

Realizing Migration in Sustainable Development

Thursday, 25 February 2016

13h15 to 14h30

Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York

Remarks by

Ambassador Mehmet Samsar, Director-General for Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey [GFMD troika]

1. Distinguished guests, participants and colleagues, a pleasant good afternoon to you. Allow me to begin by thanking and congratulating the Government of Bangladesh, current GFMD Chair-in-Office, particularly Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, for convening this important side event.
2. On behalf of the GFMD 2014-2015 Chair Turkey, I am honoured to lend support to this initiative, which comes in the aftermath of the 8th GFMD Summit Meeting that brought together more than 1,000 delegates in Istanbul last October.
3. Throughout our Chairmanship, we tried to link the GFMD with relevant processes and strengthening cooperation with all concerned stakeholders – we co-organized a number of events on current and emerging issues on migration and development, in collaboration with the SRSG, Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Global Migration Group, the G20 and the RCPs.
4. The Turkish GFMD Chairmanship in particular seized the opportunity of the UN-led, inter-governmental processes in New York to advocate strongly for the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are pleased to see that our efforts for promoting migration in the SDGs became fruitful.
5. During the 8th Summit Meeting, the first global event after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, a number of key issues were raised as regards the new sustainable development agenda. In Roundtable 2.2. on “Making migration work post-2015: implementing the SDGs,” delegates urged the Global Forum to define appropriate indicators, both in terms of measurable parameters but also qualitative indicators to implement, follow up and review the migration specific and migration-relevant goals and targets.
6. The Istanbul Summit also urged the Global Forum to set up an ad hoc working group on Migration and the 2030 Agenda in order to reflect on how the Global Forum could be fit for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive, inclusive and efficient system of follow up and review of the SDGs. It also saw the need to formulate a clear strategy on how to interact with the UN system and to explore ways of integrating the

recommendations from the Global Forum discussions into the UN review process, notably the High Level Political Forum. This will be a central aspect in the realization of the SDGs in the years to come.

7. In this regard, the Turkish GFMD Chair applauds the thematic agenda and work plan of the GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh, which speak directly to some of these recommendations. Turkey shares the conviction that the GFMD has the potential to be a viable platform for exchanging knowledge and experiences on how to realize migration in sustainable development.

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

8. 2015 was a crucial year for migration and development, all of us witnessed the unprecedented challenges and opportunities that emerged throughout the year. We are facing the biggest refugee and migration flows since the World War II.
9. We need to push for a more forward-looking and positive understanding of migration and refugee flows, while recognizing the contributions of migrants and refugees to the societies they live in, socially and economically.
10. It is clear that migrants need more than emergency response. They also need a prospect for the future -- a future in which their rights are respected and they are able both to benefit from and contribute to development.
11. So our efforts and our work within the GFMD becomes ever more important. We should work harder to address the link between migration and development, and make sure that migrants are fully integrated in the plans for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda--not only through the few explicit references to migration in the targets and indicators of the SDGs but through all efforts to improve human security and human development.
12. In closing, I would like to thank you all for your governments and organizations' excellent collaboration during the Turkish GFMD Chairmanship. I would also like to invite you to look at the full list of outcomes and recommendations of the 8th GFMD Summit. The report of the Turkish Chairmanship has now been completed and will soon be disseminated to all Friends of the Forum and the international community.
13. Your Excellency, distinguished delegates, let me assure you of the continued engagement and support from Turkey to the GFMD process as a member of the Troika, alongside GFMD Chair Bangladesh and future Co-Chairs, Morocco and Germany, for the achievement of migration-related SDGs and targets in the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
14. Thank you all.