

Session 1.2 - From Global Agreement to Implementation – National Action Plans for migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam

The Vietnam Migration Profile 2016: Efforts of the Vietnamese Government in developing migration data system

Roundtable 1: Migration and Development through National Strategies: Enhancing the Effectiveness of Domestic Policies

First of all, let me express my sincere thanks to His Excellency, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister of German Foreign Office and His Excellency, Mr. Gotz Schmidt- Bremme, Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD, German Federal Foreign Office for the invitation to the 10th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Berlin, Germany and my appreciation to the GFMD Support Unit for the warm welcome to Vietnamese delegates participating in this Summit.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2015, the launching of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has become a key for Vietnam. Thus, in November 2016, Vietnam, as being highly acknowledged by the international community as the leading country in implementing Millennium Development Goals, has integrated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in National Assembly's resolutions and the Government's guidance documents.

The 2030 agenda's scope with 17 development goals, especially the SDGs 4 (data on migration), 8 (trafficking), 10 (protection) refer to migration and present an opportunity to address links between migration and development. Understanding who is moving, why they are moving, the impact of such a movement, especially on development, can help in the design of strategies and policies for migration governance. Following that, a country migration profile is the first step in developing an evidence-based policy on migration. As being discussed by the GFMD for recent years, Country Migration Profile increasingly draws attention of leaders of many countries and is being developed regularly in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the sixth most populous country in the Asia Pacific with an abundance of young workforce, when combined with globalization and advances in technologies, communications and transport, Viet Nam has

experienced immense opportunities for Vietnamese citizens to migrate (often temporarily) abroad in the pursuit of a more prosperous life.

Viet Nam has embraced its status as a country of emigration by promoting migration abroad. The emigration potential benefits for development have attracted the attention of the Government policy makers and international organizations. Therefore, the Government of Viet Nam promotes migration abroad and supports initiatives to link migration to development. Despite these efforts, there are indications that the potential gains are not fully harnessed. Moreover, migration through Viet Nam is a highly sensitive public policy, and the current policymaking framework does not yet adequately address the challenges of contemporary population flows due to the lack of a national migration data system.

As a result, a first Migration Profile (MP) project in 2010, which culminated in the publication of “A Review on Vietnamese Migration Abroad”, was implemented by the Government of Viet Nam in partnership with the International Organization of Migration. Following this MP, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has operated the website <http://dicu.gov.vn> providing the yearly statistics about the Vietnamese migrants’ abroad information and data for policy makers.

The Review provides concise migration information and successfully delivers a snapshot of migration from Viet Nam that is useful for policy makers. However, the scope of the Review was limited to the movement of Vietnamese people overseas, meaning that a significant proportion of the overall migration framework has yet to be formally reviewed. Further, the collection of and reporting on migration data is not standardized across the agencies that collect it, and no single agency has been charged with ensuring that information is collect and analyzed in a coherent, valid and consistent way.

Consequently, the Vietnamese government has promoted development-friendly migration policies through enhancing the evidence base on migration dynamics relevant to Viet Nam in the form of an “extended migration profile” for policy development, strengthening coordination and information-sharing within the government and encouraging evidence-based dialogue on emerging migration challenges and migration’s development benefits.

The entire collaborative process how this MP has been developed since 2015, with strong involvement of all the relevant government agencies active in the migration field, lays a solid foundation for a more coherent and effective formulation of migration policies for Vietnam by the relevant institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I have a great opportunity to give you in a glance about the Viet Nam Migration Profile 2016 that has just been completed and may be introduced in early July 2017.

The Viet Nam Migration Profile 2016 has divided into five main parts:

1. Overview about migration in the world and in Vietnam;
2. The international migration trend of Vietnamese citizens;

3. The push- pull factors of international migration to Vietnam;
4. Migration governance and international cooperation;
5. Conclusion and Recommendations.

The Viet Nam Migration Profile 2016 looks into many facets as the flows of outbound and inbound migration return and exclude immigration patterns and addresses four main categories by which Vietnamese citizens are migrating abroad, which are labor, study, marriage, children adoption and trafficking. And besides these 5 areas elaborated, there are other issues which the MP highlights, such as smuggling in migrants, irregular migration, difficulties in regulating international child adoption, domestic violence in migrants families, inequality in the distribution of remittances, the return and reintegration of Vietnamese citizens and the risk of 'brain drain' (but also the positive potential of "brain circulation") caused by Vietnamese intellectuals/experts migrating abroad.

In summary, the Vietnamese government considered a migration profile one of the effective tools for mainstreaming migration in development. The Viet Nam MP 2016 identifies many of the multifaceted challenges and benefits to migration abroad and will provide a solid basis on which to develop new policies and activities for the years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my honor to participate with international delegates in the 10th GFMD Summit to share our lessons and experiences in various aspects of migration and development. The Government of Vietnam would like to reaffirm our strong support to the GFMD's activities and acknowledges that the Co-chairs Statement in this 10th Summit will be the basis for future closer and effective cooperation among countries and for the development of the Global Compact on Orderly, Safe and Regular Migration, which is about to be negotiated in 2018.

In closing, I wish you all the very best with what, I hope, will be a very stimulating and successful Summit of GFMD.