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## GCM Regional Review for the ECE region

11. März 2024, Genf, Palais des Nations

Objective 19 Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.

Dear excellencies,

Dear representatives of states,

Dear representatives of stakeholders,

I would like to share some insights concerning the objective 19 about the role of migrants and diaspora organisations for a sustainable development in all countries.

- Diaspora actors play key roles for the social cohesion in their country of residence and their country of origin. They transfer transnationally important amounts of money, as well as knowledge, information and working methods in a non-bureaucratic way.
- Through their remittances they provide financial macro-stability and, by combatting poverty, political stability in their countries of origin. In their country of residence, they provide systemic stability by contributing financially to the pension system, to tax revenues, and by widening the product, the service, and the labour markets.
- The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has facilitated the participation of the diaspora by organising online and in person exchange formats and by creating an Advisory Board for the program Shaping development-oriented migration. This Ministry has also commissioned a study which made recommendations on how to reduce barriers to participation and fundings for

diaspora actors. This study was presented to the major migrant umbrella organisations.

- One important lesson learnt is that diaspora organisations must develop by themselves direct relations to federal, regional, and communal governments to build trust and to convey messages which are not biased by third parties.
- Governments and other stakeholders expect professional partners. But this professionalism can't be based on voluntary work, especially if diaspora actors are expected to be operational in two or more countries. Excessive voluntary work entails serious health risks, especially burnout risks.
- For that reason, diaspora organisations must professionalise their services and monetize their knowledge. Constructive and sustainable cooperations between diaspora organisations and other stakeholders work only if both sides can rely on professional staff.
- Diaspora organisations are hardly involved in Education for Sustainable Development programs. There is hardly any connection between the discourse of Education for Sustainable Development and the day-to-day work of most of the diaspora organisations. This should be changed.

Thank you for your attention.