

109th IOM Council Session: General Debate - GER Statement

27 November 2018

Chairperson, Director General, distinguished members and observers of the Council,

[Germany aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU on behalf of its Member States.]

Let me start with a comment on the GCM. The German Government has expressed its strong support. We believe an international approach is necessary, and we should not be detracted by a minority of nay-sayers.

The **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** is intended to provide the much needed **framework** for international cooperation.

It is not undermining **national sovereignty** and will have no legal effect on national systems.

It is designed to create synergies and increase the efficiency of our joint efforts.

It will help to **balance the interests of countries** of origin, transit and destination **while not losing sight of people's actual needs**.

Mr Chair Person, let me address some specific points relating to the GCM and migration in general. We believe these issues should be at the core of our future joint efforts:

1. **“Global Skills Partnerships “**: we are prepared to extend our engagement regarding bilateral agreements to prepare qualified labor in countries of origin for job vacancies in countries of destination. The **Global Forum on Migration and Development** can facilitate these partnerships.
2. **Legal identity and adequate information**: All countries need to respect the right of all individuals to a legal identity by providing all their nationals with proof of nationality and relevant documentation. In the migration context we need to know, whom we are dealing with, to determine how best to proceed. “Proof of legal identity” is the precondition for almost everything that the Global Compact offers to migrants. And, very importantly, it will considerably improve the narrative about migration in countries of transit and destination.
3. **Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons**: We need to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, e.g. those who have been smuggled or who are victims of human trafficking.
4. **Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Displacement**: Germany very much welcomes that the GCM highlights the importance to protect disaster displaced persons and to cooperate to this end with the **Platform on Disaster Displacement**. We support this platform and urge those who share our concern to join the effort. We need more effective **disaster risk reduction** and **climate change adaptation**. The **Sendai Framework** for better disaster preparedness, early warning and action, and anticipatory risk financing is an important mechanism.

5. And finally: **Addressing and reporting on issues that are not primarily covered in the GCM such as the growing phenomenon of Internal Displacement** must not be neglected. There are more than 40 million internally displaced persons in the world and the numbers are growing.

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The **German contribution to IOM in 2018** amounts to more than **100 Mio. USD**. Far more than half of this were used for programs in **Africa**. Much of it was spent to protect people from the risks of irregular migration or to **assist their return and reintegration at home and to stabilize their communities**.

Another focus was assistance in the context of protracted **humanitarian crises in the Middle East and for IDPs in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe**.

Germany intends to maintain a high level of commitment. However we remain convinced that the nature of today's migration requires a truly international approach- we will only be successful together. So let us move forward as global partners without being detracted by debates that are likely to weaken our focus.

Thank you for your attention.