

GCM 2nd Negotiations

The Bahamas Intervention – Capacity Building and Implementation Segment (13 March, 2018)

At the outset, The Bahamas wishes to extend its thanks to Member States for their continued, active engagement with this process. The Bahamas also extends its appreciation to the perceptiveness and expertise consistently demonstrated by the co-facilitators, illustrated, among other things, by the revised structure of the second round of GCM negotiations.

The Bahamas is pleased that the negotiations process has dedicated special attention to capacity building and implementation, critically linked as they are to the effective realisation of the Compact. Over the course of negotiations, it has become clear that in order to make migration “work for all”, development must be a fundamental pillar mainstreamed into our understanding of migration management. Development, in this context, should be considered in a multidimensional space that allows migration to complement the development of host, transit and destinations countries, as well as migrants themselves.

While we all share a common commitment to safe, orderly and regular migration, we do not share similar abilities to achieve this complex and nuanced ambition. As an archipelagic Small Island Developing State, and, as a predominantly host country, The Bahamas has applied its migration policy within limited financial, technical and human resources as a means to optimise the contributions of migration to the country. The Bahamas has also initiated enhanced engagement with the Bahamian diaspora to boost national growth and sustainable development. More is needed, however, to address gaps in productive and sustainable migration management.

In this regard, The Bahamas would like to offer the following recommendations to strengthen the Compact's response to capacity building for implementation:

- Technical assistance for migration-related data collection, disaggregation and analysis as a means to:
 - o inform migration policy and practices and respond to changing migration trends;
 - o provide an accurate narrative of contributions and challenges associated with migration; and,
 - o strengthen government-level policy frameworks and institutional capacity.
- Exchange of evidence-based best practices to promote migration for sustainable development for migrants in host countries, and, diasporas abroad, which includes skills and professional development support;
- The establishment of complementary capacity building mechanisms for GCM implementation, which is adaptive to various' States national and migration realities, as well as economic and environmental shocks that challenge vulnerable States' abilities to respond to migration within and outside their borders; and,
- Technical support for bilateral and regional migration cooperation initiatives and programmes.

I thank you.