

Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly and Regular Migration

The Sixth Informal Thematic Session

“Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures”

Intervention prepared for

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Permanent Representative of Ethiopia

Panel One- Irregular migration and regular pathways

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Thank You, Mr Chairperson,

Ethiopia believes that it is important that we recognize that irregular migration does not only occur because of conflict, poverty, climate change impact in origin countries but also push factors from host countries specially for low-skilled domestic migrant workers on the context our region. Apart from those who are trafficked and smuggled, we should not also not miss that migrants find themselves in irregular situation due to labour policies that leaves them in the hands of unscrupulous employers and recruitment agencies. The myth that migrant workers will narrow employment opportunities of nationals is also a matter largely discredited by concrete evidences. Hence, Ethiopia believes that reducing incidents of irregular migration should address both the pull and push factors.

In this context, we believe that it is imperative we make our irregular migration tackling mechanisms, instruments, and policies labour responsive. We should thus increase legal pathways to skilled and low-skilled migrant workers countries through actionable commitments. Opening access to labour market through circular migration should also be encouraged in a manner that upholds rights of migrants. It is submitted that investments in origin countries in education, skilling and vocational training are critical interventions to ward off skill mismatch and ensure that labour mobility is driven by labour market demands. With the current demographic changes of increasing youth bulge in origin countries, it is also vital that our action in tackling irregular migration are guided by policy of creating decent work opportunities at origin countries by providing credit facilities and skills training through small and micro finance businesses.

About situation of irregularity, host countries should revise policies of criminalizing irregular migrants. We believe that respect for rights of migrant workers and responding to needs of particularly vulnerable groups women, elderly and children should be given priority. Ethiopia believes that we should give due attention to prevention of irregular migration. Hence, strengthening migration governance mechanism and fostering greater coordination at national, regional and global level is critical. The importance of integrated boarder management, enhancing capacity of law

enforcement among origin and transit countries and greater cooperation in intelligence sharing is as well critical to dismantle the business model of traffickers and smugglers. Regularizing of irregular migrants should also be considered as one area of intervention. In closing I would like to underline that origin countries need to be supported in data collection, policy advice and institutional capacity building to better deal with emerging challenges irregular migration.

Thank You