



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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Panel 3: Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: Remittances and Portability of earned Profits

The role played by diaspora in the development, poverty reduction, reconstruction and growth of countries of origin has enabled tremendous change in local communities. SDGs, particularly the targets on ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration; limiting exploitation and abuse of migrants; reducing the costs of recruitment and remittances; and improving data, place diaspora engagement at the core of the development process.

Remittances are a lifeline for millions of families living in developing countries but in order for diaspora contributions and remittances to effectively assist developing countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, migration costs including the costs of remittances need to come down.

So far remittances have failed to translate to development due to the very high costs involved in money transfer, the technical complexity and alternative innovative platforms going beyond funds for the day-to-day needs of families.

Many migrants also lack information on the existence of different forms of investment in their countries of origin mainly due to lack of a clear diaspora policy and lack of information on investments, benefits and opportunities.

We have expectations that the Global Compact will recognize the impact of diaspora on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as being multidimensional and multifaceted and will highlight the following areas:

- Reduction of the cost of diaspora remittances to less than 3%;

- Urge members states to develop investment packages on trade and investment through which migrants can invest back home,
- Propose a mechanism to assist developing countries in capacity building, transfer of skills, knowledge and technology;
- Encourage commitments to consider granting to migrants:
 - a. easier access to legal status in destination countries;
 - b. granting of dual-citizenship where national legal framework allows;
 - c. Calls for enhancing and formalization of partnerships as envisaged by SDG 17 between diaspora and migrants with the formal sector including, civil society organizations and other formal actors

Mr. Facilitator,

Fair labour migration is an important foundation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are hopeful that the Compact will embrace the following essential steps to increase the earnings of migrant workers.

1. Urge stakeholders including global financial institutions to make it easier and cheaper to remit savings back to families in the country of origin;
2. Urge Member States to liaise with international labour recruiters to lower the costs of labour migration to the migrant workers which will help to increase their earnings and the savings they can remit.
3. Ensuring that migrant workers are able to receive social security benefits to which they are entitled in their country of origin. Pensions must be portable.
4. Mutual recognition of qualifications would also enable migrants to reach their full earning power.
5. Addressing significant wage gaps between migrant workers and nationals both at the high and low end of the skill spectrum.
6. Ending wage and other forms of discrimination against migrants is another big win for financing for development and an even bigger win for social justice.