

**Remarks by Counselor Yao Shaojun of China  
at the Fourth Informal Thematic Discussion on GCM**

07/24-25

I would like to thank the co-facilitators for chairing this thematic discussion. The Chinese delegation wishes to make the following observations on each of the three topics.

**Panel 1: the linkages between migration and development:**

(1) The issue of migration is ultimately a development issue. The root causes of migration are poverty and uneven development to which all other causes can be attributed. We believe that the Global Compact should be closely linked with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, lay emphasis on tackling the root causes of migration from the development perspective, and seek to properly address migration within the framework of Sustainable Development.

(2) Safe, orderly and regular international migration is conducive to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Migrants serve as an important bridge and linkage in economic, social and cultural exchanges among countries, and contribute to rational distribution of human, technical and financial resources throughout the world. We need to recognize the positive contribution of regular migrants to social and economic development of countries of both origin and destination and work towards “triple wins” for migrants, countries of origin and destination.

(3) The nexus between migration and development requires further studies. Countries need to improve the collection and analysis of migration data and study the impact of both regular and irregular migration on development. We need to formulate evidence-based policies in order to create a virtuous circle in which migrants contribute to development and development benefits migrants. The developed countries should help the developing countries enhance their capacity in data collection and analysis.

## **Panel 2: enabling frameworks for contributions**

(1) Strengthen migration management capacity. Governments need to base themselves on their national political, economic, social and cultural specificities and enhance inter-agency coordination on migration to ensure policy coherence. Countries of destination should exchanges with countries of origin relevant information, knowledge and expertise, and help raise awareness in countries of origin on the risks of irregular migration. Developed countries should provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries to build their capacity in migration management.

(2) Strike a balance between protecting human rights of migrants and safeguarding national sovereignty. While countries of destination should guarantee the rights and interests of migrants according to law, and provide humanitarian assistance and necessary relief to irregular migrants, they have the sovereignty to strengthen border management and combat, according to law, such activities as human trafficking, in order to maintain security and stability. Migrants must abide by the laws and regulations of countries of destination, respect local customs and traditions, learn local languages and proactively integrate into the local community.

(3) Adopt an open, tolerant and fair attitude toward migrants. Countries must reject intolerant, discriminatory and xenophobic rhetoric; oppose the politicization of migration and denounce scapegoating migrants for economic and social problems. Countries of destination should create an inclusive and supportive environment for migrant workers to facilitate the transfer of capital, expertise and technology and clear the hurdles preventing entry of migrants to the labor market.

(4) Properly address the issue of brain drain. Countries of origin and destination need to enhance cooperation in human resources development as well as promote international cooperation and exchanges in science and technology. In formulating policies aimed at attracting migrants, especially high-skilled migrants, countries of destination should fully bear in mind the legitimate concerns of countries of origin. Meanwhile, countries of origin need to develop more proactive plans to seek international talents and attract the return of highly-skilled diaspora.

### **Panel 3: remittances and portability of earned benefits**

(1) Leverage remittances for sustainable development. Remittances have been a strong boost to the economic and social development of countries of origin. Goal 10.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and paragraph 40 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be effectively implemented so as to reduce by 2030 the transaction fee of migrant remittances to less than 3%, and abolish remittance corridors that require charges higher than 5%. Countries of origin need to adopt measures to create a favorable investment environment to attract remittances into productive sectors. Remittances cannot be equated to ODA, nor can they replace assistance.

(2) Develop Digital Financial Inclusion to promote financial inclusiveness. As president of the G20 in 2016, China put the issue of Digital Financial Inclusion high on the agenda of the G20. The Hangzhou Summit adopted the *G20 High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion* and the updated *G20 Financial Inclusion Indicators*, among others. The G20 High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion contain 8 major principles, including promoting a digital approach to financial inclusion, and balancing innovation and risk to achieve digital financial inclusion. As the first high-level guiding document adopted in the field of Digital Financial Inclusion, the “High-Level Principles” also serves as guidance when it comes to remittances.

(3) Facilitate the portability of earned benefits of migrants. In 2010 and 2011, the Chinese government promulgated successively the *Social Insurance Law* and the *Interim Measures for Social Insurance System Coverage of Foreigners Working within the Territory of China*, which entitles foreigners working in China to join social insurance schemes and enjoy social insurance benefits. Moreover, China has signed bilateral social security agreements with 9 countries, including Switzerland, the Netherland, France and Spain, to address dual Social Security taxation. All this attests to the efforts China has made in promoting portability of earned benefits of migrants.