



## Stakeholder Consultations to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

16 December 2020, 11:00-14:30 hrs. (Bangkok time) - Virtual

**Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development**  
(addressing Global Compact for Migration objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22)

### SUMMARY REPORT

#### I. Background

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/195,<sup>1</sup> the Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Asia and the Pacific will be organized from 10 to 12 March 2021 by ESCAP along with the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific.

2. In the GCM, member States committed to a whole-of-society approach in GCM implementation, promoting broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance (para 15 (j)).

3. They also committed to implementing the GCM at the national, regional and global levels in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders (para 41 and 44).

4. ESCAP along with the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific<sup>2</sup> are committed to facilitating the meaningful engagement of stakeholders with the Asia-Pacific regional review process, in line with the principles underpinning a whole-of-society approach:

- ✓ **Transparency:** Generating an open call for engagement to all relevant stakeholders and providing an open and equal channel to receive inputs;

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly Resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018. At: [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_73\\_195.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The Regional Network is comprised of all United Nations agencies at Asia and the Pacific regional level wishing to join. The Regional Office of IOM, Asia-Pacific serves as the Coordinator and Secretariat of the Regional Network. The Executive Committee of the Regional Network comprises of ESCAP, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN DRP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, and UN Women.

- ✓ **Inclusivity:** Creating room for the widest possible access to all relevant stakeholders through different forms of engagement;
- ✓ **Diversity:** Ensuring non-discriminatory access to all, with particular attention to underrepresented voices and to migrants in situations of vulnerability;
- ✓ **Meaningful participation:** Providing effective access to all preparatory and follow-up processes within the context of the regional review and encouraging the mobilization of resources to enable participation of stakeholders.<sup>3</sup>

## II. Objectives, Organization and Attendance

5. It is in this context that ESCAP along with the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific are facilitating stakeholder consultations to inform the Regional Review in Asia and the Pacific. The consultations are being held in line with the indicative clusters of the GCM objectives envisaged for the roundtables of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022, according to General Assembly resolution 73/326.

6. The third consultation was held on 16 December 2020 and focused on the following six GCM objectives:

- 14 Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
- 15 Provide access to basic services for migrants
- 16 Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
- 19 Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
- 20 Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
- 22 Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

7. The purpose of the stakeholder consultation was to elicit stakeholders' experiences, views, expertise and recommendations to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional GCM Review, namely:

- Take stock of the overall progress of implementation of objectives to date;
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps and emerging issues;
- Identify established and emerging good practices and lessons learnt;
- Identify resource requirements and capacity building needs; and
- Formulate recommendations.

8. Four stakeholders (Awaj Foundation, Bangladesh; Host International, Australia; India Migration Now, India and People's Empowerment Foundation, Thailand) and two members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific (UNDP and UN Women) co-organized the consultation, with overall guidance and support from ESCAP and OHCHR.

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on the overall approach to stakeholder engagement in the GCM process in Asia and the Pacific, please see: *Engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. At: [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Stakeholders\\_engagement\\_20200819.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Stakeholders_engagement_20200819.pdf)

9. About 60 stakeholders from 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific attended the consultation. Participants came from a broad range of sectors, including migrants, migrant and diaspora organizations, local authorities, civil society, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, trade unions and academia. About 50 per cent of all participants represented civil society organizations and about 10 per cent each came from local authorities and communities and migrant and diaspora organizations. There was balanced gender representation among participants.

10. In preparation for the consultation, an open call for participants, including co-organizers, had been sent to a list of stakeholders which had been compiled with input from the United Nations Network on Migration, the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and stakeholders.

11. This report aims to be a non-exhaustive summary of the key points raised in the consultation, and it is structured around the six GCM objectives which were discussed during working groups. A set of guiding questions, in line with the consultation objectives, were prepared for the working group discussions. In addition, specific challenges created by COVID-19 were raised and discussed. Good practices towards GCM implementation were also highlighted. The meeting was conducted under the Chatham House rule.

### III. Opening

12. Ms. Realizza F. Otarra, Chairperson of the Filipino Migrant Workers Union in Hong Kong and a migrant domestic worker and Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandrawedi, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), provided opening remarks. Mr. Klaus Dik Nielsen, Stakeholder Liaison for the Regional Review moderated the opening session. Ms. Otarra, shared her experience as a migrant domestic worker and a human trafficking survivor in Singapore and the United Kingdom. Currently residing in Hong Kong, China, Ms. Ottara reported that before COVID-19, migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong, China had at times been adversely affected by poor working and living conditions. Since the pandemic, thousands of Filipino domestic workers had been laid off, the workload for those remaining had often doubled, working hours had increased, labour rights had been violated, while discrimination and stigmatization of migrant domestic workers had intensified.

13. Ms. Ottara spoke about living on the margins of society, of being invisible, and not being protected by the law which meant that a statutory minimum wage and working hour regulations did not apply to domestic migrant workers. She pointed to the increased vulnerability, including the mandatory live-in policy which required domestic workers to live in the employer's residence and hence being potentially vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.

14. The increased vulnerability of domestic migrant workers in Hong Kong, China had led the Filipino Migrant Workers Union in Hong Kong, China to raise public awareness on their situation, educate their communities and campaign to collectively fight COVID-19. This entailed fighting against overwork, vulnerability, inequality and discrimination. The Union had become part of a global online rally of women migrant domestic workers, led by the International Migrants Alliance.<sup>4</sup> Ms. Ottara called to turn this pandemic into an opportunity to work towards positive changes for migrants, and for all.

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<sup>4</sup> International Migrants Alliance: Global online rally: Commemoration of international migrants day 2020 .At: <https://wearemigrants.net/2020/12/23/global-online-rally-commemoration-of-international-migrants-day-2020/>

15. As a representative of local authorities, Ms. Tjandrawedi welcomed the opportunity to participate in the stakeholder consultation. The meeting provided an important space to express the commitment of UCLG ASPAC to global agreements, including the GCM and to share experiences of migrant workers on the ground. Many cities and local governments throughout the region had expressed their commitment to advance the principles and objectives of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, as documented in the Marrakech Mayors Declaration.<sup>5</sup> This commitment had been reaffirmed through the UCLG Manifesto on the Future of Migration.<sup>6</sup>

16. Ms. Tjandrawedi noted that cities and local governments played a crucial role in migration governance. The local government was the administrative body closest to citizens and residents, it was essential that the views of local governments were reflected in policies. The COVID-19 pandemic had shown that cities were on the frontlines of combatting the pandemic by providing basic services and supporting the return and reintegration of migrant workers. Ensuring migrants' safe return required strong coordination between national and local government entities and the availability of resources.

17. Ms. Tjandrawedi reflected on how countries in the Asia-Pacific region had engaged in decentralization of powers and responsibilities, including in the area of migration. Cities and local governments needed the authority and tools to fulfil their growing mandate, including financial support from central governments. Cities and local governments should be involved in drafting policies and implementing them on the ground. Ms. Tjandrawedi called for stronger collaboration, partnership and solidarity, not only in government, but with all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia.

#### **IV. Outcomes of the consultation**

##### **A. Overall progress in implementation of the six GCM objectives**

18. Participants reported that there had been progress in implementing the six GCM objectives, but that several challenges remained. Many migrants continued to live on the margins of society, and the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in more structural obstacles for full protection, inclusion and participation of migrants. A big challenge across the region was the lack of data on migrants, including on their contribution to the societies and economies in countries of origins and destinations. Participants called for more reliable data to be collected, analyzed and disseminated and to include academia and other stakeholders in data generation.

19. There was consensus that consular assistance and protection of migrants needed to be improved, including by strengthening cooperation between embassies, consulates, civil society and governments in destination countries. The absence of comprehensive and holistic planning, coordination and collaboration on migration and development, involving multiple stakeholders, in particular the private sector, at local, national and regional level was a key barrier.

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<sup>5</sup> Marrakech Mayors Declaration, The 5th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development. 2018.

At:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5df133ed5c523d063ce20693/t/5ea5fe595aaf842048077e95/1587936857584/Marrakech+Mayors+Declaration.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> UCLG Manifesto on the Future of Migration, UCLG Congress, World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders. 2019.

At: [https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/en\\_manifesto\\_migration.pdf](https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/en_manifesto_migration.pdf)

Communication from national and local authorities needed to be increased, including on social media, with information on the rights to protection and services in countries of destination.

20. A number of good practices were shared among participants, including regarding a project to increase consular services and ensure cross-border justice to migrants through innovative service delivery and partnership approaches at embassies; a system which allowed schools to enrol migrant children, irrespective of their status; and local government measures which included migrants and their families to be recognized in local development and integration policies, practices and planning.

**B. GCM Objective 14: Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle**

**i. Key Challenges**

21. Limited or no consular protection and representation in some countries of destination was listed as a key challenge. In those countries where consulates were operational, they often did not provide adequate protection and services because of insufficient and/or underqualified staff. Participants remarked that consulates had at times failed to communicate effectively with migrants, making them aware of their rights and options in countries of destinations, including beyond consular services.

22. Lack of coordination and cooperation between consular representations and governments in countries of destination was highlighted as a barrier, including when migrants were facing deportation. Participants further reported that consulates often refrained from engaging with the private sector in destination countries and did not assist or provide legal advice to migrants, for example, in contract disputes.

23. Participants mentioned that there were cases of alleged abuse of domestic workers by diplomats in destination countries, and that this was a significant, yet under-reported problem.

**ii. Specific challenges created by COVID-19**

24. Participants reflected that during the COVID-19 crisis, consulates were less accessible and proactive in reaching out to migrant communities, and this was particularly concerning during a time of increased uncertainty for migrants wishing to return and potential migrants intending to leave. Consulates had shortened their working hours and there were fewer hotline numbers. A survey of Bangladeshi migrants was conducted to establish the needs of migrants, and results showed that consular services were ranked as the second most important service during this time of crisis and that their services, or lack thereof, remained a constant concern.<sup>7</sup>

25. During the pandemic, many migrant workers were forcibly returned to their countries of origin, and in some cases, women migrants faced domestic violence upon their return. In addition, some participants reported that they had observed an increase in discrimination against migrant workers during the pandemic – an issue which had largely been overlooked.

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<sup>7</sup>What do migrants talk about during pandemic? Institute of Informatics. Bangladesh. Draft report. 2020. At: <http://iidbd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/What-do-migrants-talk-about-IID.pdf>

### iii. Good practices

26. Participants reported on project entitled “Model Consulate”<sup>8</sup> which was developed by the Institute of Informatics (IDD) in Bangladesh. It aimed at increasing consular services and ensuring cross-border justice to migrants through innovative service delivery and partnership approaches at embassies. The project promoted action-oriented partnership among businesses, civil society, government and international agencies of both countries of origin and destination.

27. The 1995 Filipino Migrant Workers Act<sup>9</sup> had instituted policies of overseas employment and established a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers, their families and overseas Filipinos in distress, and for other purposes. The Act required Filipino foreign service missions to regularly submit a comprehensive report on the state of affairs of migrant workers under their jurisdiction, including recommendations for policy reforms in countries of destination.

### iv. Recommendations

28. Consulates and embassies should be proactive and reach out to their counterparts in countries of destination, in particular to ministries of labour; welfare, foreign affairs, and immigration.

29. Cooperation between consulates, governments, trade unions, civil society, the private sector, including recruitment agencies, in destination countries should be strengthened to extend reach to and improve services for migrants.

30. Consulates should facilitate and support civil registration processes and uphold the best interests of migrants and their families.

31. Training of the diplomatic corps, including front line staff, on the human rights of migrants, should be strengthened, so that consular officials could assist and communicate with migrants more effectively; consular staff should also be held accountable for their services.

32. Consular services needed to remain protection-sensitive, especially for migrants in detention. Countries of destination should not force migrants to seek protection and advice from their embassies and/or consulates.

33. Migrants needed to be informed, about their rights in destination countries. A list of organisations which could assist in a crisis situation should be made publicly available, in case a consulate did not assist. The dissemination of this information should be tailored to the needs of migrants.

## C. GCM Objective 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants GCM Objective 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

### i. Key Challenges

<sup>8</sup> Model Consulate. Institute of Informatics. At: <http://iidbd.org/model-consulate/>

<sup>9</sup> REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042 : Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995. Philippines. At: [https://www.poea.gov.ph/laws&rules/files/Migrant%20Workers%20Act%20of%201995%20\(RA%208042\).html#:~:text=Migrant%20Workers%20Act%20of%201995%20\(RA%208042\)&text=An%20act%20to%20institute%20the,distress%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes.](https://www.poea.gov.ph/laws&rules/files/Migrant%20Workers%20Act%20of%201995%20(RA%208042).html#:~:text=Migrant%20Workers%20Act%20of%201995%20(RA%208042)&text=An%20act%20to%20institute%20the,distress%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes.)

34. Participants identified limited access to housing, legal aid, courts, social security and assistance in countries of destinations as key barriers to integration. A participant emphasized the unavailability of health care schemes for migrants and mentioned inconsistency in access to healthcare for HIV-positive migrant workers in some locations.

35. There was often a lack of effective communication channels to migrants from service providers. Numerous service platforms had been digitalized, but many migrants, including migrant domestic workers, had limited access to obtain information. Language barriers were also listed as a hindrance in accessing information on services in destination countries.

**ii. Specific challenges created by COVID-19**

36. Participants reported that updated and reliable information regarding pandemic response plans was often not available to migrants in countries of destination.

37. Lack of facilitation for the return of migrants during the pandemic was highlighted as another key challenge.

38. The fact that many migrant workers had been recognized as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic was viewed both positively and negatively by participants. A key challenge to destination countries was public opinion regarding immigrants holding skilled jobs even during times of non-crisis.

**iii. Good practices**

39. Australia, New Zealand and Thailand had implemented a system for allowing schools to enrol migrant children, irrespective of their status, based on the universal right to education principle. Further, in New Zealand, attempts were made to address early childhood education for child migrants and migrant children.

40. Policies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) entitled all migrant workers, irrespective of their status, to have access to free medical treatment if they had been infected by COVID-19.

**iv. Recommendations**

41. Sending countries should collaborate on protecting their workers' fundamental rights.

42. Local authorities and government units should have bigger roles and respond to challenges of migrants' integration and social cohesion on the ground more effectively and should put in place holistic, comprehensive and easily accessible service points at local levels and in multiple languages.

43. Indicators for integration and related monitoring mechanisms focusing on the inclusion of migrants in communities and economies in countries of destinations should be developed and implemented.

44. Employers should be encouraged to provide basic services to migrant workers including decent accommodation and health services. While employers were primary duty bearers, governments in destination countries must enforce the responsibility of employers.

45. Women and child migrants should be fully recognized when strategies, plans and actions related to education, health and access to information were developed.
46. Child migrants should have access to education, regardless of the status of their parents.
47. Migrants should be offered language courses integration seminars with intercultural relations practitioners, and information packages on how to better integrate into society in destination countries free of charge.
48. There should be better and more simplified access to banking solutions for migrants, and less regulation.
49. Information on services to migrants should be available online. National and local authorities in countries of destination should utilize social media for self-generating information flows that were reliable. Rather than authorities creating new websites or apps, systems already in use by migrants should be used. A good example on effective communication amongst migrant communities, which authorities could tap into, was peer-to-peer health promotion supported by health professionals.
50. Multicultural activities should be encouraged and supported, for example through social events, music and art which would eventually facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation of migrant cultures and vice versa.

**D. GCM Objective 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries**

**i. Key Challenges**

51. Lack of data on migration and development across the region, combined with limited stakeholder engagement in collecting, analyzing and disseminating data, including by academia, was listed as a key challenge. Participants noted the difficulties in collecting data and information, including on how migrants contributed to their local communities and economies, both in countries of origin and destination.
52. Regarding diaspora engagement, one participant highlighted that migration was beneficial to destination as well as sending countries and should be included in national and local development strategies. According to a study by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs an average of 15 per cent of wages earned by migrant workers were sent back to the country of origin, and 85 per cent remained in the country of destination.<sup>10</sup>
53. The absence of comprehensive and holistic planning, coordination and collaboration on migration and development by local, national and regional level governments and with the inclusion of multiple stakeholders in countries of origins and destinations, was listed as a key barrier for migrants to contribute to development. This included skill transfer between migrant workers in countries of origin and destination.

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<sup>10</sup> "Remittances matter: 8 facts you don't know about the money migrants send back home. United Nations, Department of Social Affairs". 2019. At: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/remittances-matter.html>



54. A participant mentioned the scarcity and, in some cases, unavailability of affordable independent and reliable legal assistance to migrants.

55. The curtailment of the right to enjoy freedom of association for migrants in many countries in the region was listed as a key challenge. In countries where the law did not prohibit migrants to join or form unions, employers, in some instances, erected barriers, including intimidation and long working hours, to prevent migrant workers from joining unions.

**ii. Specific challenges created by COVID-19**

56. Due to the pandemic, destination countries had discontinued or halted certain projects and businesses which resulted in pay reductions, unpaid wages or unemployment. Participants reported that during COVID-19, migrants were not given health-related, financial, and social support from either origin or destination countries, leaving them with little or no access to services and protection.

57. A participant noted that in some countries migrants had been accused of spreading COVID-19 which had increased xenophobia affecting migrant integration and inclusion.

**iii. Good practices**

58. In the Philippines, Migration and Development Councils had been established in some local government units for capacity development and coordination. This allowed for migrants and their families to be more accurately reflected and included in local development and integration policies, practices and planning.

59. In the Philippines, data on migrants were collected through various means, including by adding questions on migration to regular questionnaires. The National Statistics authority was working with local governments to establish development indicators with a focus on the contribution of migrants to development.

60. A Community-Based Monitoring Working System (CBMS) to assess poverty at municipal, city, and provincial level had been introduced in the Philippines. The CBMS could help identify local people, including migrants, living in poverty.

**iv. Recommendations**

61. Policies and practices on migrant integration and inclusion should be needs-based. Local government should engage with existing migrant networks to ascertain needs, concerns and agency before developing strategies and plans.

62. Local authorities should initiate more studies and develop tools to measure the extent to which migrants contributed to local economies, including on how remittances and other contributions made the local economy more vibrant, whether children of migrant workers were enrolled in schools and what investments migrants made locally. Academia should provide evidence on migrants' contribution in countries of origin and destination.

63. Governments should implement policies, measures or mechanisms which recognize, allow and respect the right of migrants to association, to form or be recruited to unions or organizations, exercise their right of speech, and participate in dialogues with governments to address policies and practices that impact migrants.

64. Employers should be held accountable vis-à-vis migrant workers regarding decent work conditions, through enforcement of existing legislative requirements as well as on humanitarian grounds.

65. Narratives of stigmatization of migrants as virus-carriers and persons who take away jobs from citizens should be responded to, through cooperative efforts of CSOs, government officials and other stakeholders, with migrants in the lead.

**E. GCM Objective 20: Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion**

**GCM Objective 22: Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits**

**i. Key Challenges**

66. Although efforts had been made to incentivise the transfer of remittances by reducing remittance costs, many challenges for the smooth and inexpensive transfer of remittances remained. For example, banks were often not sufficiently connected across countries/corridors making it impossible to use them. In addition, banks did not always operate in a transparent way, and migrant workers would sometimes pay high fees for wiring money which, in turn, pushed migrant workers to use illegal ways to send their money back home. This would reduce the total amount of money that would be transferred and also brought migrants and their families in connection with unlawful business.

67. Participants described the discriminatory practice in many countries in Asia and the Pacific, of migrant workers, contributing significantly to social security funds in countries of destination, and yet being unable to access benefits as a migrant, including unemployment benefits, healthcare and state pension.

**ii. Specific challenges created by COVID-19**

68. Participants reported that migrants' family members in countries of origins had been affected by the decrease in remittance transfers as many migrants had been laid off and repatriated without their salaries paid. At the same time, a participant highlighted that some migrant workers felt compelled to stay in countries of destination during the COVID-19 crisis as they needed to continue to support their families back home.

**iii. Recommendations**

69. Countries, in collaboration with the private sector and stakeholders should work toward effective, inexpensive, accessible, fast and safe transfer of remittances between origin and destination countries.

70. All migrants, irrespective of status, should be included in and have access to social protection measures, such as social insurance schemes, livelihood programmes, and cash or in-kind support, where feasible. Where this was not feasible (which had been the case during the pandemic, and often in extreme weather events), states should facilitate actions by humanitarian actors to fill this gap. Partnerships and strong collaboration between CSOs, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and migrants could provide emergency relief.

71. Migrants should be entitled to social security benefits, such as health insurance or unemployment benefits, in particular if they had paid into a social security system in countries of origin or destination.

## V. Closing and next steps

72. Mr. Anisur Rahman Khan, Director of the Migration Program, Awaj Foundation, and a returnee migrant, pointed out that migrant workers and diasporas contributed directly to both countries of origin and destination. The adoption of the GCM was a collective achievement but many objectives remained unmet.

73. Migrants and their families often lacked protection and access to basic services in countries of destination. Many migrants were deprived of many human rights, including the right to vote, which affected them twofold: they were neither able to vote in their country of destination, nor in their country of origin.

74. Mr. Khan called for empowerment of migrants by ensuring proper representation of migrant workers and their communities in national and international forums. Because of a lack of inclusive forums, migrants had started to create their own forums. Labour attaché forums in destination countries should be established in which migrants should participate to have their voices heard, in a move towards improved good migration governance and accountability.

75. Ms. Sabine Henning, ESCAP, thanked all participants for attending the third consultation. She also thanked the speakers and co-hosts, in particular the stakeholders and the United Nations entities for organizing the meeting. The consultation was the third in a series of four stakeholder consultations of the Regional Review.<sup>11</sup> She added that the format of the consultations was designed in such a way to give equal voices to diverse stakeholders and advance ideas.

76. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/326, regional reviews were convened by regional commissions and their respective regional partners to take stock of the implementation of the Global Compact. The outcomes of the regional reviews would inform the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. The Regional Review in Asia and the Pacific would follow a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

77. The Regional Review would take place from 10 to 12 March 2021, likely as a hybrid virtual. Invitees would include representatives of ESCAP members and associated members; intergovernmental organizations; United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds; and other relevant stakeholders. A report of this third consultation, together with reports from the two previous and the subsequent report of the fourth consultation (3 February 2021) would serve as the basis for a conference room paper, which would inform the Regional Review meeting in March.

78. Ms. Henning encouraged all stakeholders to fully engage in the 3 February 2020 consultation and requested that follow-up questions be directed to Mr. Klaus Dik Nielsen, Stakeholder Liaison for the Regional Review in Asia and the Pacific ([klaus.nielsen@un.org](mailto:klaus.nielsen@un.org)). She then closed the meeting.

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<sup>11</sup> The Regional United Nations Network on Migration, with support from OHCHR and IOM, had organized a consultation with stakeholders in February 2020 to preview the regional review process and discuss the workplan of the Regional Network.

## Tentative Programme

Time	Details
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Participants join Zoom meeting</i>
11:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Welcome and opening session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Klaus Dik Nielsen, Stakeholder Liaison, Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: Realizza F. Otarra, Chairperson of the Filipino Migrant Workers Union Hong Kong</li> <li>• Keynote speaker: Dr Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants will be transferred to their working groups of choice</i></p>
11:30 – 12:15	<p><b>Working groups – Round 1<sup>12</sup></b></p> <p><b><u>Working group 1</u></b></p> <p><b>GCM Objectives 14, 19, 20, 22</b></p> <p>(14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the  (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries  (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants  (22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Co-host: Rohini Mitra, India Migration Now</i></li> <li>• <i>UN focal point: Sebastian Boll, UNDP</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Working group 2</u></b></p> <p><b>GCM Objective 15, 16, 19</b></p> <p>(15) Provide access to basic services for migrants  (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion  (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Co-hosts: David Keegan, HOST International and Don Tajaroensuk, People's Empowerment Foundation</i></li> <li>• <i>UN focal point: Nansiri Iamsuk, UN Women</i></li> </ul>
12:15 – 12:45	<i>30-minute break</i>
12:45 – 13:30	<p><b>Working groups – Round 2<sup>13</sup></b></p> <p><b><u>Working group 1</u></b></p> <p><b>GCM Objectives 14, 19, 20, 22</b></p>

<sup>12</sup> The same clusters of objectives will be discussed in round 1 and 2 of the consultation.

<sup>13</sup> The same clusters of objectives will be discussed in round 1 and 2 of the consultation.

	<p>(14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the</p> <p>(19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries</p> <p>(20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants</p> <p>(22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Co-host: Rohini Mitra, India Migration Now</i></li> <li>• <i>UN focal point: Sebastian Boll, UNDP</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Working group 2</u></b></p> <p><b>GCM Objective 15, 16, 19</b></p> <p>(15) Provide access to basic services for migrants</p> <p>(16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion</p> <p>(19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Co-hosts: David Keegan, HOST International and Don Tajaroensuk, People Empowerment Foundation</i></li> <li>• <i>UN focal point: Nansiri Iamsuk, UN Women</i></li> </ul>
13:30 – 14:00	<p><b>Highlights, challenges, and recommendations from the working groups</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Francisco J. Santos-Jara Padron, UNDP</p> <p>Recap of the Working group discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working group 1 - Objectives <b>14, 19, 20, 22</b>: <i>TBD</i></li> <li>• Working group 2 - Objectives <b>15, 16, 19</b>: <i>TBD</i></li> </ul>
14:00 – 14:15	<p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
14:15 – 14:30	<p><b>Closing and next steps</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Nansiri Iamsuk, UN Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remark: Anisur Rahman Khan, Awaj Foundation</li> <li>• Next step: Sabine Henning, ESCAP</li> </ul>