



PHILIPPINES

PROPOSED STATEMENT
H.E. MR. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.

Permanent Representative at the

GFMD Reflection on Migration-related SDGs in the 2030 Agenda 12 July 2017, 1:15pm – 2:30pm

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

Good afternoon.

We congratulate Germany and Morocco for the success of the 10th GFMD Summit held in Berlin last June. We commend the Forum's excellent inputs to the High Level Political Forum.

The Philippines has 9.1 million Filipino migrants—nearly 10% of our population. That is why we wanted the 2030 Agenda to recognize the positive contributions of migrants; and include them among the vulnerable groups whose contributions must be recognized by host countries; and whose needs must be addressed by home countries whose economic progress is fueled so much by remittances. In our case, remittances absorbed the global shock of reckless capitalism in the Asian and the Wall Street financial crises. Advanced economies today benefitted from the vast migrations of its populations—even Sweden if we believe the old IKEA ad about Swedish nannies.

The absence of a specific SDG on migration might be said to highlight the cross-cutting nature or wide beneficial ramifications of migration to both home and destination countries. We don't like to think of it as oversight. We like to think that migration is so deeply embedded in, or linked to all of the 17 SDGs, that there is no need for a category of their own.

Now that migration is incorporated in the UN development agenda, the GFMD must align itself with the HLPF, especially in the identification of goals. This requires us to approach the challenge of governance, not just by looking at "migration-related structures," but also at overall development programs and policies in the global, regional, national and even local spheres.

Although migrations appear as a rebuke to the countries they come from—in that people must go abroad, breaking up family, to make a living, often a difficult one because there is none to be made back home, our own Philippine Development Plan for 2017-2022 admits their critical role in national progress and integrates the needs, contributions and potential of migrants and overseas Filipinos.

At the High Level Political Forum, we should encourage countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to address migration in reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This is facing facts. But unless we do that, there is little we can do about changing them, and getting more out of improved circumstances for everyone's benefit.

Thank you.