

## **Statement by the UAE**

### **Third Thematic Session on the Global Compact for Migration**

#### **Panel 3, 20 June 2017**

The UAE thanks the panellists for their interventions and takes this opportunity to commend the office of the Secretary General and the two Co-Chairs, for their thoughtful guidance on the conduct of all three panels of this thematic meeting.

As the chosen destination of nearly one million temporary migrant workers every year, the UAE recognizes the importance - indeed the imperative - of inter-regional cooperation to improve migration governance and, consequently, the development outcomes of labour migration.

In our cooperation with partner sending countries of origin, the UAE's takes a holistic approach to migration governance, looking across the entire migration cycle, from pre-departure, through residency, to return, and reintegration.

The design of collaborative programmes that are initiated and implemented by the UAE with our ADD partners, is guided by what we consider to be three pillars of effective governance: *Ensuring the protection of migrant workers; empowering workers to fulfil their goals aspirations; and affording workers the opportunity to benefit equitably* from the outcomes of migration.

Allow me, Mr Moderator to cite but three recent initiatives that illustrate what I just described. All three were adopted by ADD ministers at their Fourth Ministerial Consultation, this January in Colombo.

The first, piloted by the UAE and the Philippines, seeks to validate and implement an alternative labour recruitment model that mitigates against unfair and often abusive recruitment practices and is conducive to fair, transparent and compliant practices. Modelled on an agreement between the government of the Philippines and a number of Canadian provinces, this recruitment scheme allows for joint government oversight of the relations between employers and private recruitment agencies, ensures effective matching of candidate's qualifications and the listed job opportunity, and mandates that all recruitment costs are borne by employers.

The second is the development of a comprehensive and coordinated worker orientation program implemented by pairs of ADD member states. The programme is offered to migration aspirants prior to employment, to contracted migrant workers prior to departure, as well as upon arrival. Developed with technical assistance from IOM, this program further develops the capacity of worker orientation departments in countries of destination to deliver continual

orientation during the worker's residency, and prepare workers for their return and re-integration in their home communities.

The third has the potential of transforming labour market outcomes in general and substantially improving the outcomes of migration. Building on the remarkable skilling campaigns that have been launched by a number of Asian countries of origin, ADD member states are developing integrated skills ecosystems, to coordinate skill acquisition, skill testing, third party certification and mutual recognition of skills on the basis of developed occupational standards. The collaborative development of these ecosystems affords migrants the opportunity to carry formal skills certification prior to their departure, be issued with a skills passport upon arrival, be offered periodic opportunities to be tested, and recognized for skills acquired on the job and, ultimately, have their cumulative skilling mutually recognized by country of origin and destination.

These and other initiatives will be the subject of a full report that the government of Sri Lanka and the government of the UAE will jointly submit to the GCM process prior to the stocktaking meeting in Mexico in December.

Thank you.