

Intervention by H.E. Deepak Dhital, Ambassador/PR, Permanent Mission of Nepal to
United Nations at Geneva, as Chair-in-office of the Colombo Process at the
Retrospection session of the Preparatory (Stocktaking) Meeting of Global Compact
for Migration
Puerto Vallarta, 4 December 2017

Thank you, Mr. Moderator!

My delegation is sharing our views on Global Compact for Migration on behalf of the Colombo Process, which is a regional consultative process of 12 Asian nations as countries of origin of migrant workers.

The Colombo Process puts people at the centre of migration governance, and stands for protection of universally-recognized human rights and fundamental freedom as well as applicable labour rights of migrant workers in all situations, regardless of status. We recognize the complex inter-linkages of international migration to multi-dimensional development of the destination and origin countries. And, in this respect, see clear benefits of building effective mechanisms and taking efficient measures in empowering the migrant workers to enable them to contribute more efficiently to the development of both the origin and destination countries, and get themselves benefitted as winners in the entire migration process. Thus, we believe in making migration a real 'triple win'. The civil society's role in realizing this goal is crucial. We, recommend that the Global Compact for Migration must be developed and implemented in line with the principles and pledges of 2030 Agenda for SDGs and other internationally agreed development frameworks that are all-inclusive.

One of the most important keys to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration is opening regular and predictable pathways for migration for workers of all skills category as per the demand of the labour market. Empowerment of migrant workers is possible by protecting their fundamental rights, providing labour-market specific comprehensive orientations and trainings to them at every phase of the migration cycle; matching their skills and qualifications with the demand in the labour market and up-skilling at workplace and providing them with "skills certificates" for future use. Lowering the cost of remittances as private capital of the migrant workers by all means and ensuring the best possible utilization of remittances for productive investment purposes through their financial literacy and inclusion is crucial for equitable and inclusive benefits. Migrant workers should have access to all relevant knowledge about international migration and remittances corridors they want to choose through availability of properly analyzed and modulated data and information.

My second point concerns with how we can create an enabling environment for managed, regular and safe migration to happen. Cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels through harmonized policies, strategies and enforcement measures is necessary to curb human trafficking and people smuggling. How we can

raise our respective capacities to apprehend potential criminals, detect and punish them, wherever they operate, and save the victims and migrants in vulnerable situations through protective measures, is equally important. The recruitment industry operating both at the origin and destination countries needs to be effectively regulated with harmonized and coherent set of rules for fostering ethical and fair recruitment in line with international benchmark standards. The employers themselves have to be made fully responsible for their actions and behavior, and absolutely free from any fraudulent practices. There should be standard bilateral labour agreements and employment contracts between COOs and CODs with clear and transparent provisions and a system of monitoring of their compliance through effective complaints mechanisms.

The third important aspect is ensuring equality of treatment between men and women migrants and, between nationals and migrant workers as far as universal rights and the ethics and practices of the workplaces are concerned. This can go hand-in-hand with social integration of the migrants in host communities and ensuring migrants access to health and other social benefits, including portability of earned benefits. Ensuring consular support to the migrant workers in times of need or any looming crisis through cooperation and collaboration provides a good framework for social integration.

Whole of government and whole of civil society approaches to migration play synergistic important role to this end.

The CP believes that in the implementation and follow-up of the GCM, RCPs should be taken as an important platform for synergy and complementarity between international and national efforts, where a host of actors can play their parts.

RCPs like the CP can implement actionable commitments that are in line with their mandates and principles, spur innovations and forge policy and regulatory coherence in managing migration in a just manner for more equitable benefits. Policy dialogues, experience sharing, capacity building, generating disaggregated data and information, matching the labour market demands with requisite skills frameworks, study and analysis of regional and international labour markets are some other areas in which RCPs' role would be more effective.

I thank you very much!