

**Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation  
of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**  
10 to 12 March 2021, Bangkok and videoconferencing

**Agenda item 3.** Thematic discussions on progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact at all levels, with due respect to the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the Global Compact

- (a) **Interactive Roundtable: Ensuring that migration is voluntary, regular, safe and orderly (addressing objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18)**  
9:00-10:30 am, 11 March 2021 (*Bangkok time*)

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Roundtable 1**

**1. Background**

Most of the mobility occurring today is in search of decent work. It is estimated that migrant workers account for 70% of all migrants of working age.<sup>1</sup> The centrality of work to migration flows in the context of Asia-Pacific is clear. At the same time there are other flows, including that of migrants moving on humanitarian grounds or in response to impacts of climate change and environmental degradation that require attention. For example, in the first half of 2020, 7.5 million new disaster-induced displacements were registered in the Asia-Pacific region, of which approximately 94 per cent corresponded to weather-related disaster events.<sup>2</sup>

The roundtable addresses the following objectives of the Global Compact for Migration:

2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

Governments and stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific have worked on many of these objectives for some time. What is new is their agreement through the Global Compact for Migration to cooperate at the regional and international levels to intensify efforts in these areas. The Global Compact for Migration aims to leverage the potential of migration for the achievement of the above objectives and migration-related targets of the SDGs.

<sup>1</sup> International Labour Office (ILO). 2018. ILO global estimates on international migrant workers: Results and methodology, 2nd ed. (Geneva).

<sup>2</sup> Internal displacement 2020: Mid-year update. IDMC

## 2. Objectives

The purpose of the roundtable is to elicit Member State and stakeholder experiences and views around the objectives of the GCM review, namely:

- To 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
- Provide direction and pointers on the way forward and key priorities

## 3. Organizing team

The roundtable is organized by ILO, UNESCO, UNFCCC.

## 4. Format

### *Organization*

Introduction – *Chair*

Introduction of the topic and the round table (3 minutes) – *Moderator*

Panel discussion (36 minutes)

Plenary discussion (49 minutes)

Conclusion (2 minutes) - *Moderator*

### *Moderator*

Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO

### *Panellists*

- Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi, Director for Climate Change and Disaster Coordinator under the Office of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu
- Ms. Pataraporn Samantarath, Assistant Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Thailand
- Ms. Pui Yu (Fish) Ip, Regional Coordinator for Asia, International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), Hong Kong, SAR China
- Ms. Swati Mujumdar, Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis Skills and Professional University, Pune & Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences, Indore, India

## 5. Guiding questions

- From the perspective of migration as an approach for addressing climate-related risks, what are some key considerations to ensure social inclusiveness in your country. How can the GCM and Regional Processes support countries efforts in building climate resilience in the Pacific Island States?
- Labour migration is an established feature of the labour market in ASEAN countries as well as other parts of the region. Since 2019 what have been some key developments with respect to increasing legal labour migration and for ensuring fair recruitment and decent working conditions for migrant workers? What are some key remaining challenges and gaps? How have migrant workers been protected during the pandemic?
- In Asia-Pacific over 80 percent of domestic workers are women, many of them migrants. Domestic workers are doing care work as well as house-hold work. What are the contributions of migrant domestic workers, the issues they face, and some recent (since 2019) good or promising practices where domestic work is recognised as work? What unique challenges have domestic workers faced during the pandemic?

- To ensure migrants' inclusion in society, their qualifications and prior learning should be recognized so that they can continue their education and find employment that corresponds to their skills. Is non-recognition a concern for the Asia-Pacific region? How from your perspective can different stakeholders facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences?

**6. Background document**

[Asia Pacific Migration Report 2020](#) (Chapter 2)

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