



Informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly in order to consider the Biennial Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (5 December 2024)

Statement by GoSL

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Today, we are in the middle point between two International Migration Review Forums. In May 2022, after four years of the adoption of the GCM we had a successful IMRF and the pledges were made by the states. At this juncture, we welcome the report of the Secretary General on Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which focuses on the progress made by the countries across the globe in the implementation of the GCM. We consider it is very important at this juncture to review the progress made and determine our roadmap to address the future challenges in this subject.

Mr. President,

My own country, Sri Lanka has been a strong advocate for promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration, focusing on both national and international efforts to ensure the well-being of its migrant workers. As a State Party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, we have been at the forefront of promoting rights-based migration. Through bilateral labour agreements and dedicated institutional frameworks, Sri Lanka has continued working towards protecting the rights and welfare of its migrant workers at every stage of the migration cycle from pre-departure to return and reintegration. In partnership with organizations such as the IOM, Sri Lanka has advocated to safeguard migrant worker rights and address vulnerable situations.

Sri Lanka recognizes and emphasizes the significance of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2018. We are pleased to inform that Sri Lanka is interested in becoming a **GCM Champion Country**, reinforcing our commitment to advance the GCM agenda on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration.

Mr. President,

In this context, as a precursor to the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the GCM to be held in February 2025, Sri Lanka and the IOM recently co-hosted the **South Asia Sub-Regional Consultation on the GCM** held in November this year. Serving as a platform for dialogue and deliberation among Governments, civil society, and UN agencies from South Asian countries, the event reflected Sri Lanka's commitment to the GCM and to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration. The consultation that covered three thematic areas most relevant to the South Asia region, (1) labour migration; (2) counter-trafficking; and (3) climate-induced displacement, will be reported in an outcome document at the upcoming regional review in Bangkok.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka, as the founding chair of the **Colombo Process**, a regional consultative process established in 2003, has been committed to enhancing regional cooperation, sharing best practices related to labour migration in countries of origin of South and South-East Asia. To date, the Colombo Process remains the only regional consultative process for labour sending countries, offering the South and South-East Asian region a collaborative space to discuss common migration challenges, share best practices, and advance cooperative solutions that benefit migrant workers.

In October 2023, Sri Lanka launched the **National Policy and Action Plan for Migration for Employment (2023-2027)**, a significant step aimed at improving migration governance in the country. The policy and action plan highlight Sri Lanka's aspiration to create a 'globally competent labour force' as well as to ensure their rights, freedoms, dignity and effective contribution to development. Aligning with the GCM implementation, the policy and action plan reinforces Sri Lanka's commitment to sustainable development and the protection of migrant workers' rights, with continued support from international stakeholders to strengthen its national migration policies.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Sri Lanka welcomes that the report of the Secretary-General refers to the code of conduct developed by Sri Lanka to address unfair recruitment. We will continue to adhere to our best practices in cooperation with regional, international stakeholders and the UN agencies, to advance the meaningful implementation of the GCM and rights-based migration that benefit all.

I thank you

