

PHILIPPINES

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand
6-8 November 2017

Item 2. General Statement

Delivered by **UNDERSECRETARY BERNARD P. OLALIA**
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Madam Chair,

(Salutations)

Migration has been a primordial concern of the Philippines for the past 40 years and the protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare and interest of its migrants has been deeply embedded in its foreign policy. It is a continuing narrative for the Philippines to look closely on the realities and complexities brought about by international migration and to come up with practical and doable solutions to address these.

The Philippines has noted that efforts of its fellow Member States have been geared towards the promotion of a safe, orderly, and regular migration under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, with a view that this collective concern highlights the shared responsibility of all actors involved in the migration cycle.

At the sub-regional level, allow us to briefly share, as the current Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, that ASEAN member countries adopted in 2007 the ***Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers*** which calls on origin and destination countries to ensure the dignity of migrant workers. ASEAN has since then continually engaged its members to implement the said Declaration. Likewise, the Philippines hosted last month, 25-26 October 2017, the ***10th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour***, an annual tripartite consultation, for the discussion, exchange of best practices, and review of recommendations adopted in the previous forum.

The Philippines is pleased to note that while efforts of its fellow member States are aimed at the promotion of a safe, orderly and regular migration pursuant to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, such collective endeavor is and will continue to be a shared responsibility of all actors involved in the migration cycle.

Under the umbrella of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM), the Philippines would like to highlight the following essential points:

First, the GCM should contain the affirmation of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their immigration status. UN Member States should recognize and respect fundamental freedoms and human rights of migrants such as access to healthcare systems and effective remedy;

Second, the GCM should also underscore that migrants should be empowered and seen as agents of development. Migrants should be recognized and acknowledged for their positive contribution to the development of countries of origin and destination. The GCM should facilitate greater labor mobility and social and financial inclusion of migrants;

Third, the GCM should reaffirm the principle of shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit, and destination. It should also reinvigorate the spirit of multilateralism. Moreover, the GCM should facilitate and sustain technical cooperation and assistance to further strengthen the capacity of Member States to respond to the concerns and commitment to protect the rights and promote the welfare of migrants;

Fourth, the GCM should facilitate and expand existing regular pathways of migration. In the Asia Pacific region, it also means addressing the pitfalls of irregular labour migration; and

Fifth, but certainly not the least, the GCM should set up a review and monitoring mechanism that will oversee the implementation of the principles adopted and commitments made by member States.

Madam Chair,

The Philippines espouses the whole of government and whole of society approaches in migration governance. We recognize that while States are the primary duty-bearers on the protection of migrants, other stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector are important partners in migration governance.

There still remains a whole gamut of issues facing migration globally. However, in the interest of time, the Philippine delegation would stop at this point but would submit separate statements on each of the four panel discussions scheduled tomorrow.

In closing, the Philippine delegation hopes that this regional consultation shall contribute to fostering collaboration and coordination for the benefit of our respective countries and for migrants and members of their families.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. – **END**