education and training targeted to labour market needs at home and abroad was mentioned as a means to enhance the positive impacts of migration in host and origin communities.

➢ Finally, a change of perspective and narrative on migration is essential to recognize its fundamentally positive character, to reduce xenophobia and discrimination, and to unlock the full development potential of migration.