

Round Table 3

India's Statement by Mr. Anurag Bhushan, JS OIA-I

1. Migration has indeed been in a churn. The Covid-19 pandemic has made its effects more visible. For some time we have seen how economic restructuring, technology change, new industry, use of data and ageing societies affect labour markets. In this transformative era we need to be dynamic in responding to the changing circumstances to provide greater benefit to our people. The mainstreaming of migration policy to the development agenda is thus essential.
2. India has been interacting with stakeholders, in collaboration with key stakeholders including, foreign and State (provincial) Governments, business, academics, migration related organizations and the migrants themselves.
3. Our discussions suggest that skilling and employability are linked. Current market and global trends suggest that migration flows to traditional and new destinations or countries and diverse economic sectors will continue. Data-based analysis can provide inputs for skill development and migration policy formulation. Mutually beneficial negotiations at industry sector levels as well as between countries are essential. This will provide opportunities for our youth.

4. India is training institutions for the Pre-Departure Orientation programme for migrant workers and closely liaises with State Governments and other agencies. The efforts are to ensure that workers migrate safely for overseas employment with an enhanced skill set. Cognizant of the ongoing pandemic, government has adapted its approach in line with the changing times and now PDOT workshops are being conducted online as well.
5. PDO programs provide soft skills in terms of culture, language, local rules and regulations of the destination country, and the welfare measures provided by the Government through our Embassies abroad. These welfare measures include Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) and the MADAD – our consular grievance redressal portal.
6. India stands ready to collaborate with partner countries through mutually beneficial arrangements regarding the presence of highly skilled workers and professionals. We are committed towards further strengthening other business language apart from English such as German, Spanish, French or Japanese to ensure greater mobility, employability and readiness to contribute to the global workforce.
7. We affirm continued relevance of greater multilateral and bilateral coordination on migration and mobility issues and understand that it is crucial to explore additional approaches

to streamline the GCM objectives with sovereign priorities on migration issues
