

Roundtable 5: Global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration; Towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the full respect for the human rights of migrants

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Good afternoon, I am honored to be here today to share my perspective as a migrant, a refugee, a person of color and a labor leader.

I've logged many miles to get to this point. I was a child when I left Ethiopia at the age of thirteen to escape political violence.

~~After numerous brushes with death, I was given refuge by the~~

government of Sudan and eventually settled in the United States

It is essential that any new commitments on migration empower

workers to exercise their rights. We call on the leaders gathered here to produce a global compact that gives workers of all skill levels a real chance at family reunification and permanent migration. "Safe, regular, and orderly" is a bare minimum. Instead, we must pursue a rights-based approach that raises standards for all working people.

Many existing regular channels for labor migration do not meet that basic standard and are not just, fair, or even, in many cases,

from Europe to the Gulf region, to Southeast Asia, to North America

visas, and victims paid an average of \$6,150 in recruitment fees.¹ Another study found that Mexican workers in the low-wage H-2 visa program experienced employment conditions and wages as poor as, or worse than, irregular Mexican migrants in the same industries.² These pathways may be regular, but they are not

To achieve sustainable development and human rights, we must