



# PHILIPPINES

## PROPOSED INTERVENTION

of

**H.E. MS. IRENE SUSAN B. NATIVIDAD**  
Deputy Permanent Representative

**Panel 2: Human-made crises as drivers of migration**

**22 May 2017, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**

Thank you to all the panelists for sharing your time and expertise with us here today.

The Philippines is a country of origin with over 10 million overseas Filipinos, living and working in more than 200 countries. For this reason, the protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare of Filipinos overseas, is one of the deepest and most sacred commitments of Philippine foreign policy.

During the negotiations for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Philippines strongly advocated for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrant workers, regardless of migration status. We also sought to include migrants in the list of vulnerable groups. Therefore, we have developed the Guidelines on Migrants in Countries in

Crisis (MICIC), jointly with the United States, our co-chair, other partners, and the International Organization of Migration (IOM).

The Guidelines provides best practices and principles in addressing the needs of migrants in case of any crisis- whether caused by conflict or natural disasters – in their host country. The Guidelines emphasize that protecting migrants in vulnerable situations is a shared responsibility among the sending, destination and even transit states.

In our national capacity, we have developed laws, policies and programs that address all aspects and phases of migration, from labor and economic migration to migration in crises. We have implemented a migrant-centered approach to the entire migration cycle, from pre-employment, transit, on-site employment and eventual return and reintegration programs. The Philippines has in place “return home” programs for effective reintegration and assistance to returning distressed migrants and trafficked persons.

The Philippines also recognizes the mobilization of the Filipino diaspora as a strategic partner in implementing our policy to assist Filipino migrants caught in crisis situations and we are committed to ensuring that the rights and welfare of all Filipinos are protected in all circumstances.

Thank you.