

## **Panel 1: Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development – the linkages between migration and development**

Migrants play significant roles in the economic, social, and cultural development of the countries of destination, as well as the countries of origin. Countries should promote safe, regular, orderly, and responsible migration through planned and well-managed migration policies to ensure that migrations could fully contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and to ensure that sustainable development would foster the wellbeing and safety of migrants and their families and communities.

The Government of Indonesia acknowledges the positive contribution of labor migration to our national development. One of the many contributions of Indonesian migrant workers is remittance, amounting to 8.86 billion USD in 2016.

It is relevant to discuss migration especially in relation to its transformational potential for sustainable development. There are benefits but also challenges that have to be addressed.

With migration it is the positive impacts that we need to manage effectively in order for migration to play a positive role while reducing the negative aspects such as human trafficking.

Traditionally Indonesia is not a migrant nation. Yet, better opportunity and certain social pressures are some of the reasons why Indonesian citizens are going abroad to earn a living.

For the most part migrant workers from Indonesia go to the Gulf countries and neighboring countries in Asia. In ASEAN, a number of countries have successfully promoted their economic development. And therefore more and more countries in the region are becoming receiving countries of migrants.

Generally speaking, the implications of migration on the origin country are increased incomes from remittances, ability to smooth consumption, access to finance for starting a new business, as well as tapping on to the knowledge and resources provided by the international community of the migrant diaspora.

While for the families the remittances that they receive is surely welcome, the question remains whether the finances that migrants workers send back home has added value to drive the transformation that the 2030 Agenda envisions.

Several policies and measures have been implemented to facilitate safe and regular labor mobility, empower migrant workers and their families, and therefore, help ensure the achievements of migration-related SDGs, such as Migrant Care Village, Productive Migrant Village, and Development Program for Migrant Workers' Families. These programs offer services to migrant workers and their families, such as information on safe migration, papers

needed for migration process, economic empowerment for migrant workers and their families, and training on parenting skills and childcare. These programs are expected to contribute to the achievement of relevant goals of SDGs, notably on promoting the rights of migrant workers, preventing the trafficking and smuggling of peoples, and reducing the cost of sending remittances.

There is still insufficient evidence to clearly make this link between migration and development.

We are of the view that migrants' contribution to sustainable development could be further enhanced through collaboration at the bilateral, regional, and global levels. Indonesia has entered into agreements with several countries of destination on various fields, such as on protection, training, professional certification, competency standard setting, and sharing of information related to labor market.

Moreover the type of work that migrant workers are involved in also makes a tremendous difference. To enable a sustainable transformation for sustainable development requires highly skilled labor. In Indonesia, we need human capacity building focusing on science, technology engineering and mathematics. Indonesia is industrializing; therefore the population should be able to provide 1,000 more engineers to support the country.

Whether migration supports the kinds of requirements that would drive sustainable should be explored more deeply while not solely focusing on the remittances only. Ultimately, migration should be win-win in terms of enhancing skills and knowledge too.

## **Panel 2: Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development - enabling frameworks for contributions**

In the last couple of years, Indonesia Diaspora have become more and more important, and the Indonesian government has realized the role and contribution to development. Migrants and Diaspora communities have huge potentials to contribute to the development of their countries as well as communities of origin, notably through their individual skills, financial, and social capital from their working period abroad.

To capture the potential of this great number of people, the Government of Indonesia is issuing Diaspora Card to better map the potentials of Indonesian Diaspora abroad and to facilitate the Indonesian Diaspora that are willing to do business/invest in Indonesia.

Being a sending country, the issue of protection of Indonesian domestic workers abroad, particularly in receiving countries with minimum protection of foreign workers, has attracted serious attention from our government and public.

Therefore, protection of Indonesian nationals has become one out of four foreign policy priority agendas of President Jokowi.

Within ASEAN, Indonesia and the Philippines have encouraged other ASEAN countries to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. It also brought us to the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in 2007.

Another important issue is labor trafficking, where thousands of migrants have become victims in modern slavery, and thus have put in several regulations and legal frameworks to handle the issue, particularly to address issues such as human trafficking and illegal fishing.

Indonesia authorities have revealed the close linkage of labor trafficking activities to the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing) practice within our waters. We believe that there are still many unknown nationals from the region who are working in foreign fishing boats who also have become victims of human traffickers. This is an important issue that should be dealt with regionally and globally.

### **Panel 3: Remittances and portability of earned benefits**

Remittance plays a critical role in global development, particularly in the communities of origin of migrant workers. It helps improve the health, education, and the overall living condition of migrants' families. The Government of Indonesia implements various programs that aim at improving the utility of remittance received by migrant families, such as training of entrepreneurship.

Considering the important role of remittance in global development, it is essential that all relevant stakeholders work together to improve access to financial services for all migrant workers and reduce remittance cost to increase the earnings sent back to migrant home communities, and hence the economic growth back home.

In this connection, Indonesia would like to share its experience on a government program that tries to assist both the migrants as well as the families left behind. The program is called 'Desmigratif' translated as Productive Migrant Village.

This government program is set up in villages with large clusters of migrant workers. The main objective of the program is to protect migrant workers from becoming a victim of illicit activities for human exploitation, namely human trafficking. This is achieved by making sure that migrants are documented. The Desmigratif Program also builds the capacity of both the migrant workers as well as the villagers/family members left behind.

Before leaving the migrant workers are given capacity building skills, mentoring as well as knowledge on their rights and obligations, as well as assist potential migrants get safe and legal jobs.

As for those left behind in the village, the program aims to transform the family members to adopt more productive practices in their villages, while deemphasizing consumptive behavior. This is achieved by assisting families in managing remittances from budget management to develop small businesses that will not only benefit the family of the migrant worker but also the village at large.

The Desmigratif program has 4 main pillars:

1. Access to a migration service center for villagers wishing to go abroad. The service center is provided in the village's community hall. Here they will be able to receive labor market information, job guidance, information about working abroad, including their rights and obligations as well as initial document preparation.
2. Development of productive enterprises. This is an activity intended to help family members/spouses of migrant workers left behind in the village develop skills and knowledge of entrepreneurship. The activities include training for development skills, business mentoring, as well as marketing assistance.

3. Fostering community child care support. This pillar is designed to assist single parents of migrant workers left behind, to come together to raise their children as a community. In this context parents and spouses who live at home are given training on how to raise or care for children so that they can continue with their education as well as develop their creativity in after school programs.

4. And lastly assistance to develop a village business cooperative. With the support of the local government, the village is encouraged to develop and form a cooperative to maintain and sustain a productive village.

The assistance works through different options including:

Through multi-stakeholders collaboration whereby Government at all levels lead, in collaboration with business, NGOs as well as civil society;

Through community empowerment, which involves community and family to develop business as well as to detect and prevent undocumented migrants, human trafficking and people smuggling;

Through public education and training that optimizes remittances for more sustainable goals.

Through this systematic and measurable program, we would like to strengthen villages by improving their economy and giving them the option to either keep working abroad with enhanced skills or choose to return and become entrepreneurs.

Thank you.