

CLOSING STATEMENT
Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
12 March 2021, Bangkok, Thailand

Hon. Sarah Lou Y. Arriola
Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Philippines

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We have made history these past three days. Through our collective efforts, we have for the first time undertaken a comprehensive intergovernmental review under the auspices of the United Nations of our progress towards the intergovernmentally agreed set of objectives and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principle of the Global Compact for Migration at. Countries of origin, transit and destination, stakeholders and migrants have rallied around a common definition and agreed to take action in recognition that safe, orderly and regular migration benefits all – countries of origin, transit, destination, migrants and their families and all those affected by migration.

We – member States and stakeholders – have discussed common challenges, priorities, and ways forward to ensure that we build back better in a manner that includes migrants in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have identified obstacles that prevent migrants' rights from being respected, protected and fulfilled, and sought to strengthen the contributions that migrants can make to sustainable development. And we have committed to next steps to advance the implementation of the Global Compact in Asia and the Pacific.

The outcomes of our discussions will now be submitted, including the pre-session documents will now be submitted to the IMRF in 2022. They will represent a common regional position from Asia and the Pacific. Perhaps more importantly, they will serve as a reference document guiding future work to make migration in the Asia-Pacific safe, orderly and regular; to support progress towards human and labour rights and sustainable development; and to ultimately build a just, equitable and collaborative Asia-Pacific for migrants and non-migrants alike.

On behalf of my vice-Chairs and myself, permit me to reiterate our sincere appreciation for the honour bestowed upon us to serve this Review Meeting.

My thanks also go to the hard work of all the secretariat team members who greatly facilitated our work. Let me also thank the conference officers and editors, who worked hard behind the scenes to support us.

I thank you all, those who are present here in the room, and those who joined online. With this, I declare the first Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adjourned. Thank you very much.