

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration at Bangkok, Thailand on 6-8 November 2017

Agenda item 2 : Review of migration policies and programmes and their impact on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration and on supporting all dimensions of sustainable development

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank UNESCAP and related agencies for providing us a forum to contribute to the process for the preparation of the global compact. International Migration has increased significantly in the recent times and it is becoming more important to recognize and address issues concerning this.

International Migration is an integral component of an ever closer integration of economies in this era of globalisation. The integration of modern global economy and business, facilitated by ICT relies on the easy mobility across borders of capital, technology, goods & services. Equally it also relies on mobility of workers, which however faces resistance. Mobility of labour is required for businesses and economy in view of shortage of skilled workers, professionals, researchers as also the need for young workforce in countries with ageing populations.

In India we see the issue of mobility in the broader perspective of migration and development, which will be a key in achieving the safe, orderly and regular migration under goal 10.7 of SDGs. Labour migration should be simplified and well-managed mobility of professionals would be beneficial for both resource and destination countries and would be instrumental in enhancing productivity and maintaining competitiveness of the developed world.

In the same vein portability of social security entitlements and harmonisation of qualification frameworks will go a long way in protecting the economic and social rights of migrant workers. India has already entered into Social Security Agreements with 18 countries.

Government of India has accorded a key priority to ensure a safe, orderly, legal, humane migration process. We remain steadfast in our commitments in tackling illegal migration and human trafficking. Our efforts encompass a broad range of issues. These issues include skills and qualification and their mutual recognition, cost of migration, recruitment procedures, immigration policies, social security, compulsory Pre Departure Orientation and other forms of protection. We are also working towards entering into arrangements on mutual recognition of skills, human mobility partnerships and acceptability of certifications. We also believe that all key stakeholders need to work together for an effective outcome.

At last we would like to emphasise that the New York Declaration for refugees and migrants clearly distinguishes between the two processes leading to separate, distinct and independent global compacts,

one on refugees and the other on migrants. The compact on Migration must retain focus on the phenomenon that is intrinsically linked to globalisation without allowing the concerns about large scale movement of refugees to cloud the discussion. Refugee and migrant flows have separate causes and motives and are governed by different legal frameworks. Similarly the issues of internally displaced (IDPs) must not find a place in this discussion.

The compact should provide a framework of international cooperation premised on development paradigm that seeks to maximise its specific advantages to both source and destination countries leading to the global achievement of Agenda 2030 of sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.