

**8<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit Meeting  
(14-16 October, 2015, Istanbul)**

**Statement by India**

**Distinguished Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**At the outset, I would like to convey India's heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of Turkey on the tragic loss of lives recently. I would also like to deeply appreciate Government of Turkey's leadership role in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and for organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD Annual Meeting. I also convey our deep gratitude for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality extended to us.**

**2. India being one of the largest sending, receiving and transit country for migrants, fully acknowledges the importance of partnership in ensuring human mobility for sustainable development. Based on our national experience, we believe that international migration can be a win-win situation for both sending and receiving States.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**3. As a part of the global recognition that international migration will remain strongly relevant for sustainable development, the UN Summit on Sustainable Development**

held last month in New York approved a **SDG target** on this specific issue. It requires our collective effort to realize it so as to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Global recognition to have a **SDG** on this issue, in our view, is a significant development in the evolution of our collective understanding of the role international migration in development –both nationally and also globally.

4. Our partnership efforts in this direction should be drawn in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial way. We should create an environment of learning based on each other's best practices.

5. India will continue to strive for promoting greater cooperation among countries in making international migration an important process for benefit of all stakeholders.

6. I take pride in informing that 28.5 million Indian migrants, wherever they have settled down, through their creativity, entrepreneurship, diligence and hard work, have played an important role in contributing to the economic growth of countries concerned. They have been working

**assiduously in ensuring that the wheels of economic growth of the country of residence continue to grow.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**7. Government of India, on its part, has been committed to streamline the procedures to ensure that Indian emigrants continue to receive its fullest support. It has taken concrete steps in providing policy directions in terms of recruitment procedures, social security coverage, streamlining of employment contracts and other welfare measures, so that their best interests are covered.**

**8. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has initiated flagship programmes directed towards making India a '*skill capital of the world*'. This is based on the broad parameters of providing high quality skill sets, globally recognized certificates, efficient and effective immigration services and universal coverage of financial inclusion.**

**9. I am happy to inform that the Government of India has opened more than 187 million bank accounts in a short span of one year, free of charge, which has ensured universal banking coverage to most of the rural families. This is perhaps one of the largest exercises of time-bound financial inclusion in the world ever undertaken. In**

**addition, banking payment through cell phone has also been launched to bring the banking facilities at the doorsteps of every individual.**

**10. The success of these projects has ensured that receiving and sending of remittances, access to savings and investment instruments etc. are available to all. These important steps have vastly streamlined procedures for receiving remittances into the country, thus enabling a practical and effective means for Indian migrants to remit to India -- which is US\$ 70 billion – highest in the world.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**11. We would like to utilize the platform of GFMD for promoting team work among all stakeholders to maximize benefits of international migration while reducing its negative effects. All nations and stakeholders need to work with a spirit of cooperation on the lines of commitments agreed under 2030 SDG Agenda with an objective to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration through implementation of planned and well managed migration policies. We all need to work towards reducing the barriers to international migration.**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**

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