

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration¹

Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits

The fourth of six informal thematic sessions will cover “Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits”. It is scheduled for 24 – 25 July 2017 in New York City. The sessions were set out in the resolution on the Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration adopted on 6 April 2017 in NYC.

Germany holds the following positions regarding this session of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration:

The migration compact shall focus on legal, orderly and safe migration as an important contributing factor for sustainable development as well as regular and voluntary migrants as actors for development. A special focus should be placed on women and girls not only as a vulnerable group, but also as persons with special capabilities and agents of development. Well-managed and voluntary migration bears positive potential not only for migrants themselves, but also for the development of countries of origin and destination.

Germany holds the following position regarding this session:

1. **With regards to the issue of Remittances**, the migration compact shall strive to **contribute to the attainment of SDG 10.c.²**; to this end it should focus on the following elements:
 - **Reducing transaction costs** for remittances of migrants to below 3 percent until 2030, while ensuring the quality of remittances services and service delivery.
 - **Establishing** a supportive policy and regulatory environment for competitive remittance markets.
 - The issue of **de-risking** and the worldwide reduction of **correspondent banking** shall be put forward.

¹Referred to as „Migration Compact“ in this document.

²“By 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%.

- **Increasing transparency on the remittances market** (e.g. **client information** both on sender and recipient side), as well as **security of remittances**.
 - Advocating the **development of innovative financial instruments** like diaspora bonds and harnessing the potential of digital solutions for remittance transfers, while ensuring the protection of senders and recipients.
 - Promoting **financial inclusion** and **financial literacy of migrants and their families**, in both host countries and countries of origin.
 - The migration compact should acknowledge that remittances can **empower all migrants' family members** in countries of origin to fully tap their economic potential and improve their wellbeing. It should state principles on how to **improve framework conditions for productive use of remittances**.
 - **Supporting** the work of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.
2. The migration compact should foster and recognize **diaspora cooperation** as an important factor for **private sector promotion** both in countries of origin and destination. It should therefore:
- **Acknowledge and support** migrants' self-organization both to promote integration in host countries and to foster development in countries of origin.
 - In order to enhance the benefits from migrant organization, the migration compact should:
 - Promote **knowledge transfer** (e.g. through short- or long-term advice in countries of origins, through online exchange-platforms such as e-learning, tele-medicine etc.).
 - Advocate the **improvement of infrastructure** in rural areas.
 - Foster the **strengthening of intercultural exchange** between countries.
 - Acknowledge **migrants as possible entrepreneurs**, regardless of their gender – either in host countries according to national law or in origin countries upon return or on a transnational basis, i.e. linking origin and host countries and using knowledge about both markets. It should emphasize the **positive effects economic integration upon arrival and reintegration upon return have on the development of countries of origin and destination** and expressively state that social and economic integration of migrants can be

not only in the interest of the migrant, but also of both countries of origin and destination.

- Acknowledge that **migrants have the potential to contribute to the promotion of innovation** and the strengthening of innovation systems in origin countries; among others through knowledge and technology transfer (based on (temporary) return or transnational engagement).
 - Emphasize the **positive effect migrants can have on trade relations** between countries of origin and destination.
3. The migration compact should state expressively that **voluntary return and reintegration** shall be the preferred mode of returning. The migration compact should:
- Acknowledge the **contribution of returning migrants** to the development of countries of origin, e.g. by investing saved capital, by starting a business or by promoting knowledge transfer in institutions and businesses.
 - Ensure that - in order for return to be beneficial to local development - **return as such is well prepared** and— especially regarding vulnerable groups – comprises **accompanying measures for reintegration and monitoring**; e.g. through support for labour market reintegration (employment or entrepreneurship) but also psycho-social support.
 - Ensure that the reintegration **mainstream a gender perspective**, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and fully respect and protect the human rights of women and girls.
 - Ensure that **all actors involved in return and reintegration are equally addressed**, including the returnees themselves.
 - Ensure that **communities people return to** are involved in the process of return and reintegration in a participatory and inclusive manner.
 - Foster, assess and monitor the **potentials of circular migration** by addressing issues such as multiple-entry visa.
4. While acknowledging the right of States to regulate migration and access to the labour market and social security systems, the migration compact should **promote well managed, regular, fair, safe and development-oriented labour migration** among others by:
- Acknowledging that **migration can contribute to address labour market shortages in host countries and to relieve pressure on labour markets in origin countries.**

- **Fostering, assessing and monitoring circular migration** in order to promote the exchange of knowledge and skills and apply them directly in the local context. Due to the only temporary nature of their stay, it is important to pay special attention to the **protection of their rights**, the **promotion of decent work** and the **Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work** of circular migrants.
- **Ensuring the protection of human rights** of all migrants and their families (especially of low- and unskilled migrants), as well as taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable groups with a higher risk of rights violation, discrimination and exploitation (these may include women, children, LGBTI persons, and persons with disabilities among others).
- **Bearing in mind the International Labour Organization's General Principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment.**
- **Reducing high costs of legal labour migration**, including recruitment fees.
- **Acknowledging that migrants in many cases contribute to the economic productivity and social welfare** in the countries of destination and in return they acquire social security benefits. The migration compact should therefore **promote the access to and portability of those earned benefits, including pensions**. The access to these benefits should also be facilitated when migrants return to their countries of origin, including by improving and simplifying procedures.