

Check against delivery

REMARKS

BY

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SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA WITH THE RANK OF A
MINISTER**

AT

**THE WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION ON AND GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION
TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE,
ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION IN 2018**

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***Dear Moderator,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I am very pleased to be here and to take part in this Panel discussion, which is dedicated to looking at national and local perspectives to reaching a whole-of-government approach to migration. Let me take this opportunity to express appreciation to the IOM for organizing this important workshop aimed at strengthening international cooperation on and governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018.

***Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

As a country of destination, transit and origin of refugees and migrants, Ethiopia attaches great importance to addressing this issue in a comprehensive and holistic manner. We understand full well that this cannot be achieved without forging the necessary international cooperation. That is why we actively participated in the process that culminated with the adoption of the New York

Declaration on the large movements of refugees and migrants in September last year.

We are indeed very much committed to implementing this Declaration, which we hope will contribute to strengthening international cooperation and governance on refugees and migration. We are also among those countries, which have pledged concrete actions to increase more opportunities for refugees and migrants in host countries. It is in this context that I would like to share with you our perspectives on the institutional mechanisms that we have put in place to address migration issues in Ethiopia.

***Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

In addition to our constitution, which provides the overarching legal framework in addressing the issue of migration, a number of legislations and regulations have been adopted over the years with a view to putting in place the necessary legal and institutional framework for governing migration. In Ethiopia, we have a federal system of government and at the federal level, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is designated as the focal point

to coordinate relevant ministries and other non-state actors on national labor migration issues.

Whereas, at the regional level, agencies and bureaus of labor and social affairs in all the regional States and in our two special city administrations play their respective coordinating roles. There are regular forums whereby both federal and regional stakeholders come together to discuss on different migration issues, exchange experience and information.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen,

Trafficking in persons is a significant challenge, which requires a strong, comprehensive, and coherent response from national and local governments. It is because of this reason that we have adopted a Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Law to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. We have also designed a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and established the National Anti-Trafficking Council led by our Deputy Prime Minister.

Nevertheless, we understand that we have to do more to strengthen our institutional capacity at all levels and enhance our bilateral and multilateral engagements in protecting the rights and interests of our migrant workers. In this connection, we have concluded bilateral Labor Agreements with some countries in the Middle East and negotiations are also underway with others to ensure, safe, orderly and fair migration. We have joint committees for border management with neighboring countries so as to prevent human trafficking and smuggling.

Ethiopia has benefitted from IGAD Regional Migration Policy and the regional IGAD-led assessment on the state of play of migration governance and existing coordination mechanisms in IGAD Member States. I would also like to mention a regional dialogue among countries of origin, transit and destination of the EU-Horn Africa Migration Route or Khartoum Process, launched at ministerial conference in Rome in 2014, with an initial focus on preventing and tackling human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

In addition to these regional initiatives, a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility was signed with EU in November 2015 in Valletta, to which Ethiopia remains committed. All the outcomes and documents from these initiatives, dialogues and cooperation at regional and sub-regional level feed in to the migration governance in Ethiopia. Furthermore, we have ratified different international agreements, including the Palermo Protocol, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

***Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

Let me take this opportunity to make a couple of points before I conclude. Firstly, I would like to underline the central importance of international cooperation, international solidarity and international responsibility and acceptance for a policy of equitable burden sharing. While taking in to account existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among states, it is important to reduce the pressure on the overstretched systems and resources of countries hosting large number of refugees and migrants.

Secondly, Ethiopia believes that implementing the SDGs will be central to finding durable solutions for migration. This will help to build the resilience of countries of origin by addressing the root causes of migration. No less critical is the need to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which could contribute significantly in addressing climate change-induced migration.

Thirdly, addressing the financial and social costs of unethical recruitment and lowering remittance transfer costs is imperative to increase the benefits of controlled migration and the pursuit of inclusive growth as strongly advocated in both the 2030 agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

With those few words, let me finish by reaffirming Ethiopia's commitment to fulfill its international obligations towards refugees and migrants and its readiness to engage constructively in the process leading to the adoption of global compact for migrants in 2018.

I thank you