

For Immediate Release

Emerging Markets on the Move

Against the background of migration related tragedies, threats and crises, a recent symposium at Green Templeton College, Oxford on *Migration and the Future of Emerging Markets* reached the following conclusions and recommendations.

Conclusions

- Commentators often overlook the fact that Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and a dozen other *emerging markets* in Asia, Europe and Latin America are major sources of international migrants (India, Mexico, Russia and China alone accounting for more than 40 million). They also overlook the facts that emerging markets are the main destinations of migrants returning from wealthier countries, the main beneficiaries of migrant remittances (nearly \$450 billion in 2015) and major players in debates on global migration.
- Human migration has been the lifeblood of economic growth and cultural change since *homo erectus* walked out of Africa. But migrant-receiving countries, including the wealthiest, have struggled, and in many cases failed, to reconcile their needs for secure borders and cohesive social fabrics with compassion for refugees and migrants and their vested interests in attracting migrant skills.
- In some wealthy countries (e.g. USA) and some emerging markets (e.g. Hungary, Poland), barriers to migrant entry are rising and negative attitudes are hardening as migrant rights are restricted, chain migration is curbed, employer abuses are ignored, access to healthcare, education, housing and social services is limited, and blind eyes are turned to trafficking and slavery.
- Political leaders in receiving countries, abetted by press, media and social media, demonize migrants as job-stealers, benefit scroungers, traffickers, criminals, rapists, terrorists and threats to national health, security and identity. They airbrush cultural, intellectual, entrepreneurial and technological contributions of migrants from history. And they ignore the intense vulnerability of migrants whose benefits are compromised by job insecurity, long working hours, low wages, poor working conditions, human rights violations, abuse, discrimination and, particularly among women and children, exploitation.
- Globalization has been associated with increasing flows of international migrants but *not* with more effective or equitable governance of international migration. The attenuation/resolution of migration-related problems hinges on global cooperation which, in turn, hinges on policy changes by national leaders obsessed with sovereignty and on changes in public attitudes and behaviour towards migrants.
- Management of international migration is impeded by incomplete data, loose terminology, arbitrary distinctions, myths (e.g. “*they arrive illegally, take jobs,*

deplete welfare budgets, bring crime, dilute local values, ignore local languages, strain basic services, don't integrate...and never leave"), ignorance of basic facts (e.g. 10% of today's 245 million international migrants are refugees and asylum seekers and a third of the remainder - migrants by volition - bring professional, entrepreneurial, technical and other skills to receiving countries) and by failure to recognize that (as fertility falls and longevity rises) receiving countries will increasingly look to source countries for skills and markets.

- Closing the symposium, former Pakistan Prime Minister and Chairman of the Emerging Markets Symposium H.E. Shaukat Aziz said: *"My generation excels at kicking cans down the road to be picked up by our children and grandchildren. A year ago, we acknowledged our children would inherit the consequences of our environmental ineptitude. Here, now, we must commit to helping persuade the world to grapple with migration-related issues and we must start in Marrakech"*.

Recommendations

- Emerging markets should endorse the *Global Compact for Migration* at Marrakech, Morocco in December 2018. Grounded in the UN's *New York Declaration on Refugees and Migration* of September 2016, the *Compact* (which has received less global attention than merited by its potential significance) will, if adopted, provide the world's first (non-binding) framework for safe, orderly and regular migration.
- In light of US withdrawal from and the possibility of equivocal EU support for the *Compact*, emerging markets, as rising geo-political powers and sources of and destinations for international migration, should seize the opportunity to make conceptual, ethical and political contributions to the *Compact*.
- Emerging markets should also lead by promoting all-age understanding of the causes, consequences and benefits of international migration (beginning with young children), correcting discriminatory behaviour, preparing for the migratory consequences of future environmental changes, monitoring the welfare of migrants who have left and family members who have been left behind, cracking down on rogue recruiters who lure migrants (particularly women) with false promises, and developing collaborative arrangements with business and civil society organisations.

The outcomes of the symposium will be presented to the United Nations in February. A report proposing actions for consideration by governments, business and civil society will be published later this year.

Notes to Editors

The symposium (January 12-14, 2018) was the ninth in a series on human development, economic growth, social cohesion and political stability in emerging markets organized by the *Emerging Markets Symposium* (EMS). The EMS, made possible by the generous sponsorship of the C&C Alpha Group, is an academic initiative of Green Templeton College, Oxford that expresses its commitment to enhance the management of human welfare in the modern world.

The EMS was created in 2008 because the College recognized that: emerging markets would be critically important in the 21st century; unresolved issues of human welfare and well-being in emerging markets would constrain their growth, cohesion and stability; no existing forum was dedicated to those issues; and the College had the convening power to gather leading authorities - from national governments, international institutions, business, and civil society organizations - to recommend practical changes in policies and practices.

Participants in this symposium included leading authorities from emerging markets and wealthier countries with experience in government, business, civil society and expertise in demography, economics, sociology, anthropology, health, law, politics, education and the environment.

Additional information about the EMS and previous symposia can be found on the EMS website: ems.gtc.ox.ac.uk. Additional information about Green Templeton College can be found at www.gtc.ox.ac.uk

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