

Bismillah

Distinguished Chair, respected delegates, worthy stakeholders, ladies and gentlemen

AoA

It is an honour and pleasure for me to discuss the critical issue of migration at this important forum.

Mr. Chair,

We are here to deliberate upon important set of GCM objectives whose fulfilment is essential for ensuring safety, dignity and human rights of millions of migrants around the world. The cross-cutting nature of the objectives calls for a coordinated action from all stakeholders.

Since the adoption of the GCM, many improvements have been made, however, as has been pointed out by speakers before me, gaps still exist. These include: lesser access to consular assistance; effective communication of timely consular information; and challenges due to digital divide on migrants.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw that several consular services also implemented virtual service delivery to improve accessibility. All these actually opened new ways for increasing consular support.

Mr. Chair, an effective example is the multiple Pakistani embassies providing consular services by holding “e-kecharis”, which are virtual complaint centres. These platforms allow the community to have direct access to officials providing consular services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that inclusive economic and social policies are vital for the well-being of migrants. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will not be achieved if migrants are left behind.

Mr. Chair,

Commenting further on this, I would like to add that many migrants are lacking access to financial services and mobile-enabled data, even

though they often rely on receiving payments to support themselves and their families.

The cost of transferring remittances remained high at 6.3 per cent during the third quarter of 2021. The Pakistani migrant community has sent record remittances in 2021 at levels reaching US\$33 billion. The aim to reduce that cost to 3 percent is welcomed. For this, there is a need to improve the remittance market by expanding the use of digital channels, promoting innovation, competition, and transparency.

The role of diaspora engagement and remittances is crucial in national development strategies, and in programmes to improve the financial inclusion and literacy of migrant workers and their families. We welcome the bilateral and multilateral agreements concluded and implemented by several Member States for the welfare of migrant community.

I thank you, **Mr. Chair**, for including me in this fruitful discussion.