

**Permanent Mission of India
Geneva**

**GFMD 2011 Concluding Debate:
2 December 2011 at Room XVI, Palais des Nations**

Statement by India

Mr. Chairperson,

As a State with one of the highest population of emigrants as well as immigrants, and as an important transit destination for migration, India's position in terms of being a premier sending, destination and transit State is unique. India has a historical legacy committed to welcoming and assimilating migrants within the fabric of India's democratic society. It recognizes the economic benefits migrants provide to both sending and destination States. India's emigrants form a rich and diverse population of students, technocrats, vocational experts and caregivers. At the same time, India remains concerned about the hardships faced by its migrants who often work under extremely challenging circumstances in some destination States.

2. Concern for India's emigrants has led to the establishment of an exclusive Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, devoted to look after their interests and welfare. The relatively recent establishment of the Indian Council for Overseas Employment has given further impetus in this direction, providing policy direction in terms of recruitment procedures, safety networks, streamlining of employment contract arrangements, welfare fund schemes including health schemes for women, etc.

3. India has always advocated a developmental paradigm for migration, as against a law-and-order paradigm. Its engagement with the GFMD, since the Forum's inception, arises out of this commitment. Having been part of the discussions in the Steering Group and the Assessment Team, we have been able to share information and our best practices on migrants, their concerns and their welfare. Keeping this in mind, we recommend prioritization of the following proposals out of all the Working Sessions namely,

(a) Working Session on Labour Mobility and Development:

- (i) Capitalize on the unique knowledge of diasporas for development;
- (ii) Simplify and make more transparent the process of obtaining a contract, passport, skill-certification, etc.; and

- (iii) Set-up small dialogue fora among willing Governments between regions to customize, and then implement, smart health insurance schemes.
- (b) Working Session on Addressing Irregular Migration Through Coherent Migration and Development Strategies.
- (i) Establish a sustained dialogue in the GFMD to deal with irregular migration; and
 - (ii) Encourage countries to establish or strengthen the use of consular networks.
- (c) Working Session on Tools for Evidence Based Migration and Development Policies:
- (i) All relevant sectors that linked migration with development need to be considered;
 - (ii) Broad national ownership should include all stakeholders in the process i.e. civil society organizations, academia, private sector, etc.; and
 - (iii) Home and host Governments should regard migration as one of the pillars of their development.

4. India also expresses satisfaction with the assessment of the GFMD Process that has offered added value to the ongoing international dialogue on migration and development. It is encouraging to note that the format of the meetings for dialogue, have been assessed positively by majority of Governments. The participation of civil society is also appropriate.

5. In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, India looks forward to continuing its participation in GFMD in 2012 and contributing to the forthcoming deliberations of the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration in 2013 for furtherance of interests of Migrants and economic developments of States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson

2 December 2011