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Statement

By

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**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to address this august Assembly on this important occasion to deliberate on one of the most pressing issues of our time.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which we have adopted a little over three years ago, remains our guiding framework to manage the international movement of people.

As we stride with our firm commitment to implement the Compact, and all the 23 objectives, our journey thus far has not been without challenges. It is obvious that the Covid19 pandemic and its impacts have impeded our progress in all fronts, and, at the same time, reminded us all that we are left with no option but to expedite the implementation of the Compact if we are to effectively and timely address the challenges surrounding migrants.

Migrants played a key role in the response to the covid19 pandemic and ensuring continuity of business even in the most dangerous phase of the pandemic.

Regardless of their contributions, regrettably migrant have also been forced into involuntary return, which further exposed them, among many other challenges, to health risks.

My country is among those who has been repatriating its nationals including since the onset of the pandemic, particularly from the Middle East despite financial, logistical and overburdened healthcare capacity. The Government continues to facilitate the return of its citizens, and tirelessly work to make sure that it is done so in a safe and dignified manner. Sadly, many, however, still remain in an appalling condition in refugee camps and detention centers which calls for a vigorous action.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia, as a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants, and as one of the champion countries of the GCM, has taken various institutional, procedural and structural steps to advance the objectives of the GCM in a comprehensive manner.

We have mainstreamed the GCM in the country's national strategies and plans, including in the ten-year development plan. The Ethiopian Statistical Service has also set up mechanisms to monitor the integration and implementation of the GCM across relevant government entities.

In the legal arena, the country has issued new laws and amended existing once for a holistic migration management.

Given the utmost importance that the Government attaches to migrants and to facilitate safe, orderly and regular

migration, a national migration policy has now been finalized and brought before the Council of Ministers. Migration governance indicators and migration profile have also been developed in collaboration with IOM. National partnership coalition has been established to ensure whole of government and whole of society approach.

Furthermore, Crime Prevention Strategy has also been implemented to combat illegal migration and human trafficking which both are punishable by law.

In this regard, intensive capacity building for law enforcement personnel were provided. In addition, skill-based trainings were given to migrants to address the challenges they face in the employment sphere.

Moreover, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied migrant children receive economic and social support and other specialized services. Victims fund regulation to prevent, control and rehabilitate victims of trafficking is also underway.

Mr. President

No country can address the issue of migration alone. Managing international migration requires international cooperation, collaboration and understanding. We need to recommit today to strengthen our collaboration to safeguard the human rights of all migrants.

Let us redouble our efforts to end the suffering and injustices endured by vulnerable migrants, particularly those who are in a harsh and difficult situation, including in detention centers.

Let us scale-up our efforts to effectively and timely implement the 23 objectives of the Compact to guarantee respect and protection of human rights of all migrants irrespective of their migratory status.

Ethiopia is confident that this Forum will have concrete pledges in this regard to address systemic and emerging challenges of migrants and ensure progress in moving forward with this cooperative framework for the benefit of all.

I thank you