

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Sixth Informal Thematic Session:

“Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures”

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PANEL 3 – Recognition of skills and qualifications and relevant measures Intervention (3 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.

- We consider recognition-procedures of skills and qualifications as very important elements of labour migration. The Global Compact should therefore promote systems or mechanisms that facilitate profiling and recognition of skills and qualifications across borders at bilateral, regional and multiregional level. As part of it, the Global Compact should also address the question of how to customize the way formal and non-formal qualifications are recognized.
- Already in 2012, the German Government has introduced a qualification recognition law that enables migrants to have their foreign qualifications accredited according to German standards. Alternatively, migrants can receive information on what additional qualification modules are required to receive a full accreditation of one foreign professional qualification. Since the entry into force of the recognition legislation, every person with a foreign qualification has a legal entitlement to a recognition process for his or her foreign qualification.
- Germany supports the position of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration, Ms Louise Arbour, that governments should work closely together with trade unions, employers' organization and the private sector to identify job shortages. However, skills and job matching systems should be based on an accurate assessment of skills needs and gaps. As appropriate, this includes, as the ILO points out, the offering of possibilities for upskilling and retraining both, migrant and national workers. Public employment services, and properly regulated private employment agencies, can play an important role in this regard.
- Germany would also like to underline the need for sufficient language skills as a prerequisite for labour migration, besides the recognition of skills. It is important, in this regard, to promote early access to language training. This applies in particular to the development of occupation specific language skills. In addition, tailored training offers should be developed to convey cultural values of the host society as well.

Thank you.