

Asia Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration 2021

The Introductory Stakeholder Statement

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This Joint Statement is underpinned by the five Stakeholder Consultations that took place from October 2020 to March 2021 to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of GCM.

Four of those stakeholder consultations corresponded with the four clusters of the GCM objectives envisaged for the Roundtables of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to be held in 2022, while the fifth consultation helped reviewing and finalizing the Stakeholder Statements.

This introductory Statement and the subsequent 4 thematic Statements are brief highlights of the comprehensive suggestions shared by the stakeholders, which is reflected in the Summary Reports of the Stakeholder Consultations.

We recognize the commitment of the organizers—ESCAP and the UN Regional Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific— for enabling the diverse and meaningful engagement of stakeholders, leading up to this first regional review of implementation of the CGM.

As we look to the IMRF to be held in 2022, we hope and trust that this ‘whole-of-society’ approach will be reflected in future stakeholder engagements. The Asia Pacific has been a leader in this regard, and as we reflect and learn from our experience we will endeavor to ensure that stakeholder engagement goes from strength to strength.

The Stakeholders call on the States to ensure evidence-based monitoring of the implementation of GCM for all migrants irrespective of their status, taking into account the New York Declaration as the anchor of GCM, and in light of the four thematic goals envisaged in the IMRF roundtables.

To ensure that migration is voluntary, regular, safe and orderly, **States should emphasize on rights-based and intersectional migration governance ensuring access to justice and services to all migrants regardless of status.**

To protect migrants through rights-based border governance and border management measures, **States should ensure suitable legal identity, accurate and accessible information, accessible compliant mechanism for the migrants.**

To support the integration of migrants and their contribution to development, **States should ensure legal and policy frameworks that are in compliance with ILO Core Conventions for migrant workers and their families, and promote inclusive narrative recognizing the positive contributions of migrants.**

To improve value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and to enhance cooperation on migration, **States should ensure a transparent and inclusive data collection process, and ensure that migrants are informed and empowered at every stage of their journey.**

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the inequalities that have not only disproportionately affected the people on the move, it has also reminded us that nobody is safe until everyone is safe.

So we emphasize that embracing rather than resisting the human reality of migration benefits societies immeasurably, as do guaranteeing the rights of refugees and migrants and facilitating their equal participation in society.