

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, world leaders, excellencies,  
ladies, and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me indeed to congratulate the United Nations  
for their hard work and tireless engagement for the Global Migration  
Compact.

Regretfully, Afghanistan is today a country faced with long-lasting  
challenges caused by war and poverty.

These challenges and fear for the future build high pressure on many  
Afghans to leave the country and seek better opportunities for  
themselves and for their children.

As a result, millions of Afghans has left their country. At the moment,  
about 6 million Afghans live overseas.

The GoA is highly committed to coordinate among national and international stakeholders to manage its migration affairs.

We have put in place the necessary policies and the related instruments such as a High Commission for Migration, a ministerial committee and an Action Plan for Returnees and IDPs.

We have registered about 1.5 million Afghans without document in PAK and Iran. We are in process of giving them Afghan passports and both host countries will issue visas so that their stay is legal and their rights are protected.

Happily, we have signed comprehensive bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements within the region and beyond. But in realization of these agreements, we face still difficulties. For example, we have not reached an ideal method to address illegal immigration. I take the opportunity of this tribune to call for more synergy of regional actors to successful cooperate within the region.

- **We need** to create suitable conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development of their home countries.

- **We need** to promote the faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances.

- **We need** to cooperate in facilitating safe, gradual and dignified return. But Afghanistan misses the voluntary return in the Compact. Our political believe is that every return must be voluntary.

- **Last but not least**, migrants should not be used as political instrument. Otherwise it is interference in national security and sovereignty of other countries. We harshly condemn when migrants are sent to wars.

AFG is fully committed to the implementation of the GMC and will do any effort to support the implementation process!

The GoA fully stands behind the GMC and emphasis on the following issues:

- **We need** to reduce vulnerabilities in migration.
- **We need** to stop building immigration detention centers which are in reality jails. It is important that governments and politicians respect migrants as dignified human beings.
- **We need** to enhance consular protection, assistance, and cooperation throughout the migration at all stages.
- **We need** to provide access to basic services for migrants. In a civilized world, it is our responsibility to provide basic human rights services for migrants.
- **We need** to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion. Integration is a two-way behavior. The society and migrants should open the door of opportunities to each other.



As you may be aware, the GoA will start the peace negotiations with the Taliban very soon. It was meant that Vice Minister Dr. Alema ~~had~~ ~~to~~ deliver this speech. But due to urgent meeting of the peace negotiation team she had to stay in Kabul.

Our government urges all nations to actively and seriously support our peace process.

Once peace arrives in AFG, the vast majority of Afghan migrants will come back home and the world community and our neighbors will have less burden of Afghan migrants.

With this in mind, we wish all nations peace and prosperity!

Thank you from Afghanistan!