

**STATEMENT BY LEMLEM FISEHA, MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, INTRODUCING AMENDMENT TO PARAGRAPH 12 OF THE IMRF PROGRESS DECLARATION, 20 MAY 2022;**

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

1. I take the floor to explain my country, Ethiopia's, amendment to paragraph 12 of the progress declaration.
2. I would like to start by thanking the facilitators and the secretariat for the work done in preparation for, and the conduct of, this review forum.

**Mr. President,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

3. Ethiopia is an origin, transit and destination country for international migration. We attach great importance to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and strive to its successful implementation. That is why we are a champion country to the GCM together with several other fellow states. That is also why, we submitted an amendment to progress declaration, to preserve the integrity of the GCM.
4. The new language presented in the Chair's text of the progress declaration, creates unsubstantiated nexus between "water scarcity" and "international migration". It also omits the most fundamental element on the need to build "national resilience in the countries of origin". Furthermore, it confuses, international migration that is **international** and **voluntary**; and internal displacement that is **internal** and **forced**.
5. On the other hand, Ethiopia's amendment contained in **document number L2**, introduces the exact language of the GCM. No addition or subtraction whatsoever is made from what is provided under the Global Compact. As delegations recall, we

have adopted this language by consensus in Marrakech and at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly.

**Mr. President,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

6. Climate change, has manifested itself in the most calamitous ways. Chief among these, is drought, which my country Ethiopia is especially prone to. As we speak now, we are my country and people are experiencing the worst drought in four decades. Therefore, we are not one that need explanation on the human cost of recurring drought and the extremely weak resilience. As result, we wholeheartedly continue to support the language of the GCM that outlined climate change and drought as having potential implication for migration. However, water scarcity – which may be caused by natural or man-made reasons, albeit a serious problem, cannot be directly co-related with voluntary international migration.
7. Ethiopia is uniquely alert to this situation because, we know the unfounded migration-water scarcity nexus, advanced at other platforms, is brought to this forum for legitimization. We regret this august forum is used to advance this unsubstantiated position. However, Ethiopia cannot possibly allow this argument get any ground at this august platform.

**Mr. President,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

8. Ethiopia's alternative is not derived from a narrowly defined national interest. We proposed the adoption of the language of the GCM, that makes mention of drought and its potential link with international migration. As a country that gives great deal of regard to the GCM, we are of the conviction that the GCM should not be amended by this progress declaration.

9. Ethiopia also believes the tradition in the negotiations of the UN to return to agreed language should have been upheld by the facilitators. We don't understand why this is not done and why we are pushed to apply this procedure.
10. We assure all delegations, Ethiopia's amendment on paragraph 12 of the Progress Declaration is fully drawn from the GCM. On this basis, we humbly indicate to delegations, not supporting the amendment will be opposing the language of the GCM. We don't believe any delegation has that motive.
11. As result, we ask all delegations to support the proposed amendment. If approved with the amendment, paragraph 12 of the declaration will read;

We are concerned about the impact of financial and economic crises, poverty, health emergencies and food insecurity on international migration and migrants, as well as sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought, and sea level rise, taking into account the potential implications for migration while recognizing that adaptation in the country of origin is a priority.

This is exactly what is provided under the Global Compact.

**I thank you**