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Closing remarks (prepared for delivery)
Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation
of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
12 March 2021, Bangkok
Time: 15:40-16:00
Venue: ESCAP Hall

Excellencies,

Distinguished Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we conclude the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, I would like to thank each and every one of you for taking part in this important meeting.

We have spoken at length and largely from a position of privilege about migration in relation to the 23 objectives of the Global Compact. May our words be matched by action. This means that after the meeting it is critically important to maintain interest, engagement, and momentum.

Let me propose three concrete steps forward:

First, let us work together to ensure that Asia and the Pacific is well represented at the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. ESCAP is ready to support member States and stakeholders to bring the key messages of this review process to New York next year.

To those countries that have not yet completed the voluntary GCM surveys, please know that your submissions are still welcome, and they can be incorporated into an amended summary paper on the surveys, to be revised prior to the IMRF. To the stakeholders with whom we have engaged since last year, we will strive to maintain a platform for exchange on GCM implementation; indeed, we will rely on the colleagues from the United Nations Regional Network for Migration in Asia and the Pacific to support this engagement.

Second, as I suggested during the opening, let us make migration a priority in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving the many migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda will advance implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact.

I invite you to review the implementation of these targets at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and future Forums, as well as the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum in New York and the voluntary national reviews.

ESCAP is ready to build capacity on the implementation of migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and the related objectives of the Global Compact. We will also work to facilitate your regular reviews, and I invite the Regional Network to support us on this.

Third, with most migration regional in nature, let us advance regional cooperation and partnerships at the regional, subregional and bilateral levels.

Let us all work together: countries, intergovernmental organizations, stakeholders and United Nations entities.

No country can address the challenges and opportunities of migration alone. Going forward, let us be ambitious, and advance practical implementation of the Global Compact.

Excellencies,

In closing, I wish to thank you, Chair and Vice-Chairs, who so ably guided the proceedings, and the members and associate members of the Commission for your participation and attention.

I also would like to extend my gratitude to the roundtable speakers and moderators and all the members of the United Nations Regional Network for their hard work in supporting the convening of the meeting.

ESCAP is proud to be part of the UN [Regional] Network on Migration and to work side-by-side with members of the UN family in supporting governments in the Asia-Pacific region to uphold and promote migrants' rights.

I would like to thank all the stakeholders for your valuable contributions to this meeting and making it truly inclusive.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks also to ESCAP secretariat staff for their hard work on organizing the meeting.

I look forward to working with all you in harnessing the benefits of international migration, which is essential to sustainable development.

Thank you.