



Statement made by HE Alabsi at the Sixth Informal Thematic session for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration – Panel 2 on Decent work and Labour Mobility

Geneva, Thursday 12 October 2017

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

Many speakers today have addressed the irregularity of migration. Bahrain has reached a conclusion that rigidity in the market practices through regulations or through policies that are outdated and do not comply with the economic requirements can be the major route for irregularity of migrants, jeopardizing their rights and in some cases their safety in general. The Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted an approach that tackles the root cause of the problem rather than remedial time limited actions.

Bahrain has launched a new program in July of 2017 where migrant workers can live and work in Bahrain without sponsors and without being linked to a specific employer. The “Flexi Permit” scheme issues a new status which is unheard of before in the region, which is a self employed migrant worker, free to offer his services to whomever he deems fit. Already thousands enjoy this new status by now, and it will cover tens of thousands of people and will be continuously monitored as a pilot program and improved so as to be expanded further and one day perhaps it will become the main recruitment method .

Through these proceedings leading to the global compact, we invite all countries sending and receiving to study this groundbreaking project and help us improve it, perfect it and hopefully replicate it in a wider scale and on a wider geographic area.

Thank you.