

PHILIPPINES

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT
ON SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION
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Item 3. Regional cooperation and governance with regard to migration in all its dimensions, including at borders and during transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration

Delivered by: Director Reynaldo R. Cancio
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Thank you Mister/Madam Chair,

Given the cross-border nature of migration, cooperation between states is imperative. Cooperation is especially important during crisis situations, and in view of rising anti-migrant/ xenophobic sentiments. Moreover, the principle of “shared responsibility” implies a need for countries of origin, transit and destination to cooperate.

We must recognize that a number of migration-related challenges, including border management, skills recognition of migrants, portability of benefits, trafficking and smuggling of migrants, can only be adequately addressed through cooperation.

The Philippine reflections and experiences

Mister/Madam Chair,

Indeed, a number of initiatives at the global and regional level are motivated by the need to cooperate on such issues, and the Philippines has been active in many of them:

- For instance, the Philippines co-lead the ***Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative*** that developed the MICIC Guidelines¹. We have worked with

¹ 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.

the International Organization for Migration or IOM and International Center for Migration Policy Development, to build awareness on the Guidelines and increase capacity of States in responding to protection needs of migrants.

- The Philippines joins eleven other “countries of origin” states in the **Colombo Process**, which meets annually to discuss issues involving the management of overseas employment and contractual labor. Moreover, the Philippines is the current Chair of the Thematic Area Working Group on Pre-Departure Orientation and Empowerment.
- We are also a member of the **Abu Dhabi Dialogue**, which is a venue to have a common understanding on issues of contractual labor between “countries of origin” and “destination countries” in Asia. We are currently involved in the pilot phase of the Implementation of the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Program, which is one of the major thrusts of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.
- Consequences of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime are put to light in the **Bali Process**. The Philippines is co-Chair of the Experts Group on Return and Reintegration.
- **Within the ASEAN, the Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP)**, entered into force last March.
- **The ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework and the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Framework**, on the other hand now cover eight disciplines (namely - engineering, architecture, surveying, accountancy, medicine, dentistry, nursing, and tourism).

As the current Chair of ASEAN, we are pleased to inform you that, later this month, during the 50th Anniversary of the ASEAN, to be held in the Philippines, the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection of Rights and Welfare of Migrant Workers is set to be signed by Member States.

Philippine recommendations

Mister/Madam Chair,

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. Cooperate with the private sector with respect to **ethical recruitment**, including employer pays principle, among others. Special attention should be paid to women workers, domestic workers, and those in vulnerable work conditions.

2. Set **minimum standards** in terms of regulations and employment conditions for migrant workers.
3. Work together to strengthen the pre-departure and post-arrival process to better prepare migrant workers for integration at work and in the community.
4. Cooperate on **crisis management and crisis** preparedness, including **repatriation**.
5. Develop mechanisms to extend social protection systems to migrant workers and allow for **portability** of earned benefits.
6. Reduce remittance costs including by promoting an enabling environment for cost-effective remittance transfer methods, and reducing cumbersome regulations that cause de-risking.
7. Promote **multi-stakeholder engagement** at the national, regional and global levels – including civil society, private sector, international organizations and migrants themselves.
8. And lastly, we need to work more closely together to strengthen data collection and sharing to ensure migration policies are based on evidence, rather than emotions.

The Philippines understands that existing regional mechanism, particularly existing intergovernmental regional mechanism, would play a crucial facilitative role in the implementation and review of agreed commitments in the global compact on migration.

Thank you Mister/Madam Chair.

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