

Written Submission from Ethiopian Delegation

on

The Special Session on the Future of the Forum

Coming to the subject of the discussion, in brief, Ethiopia believes that the Forum is important in terms of providing platform for dialogue and building consensus to take collective and appropriate actions at a global level to address the needs of migrants and maximize their positive contribution to origin and destination countries. That is why Ethiopia took the initiative to serve as a panelist and moderator and the round during the 10th GFMD Summit. As country of origin, transit and destination, Ethiopia is convinced that after ten years of the Forum's existence, there is a need to look into the structure of the Forum and repurpose to better serve us. In this regard, the following are some of the recommendations we would like to offer for the Forum's consideration.

1. Changing the Forum's Title

As we all know, the issue of migration was not the focus in the multilateral system in the past, in particular, before the 1990 ICPD Cairo Summit. Since then, due to various factors the issue has started to receive the attention of the international community most importantly in relation to development. While concurring with that the Forum has rightly placed emphasis on migration's importance to development, however, we believe that it is important to note that over the last ten years new global developments and events have started to change the discourse on migration.

Today, migration has not only become an issue of multi-faceted aspect, but it's overarching significance has also become cross-cutting and evolving global issue that changes with the changing global environment. The nature and form of migration and human mobility has been changing with the political, peace and security and climate change etc landscape of our today's world. The Forum therefore needs to adjust itself with this global reality. It is important the name of the Forum reflect that migration is a mega-trend of our time that has impacts and continues to be impacted by aforementioned global issues of common concern to all member states, therefore changing its title from the Global Forum on Migration and Development to Global Forum on Migration.

2. Ensuring Inclusiveness of the GFMD

The GFMD seems to be promoted by member states who have strong interest on migration issues, in particular, by those countries who are origin, transit and destination. Although there is a need for the participation of these countries, having an acceptable level of enthusiasm by other states to engage in the works of the Forum is of critical importance.

It is therefore important to make the Forum an inclusive platform of dialogue and action of all states to carry forward the Forum's own objectives and enhance its contribution to the Agenda 2030, The Sendai Framework, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other global frameworks.

Therefore, we believe that there should be a thinking towards easing the procedure and expanding membership of the steering group and introducing general membership to encourage participation of countries.

3. Repurposing the objective of the Forum

The Forum needs to be better equipped to help member states negotiate the Global Compact on Migration by providing concrete inputs and support the implementation after its adoption in 2018 support the implementation. It shall have also input in future negotiations in the area of migration. Based on the above assumption, we believe that the Forum can support our collective effort in managing migration by:

- Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination countries of origin, transit and destination for safe, orderly and regular flow of migration
- By fostering trust and understanding among states and other stakeholders that well-managed migration is beneficial to all in terms of development, peace and security and respect and promotion of human rights and address the impact of climate change on migration.
- Support member states through capacity building and work with regional mechanisms including regional economic communities
- Support member states by conducting regional and country level research, providing platforms for sharing best experiences,

In light of the above discussion and in implementing the objectives of the Forum in general, the continuation of the Forum as platform and dialogue and consensus building is vital. In light of what has been said, it is submitted that after 10 years of dialogue, it may be useful to think of constituting a member-state driven a high-level panel of experts that works with collaboration with all stakeholders to look into the strategic perspectives, operational challenges in discharge of its mandate and its future form and structure within the wider multilateral system. The High-Level Panel of Experts may be ushered to present its report before the 2018 GFMD Summit for consideration of