

PHILIPPINES

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION
PREPARATORY STOCKTAKING MEETING
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Retrospection Session – Looking Back On Phase I Panel I – Stakeholder Perspectives

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(Thank you, Mr. Chair.)

The Philippines views the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (GCM) as a watershed in migration management and governance. The Philippines considers migration as a priority policy concern, as evidenced by its integration in specific provisions of our country's Development Plan. Ours is a recognized sterling reputation and experience in consistently engaging with and promoting the welfare of its migrants throughout all phases of the migration cycle.

The significance that the Philippines attaches to the GCM springs from the certainty that the principles and approaches that will frame our discussion in the coming days will impact on the rights and welfare of our migrants and their families.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines views the GCM to be resting on three pillars. First, it should migrant centered. Second, respect and protection of human rights is its underlying framework. And third, international cooperation and shared responsibility of States are of utmost importance to the success of GCM.

We are glad that the 1st two pillars are already recognized and included in the concept of this stocktaking meeting, signaling consensus on these critical elements of GCM. Let me then zero in on the 3rd pillar.

The GCM process conveys the intent of States and other stakeholders to achieve an action-oriented document with doable and practical commitments with time lines and targets, means of implementation and mechanisms for review.

A key feature of the GCM that cannot be overemphasized – that it is a **multi-stakeholder undertaking that entails national and transnational commitments, international cooperation, and action.**

Perhaps it is fitting to reflect that there is already a functional set of mechanisms in place as avenues for international cooperation, as well as a number of available regional commissions, international organizations, and consultative fora which promote dialogue and offer a space for critical analysis and fruitful engagement. Thus, through the years, the Philippines has partnered with the UN agencies, most particularly with the IOM, UNODC, and OECD to assist us in improving our responses to the plight of our distressed or vulnerable nationals.

To ensure the promotion of the well-being and protection of the rights of our migrants, we have also maximized our participation – or taken the lead role – in mechanisms such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Bali Process, Colombo Process, Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative, and the ASEAN.

In view of these existing frameworks and in the light of the increasing number of stakeholders engaging in multilateral dialogue and cooperation, the Philippines submits that the way forward with the GCM is **not through the reinvention of mechanisms that may well be superfluous.**

The way forward is to build on and learn from our unique experiences, create an enabling environment for shared responsibility among all stakeholders, and foster a migration regime that is evidence-based, migrant-centric, and firmly anchored in human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.