

PHILIPPINES

GCM Thematic Consultation 6 Statement for Panel I: Irregular Migration and Regular Pathways

Madam Moderator,

I have the honor of delivering this statement of the Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group on Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment chaired by my country the Philippines. The Colombo Process¹ is composed of 12 countries of origins in Asia and currently headed by Nepal.

In addressing irregular migration and regular pathways, we would like to propose that the global compact on safe, orderly, and regular migration (GCM) should take into serious consideration the following:

1. There should be a universal recognition that comprehensive orientations for migrant workers and their families at the appropriate stages of migration empower them to make informed decisions to maximize the benefits of safe, decent and regular labor migration, reduce their vulnerability in countries of destination, and facilitate their workplace and social integration;
2. Tailored pre-employment, pre-departure and post-arrival orientation as a means of ensuring that migrant workers understand their rights and obligations, grievance and recourse mechanisms, including with respect to local laws and regulations, and essential information especially on health and safety are to be promoted by migrant sending and receiving States²;
3. There should be an acknowledgement of the need for orientation programs that take into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women migrant workers and promote gender-responsive orientation initiatives;

¹ The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process among 12 Asian countries on management of overseas employment and contractual labor for countries of origins in Asia. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam are the current member States of the Colombo Process.

² [This comprehensive approach is being pilot tested through participation by Abu Dhabi Dialogue Member States in an initiative called the "Comprehensive Information and Orientation Program for Migrant Workers"](#).

4. Empower migrant workers to exercise their human rights and labor rights through linking up with language literacy and skills empowerment programs, promoting access to grievance mechanisms and migrants' ability to negotiate for optimum terms and conditions of employment;
5. States should promote migrant worker's and their families access to social protection mechanisms throughout the migration process, drawing on international standards and relevant ILO Conventions, including Convention 102 on "Social Security (Minimum Standards)"
6. States should include social security provisions in labor migration arrangements and ensure access of migrant workers and their families to national social protection systems, including access to essential health care;
7. States should promote partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure safe, decent and regular labor migration with particular recognition of the important role of civil society organizations and other social partners in disseminating safe migration information and ensuring migrant workers' and their families' access to necessary services.
8. States should take note of all relevant international human rights and labor instruments to ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families while addressing irregular migration and promoting regular pathways to migration.

Finally Madam Moderator, we are submitting these recommendations in the spirit of promoting the principle of shared responsibility in pursuit of doable outcomes among of countries of origins, transit and destination and desirous that international cooperation would be a norm in international migration governance.

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