

Statement head of delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly,
and Regular Migration
Bangkok, 6 November

Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you for your election as Chair of this Preparatory Meeting.

I would also like to extend Indonesia's appreciation for UN ESCAP for convening this meeting.

As we know, the world is on the move. In 2015, the UN found that more than 240 million peoples are migrating.

Some are leaving their countries voluntarily, in search for a better live.

But there are also a large number of people who are forced to leave their homes, to escape from armed conflicts and oppression.

Despite these two opposing trends, it is generally accepted that migrants bring opportunities and benefits to countries of origin and destination. Migrants bring fresh ideas and talents, and add dynamism to the economy of countries of destination.

Migrants also send remittances to their families back home, and bring new talent and experience upon return to their home countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underlines the importance of an orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration.

Taking into account these facts, Indonesia believes that we must strive to achieve **triple win** – ensuring benefits to migrants, and their countries of origin and destination.

Chair,

Next month, the inter-governmental stocktaking process for the global compact for migration will begin. And in February next year, negotiation will commence.

Indonesia believes that our region's response to the drafting process of the global compact must **reflect migration trends in the region.**

As documented by the Secretariat, the trend of migration in our region is caused primarily by economic reason -- in search for a better employment and better opportunity.

A large number of migrants are low in their skill, in which women form a significant proportion.

Accordingly, Chair, our region's perspectives on the global compact for migration should incorporate some **basic ideas:**

- Creating better opportunities for skills and labour mobility;
- Ensuring a safe and orderly migration;
- Ensuring inclusion of migrants, including the protection of their rights; and
- Strengthening states' capacities to manage global migration.

Chair,

Allow me to share to the meeting, some of Indonesia's policies to create a better governance for migrant workers.

Just two weeks ago, Indonesia's House of Representative agreed to enact **a new Law** on the protection of Indonesian migrant workers, replacing the Law enacted in 2004.

The new Law was drafted by taking into account the key elements of the International Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Member of Their Families. The new Law commands every level of government, from the central government down to the village level, to oversee all necessary procedures for protecting migrant workers, such as dissemination of information, data verification, departure process, and service delivery to migrants' families.

The new Law also states that **no fees** should be placed on migrant workers.

Further, it mandates the Government to create a “**one-stop service**” for migrant workers, to prevent them from being subjected to exploitation, extortion, and discrimination.

To ensure better protection, the dispatchment of Indonesian migrant workers can only be done based on **written agreement** between the Government of Indonesia and the government or legal entity in countries of destination.

We continuously upgrade and improve the capacity of **workers’ training centre**, in a bid to increase the skill of our migrant workers.

Chair,

I also wish to inform the meeting that my Government has laboured hard to ensure better integration of Indonesian migrant workers in countries of destination. We work with Malaysia to provide **education** for children of our migrant workers in remote areas of Sabah and Sarawak.

We set up **Indonesian citizen services**, in several embassies, to further the service and protection of Indonesian citizens, including migrant workers. We also encourage our migrant workers to send **remittances** through proper and legitimate banking system, to ensure accountability and efficiency.

Realizing the huge potential of remittances, my Government launched a program called “**Productive Migrants Village**”, which aims at empowering migrants and their families so that remittances can be channelled to a more productive outcome. The program also helps people to access credible information on migration, and provides assistance to families of migrants.

Within the ASEAN environment, Indonesia and other **ASEAN** States adopted the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers in 2007. To further this Declaration, ASEAN has agreed on an ASEAN Consensus on the Promotion and Protection of

the Rights of Migrant Workers, which is expected to be signed by ASEAN Leaders in the Summit later this month.

On a different matter, Indonesia also realizes the importance of cooperation in preventing and responding to human trafficking and people smuggling. Together with Australia, we are co-chairing **Bali Process** on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crime.

We have adopted policy guidelines on following the money in human trafficking case, to help law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting human trafficking perpetrators. We also created guidance in identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking.

In August this year, Bali Process convened a Government and Business Forum, in Perth, Australia, to strengthen engagement with **private sectors** in preventing human trafficking and people smuggling, within the context of forced labour and modern slavery.

Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating Indonesia's steadfast commitment to strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers, and to prevent incidents of human trafficking and people smuggling, within the framework of global migration.

The momentum is ripe to raise these issues, as we commence the inter-governmental negotiation next year, to produce what may become a monumental document in the field of migrant workers.

We hope the steadfastness of our commitment is shared by our partners and other actors in the region.

Only through a **genuine dialogue** leading to **collaboration** can we create a better governance for global migration.

I thank you.