

**High Level Meeting on
International Migration and Development**

**INDIA STATEMENT
By
Mr. Ashish Sinha, Counsellor**

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Thank you Chair,

I would like to thank the President of General Assembly for convening this meeting. Migration has become one of the defining but contentious global issues of our times.

This meeting is taking place at a time when the debates and deliberations leading to the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is still fresh in our minds. We expect that the discussions today will allow us an opportunity to further correct the largely negative narrative of heightened but misplaced fears, that is attempted to be built around migrants.

The interlinkages between Migration and Sustainable development needs better appreciation of the global community. Safe, orderly and regular Migration will help in achievement of SDGs and achievement of SDGs will ensure that Migration will be out of choice and not out of compulsion.

Migration is now an integral aspect of the integration of economies. It is well known that international migrants contribute nearly 10% of the global GDP even as they are only around 3% of global population. International migration is an important dimension of an ever closer integration of economies and supply chains where specific labour or skill shortages drive migration.

Today's knowledge and innovation-driven economies require mobility of persons as much as the movement of capital, goods and services across borders.

Closer international cooperation can help manage the irregular migration that can raise genuine socio-political or security concerns. While a humane treatment of irregular migrants is absolutely essential, we must also enhance cooperation to combat smuggling and trafficking in persons.

India engaged actively during the negotiations on finalising the Global Compact. We are satisfied that the Compact addresses important issues including faster, safer and cheaper remittances; portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits; mutual recognition of educational qualifications and skills; ensuring non-discrimination against migrant workers;

consular protection and assistance as well as enhancing pathways for regular migration form part of this compact.

In recent times, Indian migrants, including a broad cross-section of professionals, small entrepreneurs and skilled and less-skilled workers, have migrated to various countries around the world. Today India, with one-sixth of the world's population, has over 20 million strong Diaspora contributing to the economies and societies in various ways in their host countries.

We hope to conclude the day today with an increased appreciation of the growing need for international collaboration to leverage the developmental aspect of Migration.

Thank you.