



PHILIPPINES

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Permanent Representative

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

24 July 2017, 10:15 am – 1:00 pm
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

During negotiations for the 2030 Agenda, we fought strongly for the recognition of the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development and, frankly and flat out to our consumption-driven economy.

The absence of a specific SDG on migration might be said to highlight the cross-cutting nature or wide beneficial ramifications of migration to both home and destination countries. We don't like to think of it as oversight. We like to think that migration is so deeply embedded in, or linked to all of the 17 SDGs, that there is no need for a category of their own.

At the national level, migrants are also deeply integrated into our Development Plan. We know we cannot make growth more inclusive, lower poverty incidence, create more jobs, make individuals and communities more resilient, drive innovation, and build greater trust in government and in society¹ if we do not address the needs and harness the potentials of our 10 million overseas Filipinos.

And so we have over the past 40 years mainstreamed migration. We have developed laws, policies and programs that address all aspects and phases of migration, from labour and economic migration to migration in crises. We have implemented a migrant-centered approach to the entire migration cycle, from pre-employment, transit, on-site employment and eventual return and reintegration programs.

But this is not solely a domestic issue. Bilateral and regional frameworks are essential. In 2015, we advanced the migration agenda

¹ From President Duterte's foreword to the Philippine Development Agenda 2017-2022: "Through this Plan, we will empower the poor and marginalized, push for improved transparency and accountability in governance, and fuel our economy. Specifically, we intend to make growth more inclusive by lowering poverty incidence in the rural areas, creating more jobs, making individuals and communities more resilient, driving innovation, and building greater trust in government and in society."

with the New York Declaration². The Global Compact on Migration needs to do more. It must examine the barriers to maximizing the positive contributions of migrants, lay down actionable commitments, specific targets and put in place a governance and monitoring framework, and address the roles of local authorities. And it must go beyond the perception that migrants contribute to development only through financial remittances and equally look at their “social” remittances.

We call migrant workers partners in development. They are more. They are drivers of progress we have achieved. Let us not leave them behind.

Thank you.

² New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees, adopted 26 September 2015.

