

Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand
by Mr. Supark Prongthura, Deputy Director-General,
Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
at the Special Session

on the Future of the Forum

During the 10th Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit
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Federal Foreign Office, Berlin, Germany

Esteemed Co-chairs,
SRSG Louise Arbour,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Germany, Morocco, and the UN for co-chairing this Special Session on the future of the GFMD. From Brussels in 2007 to Berlin in 2017, GFMD has come a long way. Entering its second decade, Thailand believes it is timely for stock taking and discuss how best to take the forum forward

While, migration is an age old phenomenon, ever-evolving global settings demands new perspectives and new answers. Governments or any entities alone do not have the capacity to effectively resolve migration related problems. In this regard, Thailand welcomes the addition of the business sector to the GFMD process. Thailand hopes that interaction between business representatives at this forum can provide actionable recommendations that strengthen the positive linkages between migration and development through the promotion of regularized pathways for labor migration. We also hope to expand the coverage to include youth.

Looking forward, no one size fits all solution can tackle the challenges arising from migration and its linkages to development. Thailand believes that in parallel to developing of key principles that guide our work, a precision-oriented approach that responds to the needs of those who migrate for economic reasons and those who are forced to migrate is also needed.

For those who migrate for economic reasons, the GFMD should support cooperation between states and private sector to develop a global talent pool – a database of workers, according to their occupation and skills - that would be available to all business sectors in any country. The support from countries to promote hiring through this channel, will help to increase legal and regular pathways to migration. An equilibrium of demand and supply would be achieved. This in turn would mitigate negative effects of labor migration, such as falling prey to human trafficking networks, and ensure that migrant labors receive appropriate and necessary assistance and

protection in terms of hiring, recruitment, remunerations and remittances, to name but a few.

In the case of Thailand, to increase legal and regular pathways, we have registered almost 3 million migrant workers, and through legislation, enabled them to have access to welfare and social treatment that Thai nationals receive, for example in health care, education and training. Furthermore, we have also worked with our neighbors, Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam to extend our partnership for the benefits of migrants.

In the case of those forced to migrate, they of course look forward to their eventual return to their home community. Awaiting this return, essential help should be provided based on humanitarian and human rights grounds. GFMD should engage and support countries, international organizations, CSOs and private enterprises to come up with an appropriate and comprehensive response to help and support these groups in meeting their needs while waiting, and their eventual return to the country of origin.

Co-chairs, distinguished SRSG, ladies and gentlemen,

If GFMD is able to help to establish these 2-pronged systems for each region, countries can learn lessons and best practices and come up with its own answer that is based on its own sets of conditions. This would be a great achievement of the GFMD in advancing the agenda for migration and development and it would be cherished, not only by countries, but the whole community of human mobility.

Thank you.