

Session 3.2 - Strengthening Cooperation – Enabling Civil Society Contribution in Migrant Assistance and Integration

Statement by the Federal Republic of Germany

Roundtable 3: Migration and Development: Finding Strategies beyond the State

Germany would like to commend the Governments of Bangladesh and Norway as well as other GFMD member states as part of the Government team for preparing a concise and action-oriented background paper. We have the following comments:

Germany congratulates Mexico and Canada for this contribution to the GFMD discussions and holds the following positions regarding Roundtable Session 3.2 of the Global Forum on Migration and Development's Berlin Summit (28-30 June 2017):

Legal migration can constitute a triple win situation for the countries of origin, the host countries and the migrants, if supported by adequate preparation and education policy in cooperation with enterprises in the home country and integration policies in the country of destination. Long-run socio-economic effects hinge on integration measures as well as their timing. Civil society and in particular diaspora organisations can play an important role to support integration. Therefore it is important to strengthen cooperation between state actors and civil society organisations. Civil society organisations can act as bridge builder to bring migrants and nationals together to promote awareness, understanding, social cohesion and social inclusion as well as to contribute to the development of their countries of origin. We see an active role of civil society *inter alia* on aspects such as integration assistance, raising societal acceptance and fostering a feeling of belongings, for example through citizen-centered initiatives involving families, local communities, charitable groups, diaspora groups (e.g. second and third generation migrants) and private sponsors. A special focus should also be placed on the integration of women.

Key issues for effective integration policies are the promotion of conducive labour market access conditions and the design of support policies in areas such as development of language skills, skills recognition, training or job placement and education. Especially in this context, the important role of the private sector needs to be recognized. Critical issues are coping with pressure on public services and competition with nationals in need of support for labour market integration, preventing informal employment and (unfair) competition in low-skilled/low-paid segments of the labour market, xenophobia as well as promoting social cohesion. Therefore it is also important to support equal working conditions, the respect of workers' rights and to create a positive atmosphere in regard of migration and migrants.

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