

**Remarks by Ambassador/ PR of Nepal to UN Office at Geneva  
During Informal Thematic session on Global Compact on Migration  
On “Human Rights of all migrants”  
Geneva, 8 May 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Moderator, distinguished panellists and co-facilitators!

Migration is the living reality of human civilization. And more so in our time of intense globalization.

The dignity and honour of human person and the positive potential of the migrant’s contribution to development should therefore come at the centre-stage of our consideration.

Special consideration should be given to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the migrant populations, especially low skill and semi-skill workers as well as women and children migrants, and those facing situations of crisis or disasters in the destination countries.

Mismatch of skills and qualification of the workers with the jobs, and exploitative and abusive practices of some unscrupulous employers subject migrant workers to untold sufferings. Under such circumstances, many workers may lose their regular status and get compelled to live on irregular status. Irregular migrants may also result due to human trafficking and people smuggling. Without addressing the root causes, these migrants should not be treated as “criminals” and subjected to hardships and punishment. The human rights of the migrants is related to the dignity of human person, not the status some of them may suffer due to situation out of their control. Voluntary migration and its systematic facilitation should therefore be the order of the day.

Curbing the paths of irregular migration by making the migration process as open, transparent and inclusive as possible would be most helpful. We stand for safe, orderly and regular migration as we see that it is a win-win strategy for all. The origin, transit and receiving countries all get multi-dimensional development benefits from the migration process, and therefore it is the responsibility of all of them to pay attention to the rights of the migrants. Bilateral, regional and global dialogues on common issues should shape future courses of action.

Mr. moderator,

The GCM Modalities Resolution also calls for the contribution of regional consultative processes for the preparatory process of the Global Compact on Migration. Nepal has recently assumed the responsibility of chairmanship of the Colombo Process, which is one of the regional consultative processes focusing on

the mobility of migrant workers from a group of countries from South and South-east Asia and China. The Colombo Process has succeeded in operationalizing some of the key principles and standards that apply to migrant workers. Its work is organized around a number of core thematic areas. We draw your attention in particular to:

- 1) The promotion of ethical recruitment as an essential component to minimizing forced labour and abusive labour practices. One concrete example is cooperation with the recruitment industry to promote ethical recruitment as a common objective of the CP countries and the private sector recruitment providers.
- 2) The importance of adequate information provision to enhance awareness of rights among migrant workers and to seek redress when their rights are breached. The CP countries are engaged in Pre-Departure Orientation and Training, and a Regional Guide has been developed for pre-departure modules, providing guidance to individual CP countries on preparing their nationals for working abroad.
- 3) Reducing the cost of remittances through legal channels helps in economic empowerment of the migrants and the origin countries and communities. This would further help in reducing inequalities.
- 4) Migrant health has been adopted as a new priority by the latest Ministerial meeting of the CP countries. Promoting the health of migrant workers throughout the migration cycle helps in safeguarding human capital and reducing long-term economic and social costs.
- 5) Labour market studies help in identifying the demand-supply match.

In conclusion, we want to reiterate that a people-centred, humane and inclusive global compact on migration that ensures safe orderly and regular migration as well the rights of migrants is the call of our time.

Thank you.