



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

by

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Mister Chair, panelists,

The Philippines is primarily a country of origin with over 10 million overseas Filipinos and Overseas Filipino workers. We have an estimated 2.2 million migrant workers, hence with the adoption of the GCM, in 2018, the Philippines has seen a significant improvement in its service to migrants.

The GCM facilitated the formulation of policies to address the needs of Filipino migrant workers. Among others, our Updated medium-term Philippine Development Plan now includes a separate chapter on Overseas Filipinos, that spells-out the strategic policy framework aligned with the GCM.

The number of our undocumented migrants has declined, indicating that more overseas Filipinos are being mainstreamed through legal channels so that vulnerabilities and risks abroad are lessened.

To strengthen the country's international cooperation and global partnerships on migration, the government engaged in the Colombo process, the Abu Dhabi dialogue, the Bali-process, and the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor, among others.

We signed a number of bilateral arrangements to ensure the protection and well-being of our migrant workers. To date, we have 54 bilateral labor agreements and five regional or multilateral agreements were forged.

To standardize, improve, and harmonize migration data, the government enhanced the operational framework for processing data on Overseas Filipinos. In 2018, the country conducted its first national migration survey to gather baseline information on the mobility of Filipinos, both internal and international. Further, our Interagency Committee on Migration Statistics is currently undertaking activities to harmonize and address data gaps on migration.

To facilitate swift assistance to those Overseas Filipinos in need particularly during emergencies, various communication lines were activated, including migrant help pages on social media, 24/7 Command/Operation Center and emergency hotlines.

Lastly, in 2021 a law creating the Department of Migrant Workers was passed in 2021. We now have a specific Department to protect the rights and advance the interests of our Filipino migrant workers.

Chair, colleagues, we remain steadfast in pursuing its commitments to the GCM to continually improve migration governance at the local, national, and global levels. We commit to protect, promote and respect the rights of every migrant, regardless of status.

Thank you.