

**Statement by H.E. Amrit Bahadur Rai, the Permanent Representative of
Nepal to the United Nations at the General Debate of the Migration Review
Forum**

New York, 20 May 2022

Time limit: 3 Minutes

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to commend your leadership for convening this important event at this critical juncture.

I align my statement with the statement of GCM Champions delivered earlier by Indonesia.

Mr. President,

The Global Compact for Migration unequivocally reminds us that refugees and migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times. However, the reality today is far from this.

Adversities such as discrimination, exclusion, xenophobia, and misinformation, have often mired the lives of migrant workers.

As this is the first-ever International Migration Review Forum, we all have to introspect honestly and rigorously how much we have achieved and how to strengthen cooperation between countries of origin, transit, and destination for the effective implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Mr. President,

For Nepal, with its over three million nationals working abroad, effective implementation of the Global Compact remains our highest priority.

As a champion country on the GCM objective six, Nepal has been making a great deal of reforms in its labor migration governance to ensure fair and ethical recruitment as well as decent work for the migrant workers. In the same vein, Nepal is committed to making necessary reforms on migration governance to ensure safety, security, and wellbeing of our migrant workers while ensuring meaningful participation of migrant workers and their families.

We have internalized GCM principles and objectives into our national plans and policies to enhance the quality of migration governance. In addition, we will soon adopt the National GCM implementation strategy to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in its migration governance.

Nepal had presented GCM voluntary national reports twice at regional review processes. We have concluded bilateral labour agreements with nine major labour destination countries to provide legal protections for our migrant workers.

In this context, **Mr. President**, I would like to highlight the following few points:

First, protection of migrant workers begins at home, country of origin.

Second, safe migration pathways must be ensured to tackle human trafficking.

Third, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of migrant workers should be facilitated.

Fourth, creation of employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities within the country must be prioritized to remove drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.

Finally, Mr. President, effective implementation of GCM is our shared responsibility. Thus, it is incumbent upon us, the member States, including UN systems as well as a network of civil society organizations, to collaborate effectively to make migration work for all. Nepal is committed to taking up its role.

I thank you for your attention.