



**STATEMENT MADE  
BY  
H.E Dr. MARKOS TEKLE, STATE MINISTER OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ETHIOPIA  
AT  
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT  
THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION**

**MOROCCO**

**2018**

**MARRAKECH,**

**DECEMBER 10-11,**

**Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments,**

**Excellency, President of the Intergovernmental Conference.**

**Excellency, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly**

**Excellency, Antonio Gutteres, Secretary - General of the United Nations,**  
**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to first express our gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation and for the excellent arrangements made to convene the conference here in this beautiful city of Marrakech. I also wish to extend our appreciation to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for its contributions to the preparation of this historic event.

**Mr. President,**

Ethiopia firmly believes that, as globalization is a reality in our increasingly interdependent world, the challenges that we are facing today regarding migration requires a global solution through enhanced international cooperation. Over the years, we have been witnessing disastrous human tragedies caused by forced displacement of the population due to wars, ethnic conflict and strives, pervasive poverty, climate change, contemporary forms of slavery, gender-based violence and a host of other drivers across the world. Migration is the bigger part of this humanitarian picture that sharpened the sense of alienation and helplessness of millions of people involved in this difficult situation.

**Mr. President,**

We are convinced that increased human mobility has become a defining feature of today's world and that advances in technology in faster and cheaper communication, interdependence of the global economy and the demand for skills are creating conducive conditions for people to move freely and far away from their localities and countries of origin. However, narrow legal pathways, economic marginalization, inequality, youth unemployment are forcing people to fall prey to human traffickers and smugglers to take perilous journey to cross international borders. Even though



majority of migration occurs in regular way, the challenge emanating from irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling remains quite daunting.

The challenges in managing the migratory flows continue unabatedly. This situation clearly demonstrates that our attempts to responding to this complex reality are far from satisfactory and that there are significant gaps in ensuring robust migration governance at nation, regional and international level. It is therefore a high time for the international community to discharge fully its responsibility in resolving this issue and bringing to an end the sufferings of these people through rethinking and redesigning the global migration architecture.

We recall that three years back, the tragic stories of these people in many parts of the world led the international community to adopt the New York Declaration which embodies a political commitment of countries to protect and save lives of migrants, respect their human rights and ultimately paved the way for the negotiation of the first ever framework of international cooperation in the form of the Global Compact on Migration in which Ethiopia actively participated from the early stages of consultations until it takes its present shape.

**Mr. President**

Ethiopia, guided by its own long held principal positions and African Common Position for the Global Compact, has made its own positive contribution during the negotiation process of the Global Compact on Migration. The three cardinal principles that we pursued and that we still believe are valid and relevant in the post-compact period are:

First, migration is best addressed through enhanced international cooperation and it must be underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility that takes into consideration national and regional realities, priorities and capacities; and that the strong dimensions of migration must also be recognized.

Second, the Global Compact, we believe promotes safe, regular and orderly migration while at the same time enhanced economic opportunities, job creation, inclusive development at countries of origin to address the root causes or drivers of irregular migration. We strongly believe that migration is fundamentally a development issue and migration should be managed in a manner that responds to



labor needs of destination countries through such programs as Global Skills Partnership. We believe that these programs enable destination and origin countries to cooperate in providing relevant skills to potential migrants in origin countries based on labor demands of destination countries for the ultimate employment in the later. Such employment opportunities, will certainly fill the labor demand in destination countries while financial and social remittance in the form of skills and know-how transfer will transform economies in origin countries. Equally important is to invest in youth by providing them training to learn new and appropriate skills and encouraging them to create jobs in their own countries of origin. Since, the demand for international migration through regular channels can hardly be met, it is important that we invest also on skilling the youth to create employment at origin countries and address the drivers of forced migration.

Third, we are also convinced that a rights-based approach is crucial to ensure that human rights and dignity of migrants form the centerpiece of the Global Compact. As a nation that have firsthand experience of thousands of our own migrant workers working under poor working condition, exploitation, forced labor and modern-day slavery, we believe that the strong emphasis of the Global Compact on the need to respect and protect human rights of migrants irrespective of their status is a singular achievement. Moreover, the Compact has a positive impact on the implementation of migrant related goals in other internationally agreed agreements, in particular Agenda 2030 and the Climate Change Agreement.

**Mr. President**

The key task ahead of us, in our view, lies in generating the necessary political will and commitment to the full and speedy implementation of the Global Compact. Drawing up national strategies and action plans to ensure the implementation of the compact is indeed critical and we need to unite behind this historic document to respond globally to the challenges of migration governance.

In this respect, my delegation wishes to underline the need for speedy establishment of the capacity building mechanisms envisaged in the Global Compact and provide support to developing countries. The UN Network on Migration must also be placed in firm footing to ensure the UN support to these countries is streamlined, coherent and coordinated. In addition, we would like to underline the importance of ensuring

synergy in the implementation of the Global Compact that it complements the efforts of the Khartoum Process, IGAD and the African Union in improving migration governance.

In closing, we call upon the international community to focus on promoting and maximizing the benefits of international migration while addressing the challenges emanating from gaps in migration governance through enhanced global cooperation. This is the only practical and meaningful solution that could result in a win-win situation for all.

**Thank You.**