

PHILIPPINES

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY, AND REGULAR MIGRATION PREPARATORY STOCKTAKING MEETING

4-6 December, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Action Group No. 4 - National Dimension

Delivered by

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Mister/Madam Moderator,

The Philippines would like express its support to the ideas expressed in the Chair's summary of the discussions at the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting held 4 weeks ago in Bangkok. A number of them have National dimensions.

Indeed, while acknowledging the growing role of local/sub-national governments, most existing and prospective commitments of countries require action at the national level, as migration has been (and is likely to remain) a national level competence/policy.

Among the many actionable commitments that can be implemented at the national level are:

- The establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms to ensure coherence and complementarity of national policies on migration, human rights and sectoral policies.
- Development and implementation of clear and binding procedures and standards on the establishment of "firewalls" between law enforcement and provision of basic social services (including health, education and justice among others) to ensure that human rights are protected, while also strengthening the role of the national human rights institutions (NHRIs).
- Expansion and improvement of effective and accessible regular pathways of migration, including for family reunification, as well as by decreasing the cost of regular channels (i.e. visas application and medical examination fees), among others;.
- Designing pathways out of irregularity, pursuant to transparent, non-discriminatory, defined criteria, within a reasonable period of time; and pursuing reforms which allow workers to change employers without losing their regular status.

- Employing dignified means for the return of irregular migrants to their home country. For victims of trafficking, consider regularization and right to residency as an option other than return and ensure non-criminalization.
- Providing opportunities for skills upgrading and development in destination countries;
- Establishing a system that will measure the contribution of migrants in destination countries;
- Systematic collection of comprehensive sex- and age-disaggregated migration data, by strengthening all available data sources, including population censuses, labour force and household surveys and administrative sources, to support evidence-based policy making.

Thank you very much Mister/Madam Moderator!