

Session 2.2 - Fostering the development impact of returning migrants

Statement by the Federal Republic of Germany

Roundtable 2: Migration & Development through Multilateral and Bilateral Partnerships: Creating Perspectives for Inclusive Development

Germany congratulates Nigeria and Switzerland for this contribution to the GFMD discussions and holds the following positions regarding Roundtable Session 2.2 of the Global Forum on Migration and Development's Berlin Summit (28-30 June 2017):

1. Return, readmission and reintegration are essential elements of a **comprehensive approach to migration governance**, contributing to safe, humane and dignified migration.
2. Acknowledging that **a number of players should ideally benefit** from the return of migrants: the respective countries from which and to which they return, the communities to which they return, and the migrants themselves.
3. We welcome the approach of opening existing programs for social and economic development to returnees. Returnees should potentially benefit from development programs like any other national of the respective (home) country.
4. **Extending help** to people seeking protection and **fostering return** of those without a right to stay are two sides of the same coin: public support for the inalienable right to seek refuge is enhanced by a clear distinction between refugees and illegal migrants.
5. Returning migrants can be the catalyst of the socio-economic **development** of their communities: both fostering good governance at macro-level and building human capabilities at micro-level are prerequisite for creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential.
6. Prioritising **voluntary return** over non-voluntary return implies a deeper commitment to the return and reintegration process by the returnee, financially relieves the country of origin, and facilitates the latter's communication on readmission cooperation. However, **non-voluntary return**

- remains necessary for those who do not have a right to stay and refuse to return.
7. **Reintegration** measures should not privilege returnees at the expense of members of the communities to which they return. Therefore, reintegration measures should always include the latter according to the “do no harm” principle and construct an area-based approach embedded in local development.
 8. Noting that successful **reintegration** will also benefit destination countries, as it reduces the probability for renewed attempts at irregular migration.
 9. Developing a **whole-of-government approach** in both countries of origin and countries of destination helps to interlink the policy areas of return, readmission, and reintegration into a coherent approach.

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