

Special Session on the Future of the Forum

Statement by the Republic of India

In a few years time every fourth worker in the world will be an Indian. Migration and development is an important subject and India has participated actively in previous GFMD meetings particularly the one held in Dhaka in 2016.

Discussions in the GFMD on migration and development over the years have contributed to the debate on migration and brought it to a point where the matter is now before the United Nations which is now set to take a comprehensive view on a migration compact in 2018. India emphasizes the centrality of the UN system and process in this regard. IOM that has now come into the fold of the UN system should be the key player in handling the migration portfolio given that it has field experience in handling different migrant situations and is engaged in numerous regional consultative processes. It would be best placed to access migration related data. Its designation as the secretariat for the Global Compact on Migration underscores its central role in the UN system in this area.

The GFMD process should focus on highlighting the developmental aspect of migration and focus on areas of the debate where this dimension is missing. For example, facilitating movement of natural persons under Mode 4 of GATS would result in a development dividend that has not yet been tapped into and the movement forward has been very slow.

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