

IMRF

GERMAN STATEMENT Roundtable 2

Mr./ Madame Chair, distinguished colleagues,

When we adopted the GCM four years ago, we agreed on a 360-degree vision of international migration. Part of this vision is our joint commitment to “*cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration*”.

Since the adoption of the GCM Germany invested more than 500 Million Euros in order to support voluntary return, sustainable reintegration and long-term opportunities in countries of origin.

For example: We helped to set up *Advisory Centres for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration* in 12 partner countries in the Balkans, Africa and Asia. Together with civil society organisations more than 1 million individual support measures such as psycho-social care, vocational training, business start-ups, etc. were provided. This support is open to returnees as well as the local community.

From this cooperation we learnt a couple of lessons that we would like to share in this roundtable:

1. **Return and reintegration is about people** – i.e. it is essential to take into account the individual’s needs. Germany applies a human rights approach and promotes gender-responsive and child-sensitive reintegration programmes. And we want to do more in this respect in the future. It also means that reintegration is not just about finding a job but about social and cultural reintegration. This is why mental health & psychosocial support is so

important. And this is why the local communities and authorities, civil society, and the family is so important.

2. **Sustainable reintegration already starts in the host country.** Therefore we offer return counselling in Germany and expanded courses for pre-departure qualification.
3. **The return and reintegration of its own nationals lies first and foremost in the responsibility of the country of origin.** While Germany can provide support, sustainable reintegration only works if there is political ownership on behalf of the country of origin. Return and reintegration must be part of national migration policies and development strategies.
4. **Return and reintegration should be complemented by opportunities for regular migration, with legal pathways and regional mobility.** Germany therefore commits to expanding its Advisory Centres for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration into Migration Hubs that follow a 360 degree-approach on migration. These Hubs will enhance current advisory services on regular migration in order to identify skilled workers. They could also support regional mobility – e.g. with respect to the African Continental Free Trade Area and its Free Movement Protocol.

As my final point I would like to emphasise that regular migration and dignified returns of those people who do not have the right to stay are two sides of the same coin. To make migration safe, orderly and regular, we need the clear commitment, that people who do not have the right to stay on another State's territory are identified and taken back by their home countries.

Thank you for your attention.