

## PHILIPPINES

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE GLOBAL  
COMPACT ON SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION  
UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand  
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***Item 3. Addressing Drivers of Migration, Including the Adverse Effects of  
Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Human-Made Crises, through  
Protection and Assistance, Sustainable Development and Poverty  
Eradication, Conflict Prevention and Resolution***

Thank you Mister Chairman,

At the outset allow the Philippine delegation to thank the panelists for their insights on the theme of this session. Indeed the discussion on drivers of migration, in the context of this session and the global compact on safer, orderly, and regular migration, should be focused on international migration and not internal migration, which is mainly related to internal displacement.

We note that the overwhelming majority of international migrants<sup>1</sup> move through safe, orderly and regular means, and as a matter of choice and not necessity. Yet because of the dramatic loss of lives and suffering of those fleeing, migration is often seen as a response to conflict and a way of avoiding human rights abuses and persecution.<sup>2</sup>

We share the view the “drivers of migration” or the factors that lead people to migrate, voluntarily or involuntarily, permanently or temporarily are almost always a combination of different factors: economic, socio-cultural, demographic, environmental, climate change and natural disasters and conflict and widespread civil unrest. These drivers interact in complex ways, influencing individuals' migration decision-making, including the choice not to migrate. In the Philippine context, as developing country, the economic factor is the main driver of migration. The other drivers of migration are but exacerbating factors.

We also share the view that our common objective in understanding the drivers of migration is uncovering some of the ways forward, including through protection

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<sup>1</sup> In 2015, there were an estimated 244 million migrants, or around 4 percent of the total global population. Asia Pacific region accounts for a fourth of the total international or around 59.3 million international migrants in same year.

<sup>2</sup> According to the studies published by the McKinsey Global Institute, almost 90% of international migrants move due to economic, social, political and environmental factors, and only 10 per cent were refugees fleeing violence, persecution, human rights abuse, and/or armed conflict.

and assistance, sustainable development and poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution.

## **The Philippine reflections and experiences**

Mister Chairman,

Allow me at this point to share some of Philippine reflections on this complex topic, as well as initiatives my country has taken:

- Addressing the drivers of migration is about looking at ways of reducing the adverse factors that motivate people to move out of necessity in unsafe, dangerous and irregular situations and of maximizing the benefits of migration for the migrant and their families and for communities and countries of origin and destination. By and large, it is about addressing poverty.
- Addressing drivers of migration is also about appreciating migration as a facilitator of sustainable development. At the international level, we have recently forged agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing Development from where we could draw inspiration in our national action plans on development. Migration needs to be mainstreamed in the development plans of countries of origin and on the socio-economic policies of countries of destination.
- Key to addressing the drivers of migration is the spirit of burden sharing and the implementation of the principle of shared responsibility among countries of origin, transit and destination. These are not only aspirations but also operational guideposts on the ways forward.
- Another important element is data and evidence. Efforts to address the drivers of migration must be tailored to different populations and contexts. This will only be possible with better, more comprehensive, comparable and disaggregated data on migration.

Mister Chairman,

It is a truism that the more regular migration channels are restricted, the more migration is diverted to irregular and often exploitative channels, especially for low-skilled migration flows. However, while there are greater risks of abuses with irregular migration, this does not mean that with regular migration migrants at destination countries will not be exploited, discriminated or abused.

In addressing the drivers of migration, the Philippines has mainstreamed migration in its medium development plan (e.g. the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022). A challenge for us is to have migration also mainstreamed in the development plans of our sub regional local governments.

The Philippines has also consistently advocated the promotion of regular channels of migration and the avoidance of pitfalls of irregular migration.

As part of its response to crisis situation, the Philippines co-lead the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative that developed the MICIC Guidelines.<sup>3</sup> We have worked with International Organization for Migration or IOM and International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), to build awareness on the Guidelines and increase capacity of States in responding to protection needs of migrants.

The Philippines has also been involved in and committed to other international actions to counter the effect of displacement due to disasters and effects of climate change such as the Nansen Initiative and its follow up platform on disaster displacement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster-Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement.

The Philippines is also mobilizing its national agencies and local governments units and the private sector to ensure that climate change initiatives are in place and disaster risk reduction and management plans are available.

Mister, Chairman, all these achievements, we believe, are doable and could be replicated in the context of other developing countries in Asia Pacific.

### **Philippine recommendations**

Mister Chairman,

The Philippines wishes to submit for consideration and inclusion in the global compact on migration the following non- exhaustive list of concrete and doable recommendations:

1. Integrate migration into each country's development strategy, to create a conducive socio-political environment and sustain economic progress leading to inclusive development;
2. Encourage origin and destination countries to coordinate efforts in managing crisis situations and to cooperate to achieve crisis management preparedness;
3. Implement the principle of shared responsibility among countries of origin, transit and destination not only as aspirations but operational guideposts, through mutual recognition of skills and skills matching, allowing labor

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<sup>3</sup> MICIC Guidelines, formally called **Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster**, is a set of voluntary non-binding guidelines to improve the ability of States and other relevant stakeholders to respond to and alleviate the suffering and protect the dignity and rights of migrants, regardless of their status, caught in situations of acute crisis due to civil unrest or natural disasters.

mobility, upholding ethical recruitment practices, maintaining decent work standards, and expansion of legal pathways to migration, monitoring of compliance of labor contracts, and establishment of mechanism for effective redress of grievances, among others; and

4. Strengthen cooperation among States in achieving the goals set forth in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Goals and in respecting the Paris Agreement and other agreements on sustainable development that aim to reduce global poverty.

Thank you Mister Chairman.

**END**