

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Third Informal Thematic Session:

“Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits”

NYC, 24-25 July 2017

United Nations Headquarters

PANEL 2 – Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: enabling frameworks for contributions Intervention (3 min.)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself with the EU statement.

- Germany strongly supports that the migration compact should promote regular, fair, safe and development-oriented labour migration by acknowledging that migration can contribute to address labour shortages in host countries and to relieve labour markets in origin countries.
- Effectively functioning Circular Migration Schemes support labour market mechanisms and the exchange of knowledge and skills. Therefore, migrants have the potential to contribute to the promotion of innovation and the strengthening of innovation systems in origin countries. We want to equally emphasize the positive effect migrants can have on trade relations between countries of origin and destination. In order to promote the potentials of circular migration, Germany proposes to address issues such as multiple-entry visa.
- Migrants’ human and labour rights need to be protected. It is especially important to take into consideration the needs of vulnerable groups with a higher risk of discrimination and exploitation, including women, children, and LGBTI persons.
- Contributions going beyond sending individual remittances can be facilitated by innovative financial instruments like diaspora bonds.
- The Migration Compact should foster and recognize diaspora as an important actor for private sector promotion both in countries of origin and destination. How to help member states in supporting their migrants and diasporas in order to maximize their contribution to the SDGs was a central question during the discussions at the Tenth Summit of the GFMD.
- Germany acknowledges the contribution of return 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. The Migration Compact should state explicitly that voluntary return and reintegration shall be the preferred mode of return. In order for return to be beneficial to local development, it needs to be well prepared and – especially regarding vulnerable groups – comprise accompanying measures for reintegration, for example through support for labour market reintegration (employment or entrepreneurship) and psycho-social support.
- The Global Compact needs to ensure that all actors involved in return and reintegration are equally addressed, including the returnees themselves, as well as the communities people return to.

Thank you.