

PHILIPPINES

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR
SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION
UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand
6-8 November 2017

**ITEM 3. LEGAL AND ORDERLY LABOR MIGRATION AS A CONTRIBUTION
TOWARDS ALL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING
DECENT WORK, LABOR MOBILITY, RECOGNITION OF SKILLS AND
QUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT MEASURES**

Thank you Mister Chairperson,

On behalf of the Philippine Government allow me to take this opportunity to thank the panelist for their views on the issues surrounding the issue of legal and orderly labor migration.

We recognize that migration is here to stay and the ever changing global pattern on migration has pushed member States to strictly regulate the movement of migrants through policies that focus on border control and recruitment processes.

We note that all countries have an established system that regulates labor migration, but the reality is that irregularities happen and migrants are the first casualty of sundry violations and unscrupulous practices. These irregularities take the form of exploitation, forced labour, and trafficking in persons. This poses a tremendous problem not only in the countries of origin but also in the countries of transit and destination.

The Philippines' migration management is guided by a strong legal and social protection frame that seeks to maximize the gains and minimize the negative effects of migration for socio-economic development of the workers, their families and the country as a whole. To enhance these benefits, the Philippines supports the pursuit of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation on safe, regular and orderly migration between countries of origin and destination that promotes the development of fair, ethical and transparent recruitment processes, and regulation of recruitment, among others.

As a country of origin with an average of 5,787 workers leaving daily for overseas work, the Philippines has voluntarily taken the obligation to promote fair migration – migration that is safe, ethical, secured and provides decent work for all, including the protection of its migrant workers, especially, those who are vulnerable to abuses and exploitation.

Philippine Initiatives to Promote Legal and Orderly Migration

Madam Chairpeson,

Allow me to highlight a few of the Philippine initiatives in sustaining the goal to attain legal and orderly migration:

At the national level, the Philippines has been promoting ethical recruitment to the migrant recruitment industry as a means of capacity-building. We continue to pursue cooperation with countries of destination on implementing alternative recruitment options like government-to-government recruitment arrangements. Our policy of no-placement fee extends not only to destination countries which prohibit charges to the migrant workers but also to domestic workers and to Filipino seafarers working on board foreign flag vessels.

Given the limited reach of domestic regulations, the Philippines has also pursued bilateral arrangements with various destination countries with operation arrangements on areas of mutual concern such as entry procedures, verification of recruitment documents, shared information and database to facilitate deployment, to name a few. To date, a total of 32 BLAs are in effect, augmenting the effect of our national laws at countries of labor destinations through co-implementation and cooperation arrangements with host governments.

It has sustained efforts in the continuing education of migrant workers on their rights as a worker and adjustments to the difficulties of working overseas through the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS), Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) and Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar. The need for relevant orientation for migrant workers at the critical point of decision to work overseas, to the point of arrival at the workplace and return to their home country has to be concretized in terms of shared responsibility and commitment of stakeholders in countries of origin and countries of destination to minimize problems in the entire cycle of migration process and maximize the opportunities offered by international labor migration.

The Philippines has also been a pilot country on the implementation of the FAIR Recruitment Initiative (FAIR) of the International Labor Organization (ILO), a project that aims to reduce cases of deceptive and coercive processes during the recruitment process, and the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) of the International Organization for Migration, a voluntary multi-stakeholder certification system for labour recruiters developed to support ethical recruitment of migrant workers.

Philippine Recommendations

Mister Chairman,

The Philippines wishes to present its doable and actionable recommendation for consideration and inclusion in the global compact for migration:

1. Promote cooperation between the origin and destination countries in resolving cases of migrant workers in an irregular status;
2. Address the issue of statelessness;
3. Employ dignified means for the return of irregular migrants to their home country;

4. Share good practices on pathways out of irregularity and on reducing irregular migration;
5. Provide opportunities for skills upgrading and development in destination countries;
6. Strengthen cooperation between and among countries of origin and countries of destination on enforcement of laws that regulate recruitment agencies picking up lessons from the best practices and benchmarks that do not only apply legal norms but put into practice those that take on fair and ethical principles of recruitment and management of a global workforce;
7. Promote recognition of skills and professional qualifications through mutual recognition agreements at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels;
8. Encourage and support the development and strengthening of national qualifications framework of member states; and
9. Establish a system that will measure the contribution of migrants in destination countries.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson

