Global Compact on Migration, 4th thematic session, 24th/25th July 2017, New York

Topic: "Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits"

Panel 3 – 25 July 2017

Remittances and portability of earned benefits

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Statement delivered by Mr El Jamri, Representative, National Council on Human Rights of Morocco, on behalf of GANHRI

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) welcomes this opportunity to contribute to this thematic session on the Global Compact on Migration.

1) **The human right to social security** requires states to ensure the **portability of social benefits**. Legal, policy and administrative frameworks covering social security need to recognize and protect the cross-national character of migrants.

2) **On remittances**

Remittances which are used for the upkeep of family members and establishment of small business, can constitute an individual means of poverty alleviation.

However, **high transaction costs not only disadvantage migrants disproportionately, but also unsettle most migrant workers**, as they would strongly prefer their small remittances to remain relatively undiminished and have their families benefit on a little more money. They look for facilities such as informal channels of the hundi or hawala system, which can deliver their monies to their home countries safely and with lower transfer fees. However, those informal systems might harbour disadvantages for migrants. States should regulate both bank and non-bank money transfer agencies, and consider the possibility of tapping cooperatives of migrant communities as legal modes for money transfer.

Second, **states should promote policies which enhance women's roles such as the financial inclusion of women in management of remittances**. There are certain bank rules and regulations that appear discriminatory towards women. In sending countries with strict social and cultural norms, women do not have control over family resources. This reinforces direct or indirect dependency on male family members or can restrict women's capacities to access bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit to support their livelihood, or facilitate their migration if they choose to work overseas.