

Session 2.2 Fostering the development impact of returning migrants

Statement by the Republic of Malawi

Roundtable 2: Migration and Development through Multilateral and Bilateral Partnership: Creating Perspective for Inclusive Development

Malawi would like to acknowledge contribution made by Nigeria and Switzerland to the GFMD discussions on this topic and would like to contribute to the guiding questions of the roundtable posed in the background document, as well as, share some of the measures the Government of Malawi is undertaking in this regard:

1. It is indeed critical that developing migrant return and reintegration policies should be linked with the existing policies and programmes of governments, national and international partners. This would enable the returning migrants to re-integrate into the society meaningfully.
2. In the case of Malawi, the Nature of Return Migration in Malawi there have been several causes of Malawi's return migration. These include
 - a) Part of labour migration arrangements. For instance, end of pre-arranged or temporary period of work abroad such as in international organizations;
 - b) Homecoming of victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors
 - c) Hostile environment from other neighboring countries; for instance, xenophobic attacks in South Africa; and
 - d) Voluntary deportation of unauthorized entry or overstay.

Government Efforts to Integrate Returnees in the National Economy

3. Prior to 1994, the pre-multiparty era, returnees were less active in Government business.

4. However, the multi-party dispensation has greatly engaged the new generation of returnees as well as the old, in an endeavor to harness their professional skills set and advanced mindset such that they help Malawi to integrate with the rest of the world in policy design and implementation.
5. Notwithstanding, the government efforts to manage return migrants, the country does not have a comprehensive policy on migration. We therefore see this gap as an opportunity that the Government could partner with other countries who have comprehensive policy and learn from them.
6. We expect the policy would strive to harness the skills of returning migrants for growth of small, medium, enterprises in various sectors of the economy; promote return migration and re-integration of returnees in the national labour market programs; encourage returnees' investment; and enhance the linkages of the Government with its diaspora.
7. Malawi acknowledges the potential that it can tap from its diaspora. In this regard, the country had developed its first ever national engagement diaspora Policy which amongst other aims at encouraging and supporting returning migrants of high skilled professionals to assist in the sustainable socio-economic development of our economy. Some of the strategies include developing opportunities for the engagement of the diasporas on a temporary basis in developmental projects, developing incentives that would encourage permanent return of highly skilled professional diasporas; amongst others. The Government of Malawi, therefore, welcomes partners and countries that have similar programmes to share their experience, in this regard.
8. We fully support the need to find a right balance between the support of returnees and communities of origin so that Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes do not cause more harm to the communities of origin. The Government of Malawi recognizes that it has a challenge to address the rising unemployment amongst its youth who, some of them have trekked to other countries for greener pastures. That is why, His Excellency President Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi championed this year's African Union theme “

Harnessing **the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth**” It is pleasing to note that partners such as, the African Development Bank have already developed projects and programs across the continent which will generate up to 25 million jobs for the youth. Malawi wishes to call upon other Cooperating Partners to prioritize this goal considering its national, regional, continental and global implications, particularly in the matter at hand. The programmes of AVRR will, therefore, be a welcoming development that Malawi can address the challenges of rise of youth unemployment in the country and illegal migration of the youth to other countries.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

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