



INTERVENTION

BY

PROF. HB MKHIZE, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

AT THE

**ROUNDTABLE 1.2 ENTITLED “FROM GLOBAL AGREEMENT TO
IMPLEMENTATION –NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR MIGRATION-RELATED
SDGs”**

**10TH SUMMIT OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(GFMD)**

WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017

16:30-19:00

BERLIN, GERMANY

Thank you Madam Facilitator for giving us an opportunity to make a few remarks on this important topic. We have listened to all presentations and they have raised critical issues and we are impelled to also make a few comments.

Guided by the spirit of 'Ubuntu' which simply means 'I am because you are' and the principle of non-discrimination which is the bedrock of the South African Constitution, our policy frameworks do not discriminate against citizens and non-nationals especially in the provision of basic essential social services. In South Africa migrants are able to work and access employment opportunities, social security, access to health services and the realisation of the right to education by migrant children. These are all aimed at the improvement of the quality of life of migrants. All these measures have been in place long ahead of the SDG process.

We wish to underline that the SDGs should always be looked at comprehensively rather than fragmenting them if we are to make progress in this regard. The means of implementation of the SDGs are critical in a context where many countries especially in the developing world face resource constraints.

South Africa has also come up with Special Permits for undocumented Zimbabweans and Lesotho nationals to regularise their stay. All these progressive measures are aimed at recognising the specific vulnerabilities that migrants find themselves in.

In a bid to encourage social cohesion and to recognise the contribution of non-nations to the development of our country, we have the 'Mkhaya Migrant Award', which is an annual event aiming to inspire confidence and recognition of the approach taken by the South African Government.

In conclusion, we agree with an approach that would also place migrants as the beneficiaries for the SDGs. This inclusive approach will also foster inclusion and harmony among societies, as our democracy is one that promotes nation-building and social cohesion.

I thank you.