

PHILIPPINES

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

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Concluding Session

Delivered by

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(Thank you, Mr. Chair.)

On behalf of the Philippine Government, we would like to express our gratitude to the organizers of this preparatory stocktaking meeting, with the support of the Government of Mexico, for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality.

The Philippines recognizes its international obligation to help manage the phenomenon of migration, knowing fully well that it touches the concerns and aspirations of countries of origin, transit, and destination. We are grateful for the space afforded by this meeting which allowed us to refine our insights and collective learnings in the first phase of the GCM process and which brought into sharper focus the trajectory that we must take in order to arrive at an empowering framework for migrants and their families.

We thus take this opportunity to re-emphasize four main points upon which we believe the GCM should be anchored:

First, migrants must always be at the center of the migration discourse. The GCM must advocate the recognition of migrants as crucial enablers of development who have significantly contributed to countries of origin, transit, and destination. Moreover, preferential attention must be given to migrants who fall between the cracks – specifically, those who are made vulnerable by circumstance, or those who, for one reason or another, find themselves in precarious situations.

Second, the holistic and human rights-based approach to migration must be pursued at all times. While specific priority rights may be peculiar to each region – i.e., right to legal and consular assistance, right to medical care, right to be registered at birth, right to return to one's State of origin – the inalienability and universality of human rights is guaranteed and must be upheld.

Third, enlisting the support, cooperation, and commitment of all stakeholders is crucial. Towards this end, utilization of existing frameworks, processes, and 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 must be encouraged. Moreover, as we have consistently said, the IOM along with other UN agencies with migration-related functions should have an important role in the implementation and review of the GCM.

And fourth, the principle of shared responsibility and spirit of international cooperation must pervade each actionable and doable commitment. While the GCM itself is intended to be non-prescriptive, each state party and stakeholder must be guided by the highest standard of ethical accountability. All must strive to achieve the highest deliverable framework of cooperation and commitments.

Having been enriched by the diversity of perspectives and experiences shared during this stocktaking meeting, **the Philippines reaffirms its faith in and commitment to the GCM process, and remains willing and ready to reinforce its leadership as appropriate.**

Thank you.