



حوار أبوظبي بين الدول الآسيوية المرسلية والمستقبلة للعمالة
Abu Dhabi Dialogue among the Asian Labor-Sending and Receiving Countries

Joint Communiqué

Abu Dhabi Dialogue Senior Officials' Meeting
Hosted Online by the United Arab Emirates: 24 – 27 May 2021

We, the Senior Officials and Heads of Delegations from the ADD Member States of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam;

met in the presence of Observer Government Delegations from France, Sweden and Switzerland;

and Observer Delegations from Interstate Unions and Intergovernmental Entities, the African Union, the European Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the League of Arab States and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development;

and Observer Delegations from Inter-Regional and Regional Consultative Processes, the Bali Process and the Prague Process;

and Observer Delegations from Local Administrations, represented by the GFMD Mayors Mechanism;

and Observer Delegations from International Organisations, the Gulf Health Council, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the International Labour Organisation, the International Organisation for Migration, the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and UN Women;

and civil society organizations – represented by the Migrant Forum Asia Network – and a number of private sector organizations

to participate in the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, held online from May 24 to May 27 2021.

After introductory remarks from the Chair, and the adoption of the meeting's agenda,

consideration was given to the Chair's report, highlighting the implementation of recommendations of the Dubai Declaration, including the establishment of the Chair's Advisory Committee, ADD participation in Global Fora, the progress made on the ongoing Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme, the identification of four research tracks and the development of a resulting programme of research,



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which was followed by a session dedicated to highlighting ADD Member States' recent regulatory and policy initiatives in labour mobility management, featuring presentations from the governments of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka.

Following four individual breakout sessions focused on the four thematic research tracks of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue Research Programme, which includes:

- Anticipated Changes in the Employment Landscape in the GCC and their Impact on Labour Supply and Demand in ADD Corridors
- Leveraging Advanced Technology to Improve Labour Mobility Governance
- Pre-Deployment Testing of Workers in Asia-GCC Corridors
- Global Governance of Migration: Towards Greater Engagement by Regional Consultative Processes in Global Fora

and based on the discussions of Member States and Observers over the course of the of Senior Officials' Meeting and the subsequent reports of the session Rapporteurs, we:

- 1) express our thanks to the UAE Chair and Troika Members Sri Lanka and Kuwait, for their efforts in coordinating activities undertaken under the umbrella of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue;
- 2) extend our thanks to the governments of Nepal and Pakistan for putting forward their candidacies as incoming Chair of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, and call on the Government of Sri Lanka, as Member of the Troika, to initiate consultation among ADD Member States of Labour Origin to identify a consensus candidate to Chair the next cycle of the ADD and notify the Troika before 15 July 2021 of the next Chair;
- 3) further extend our thanks to the researchers and experts who have been involved in drafting the eleven research papers of the four thematic tracks;
- 4) commend the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on their respective initiatives to improve labour mobility governance, which they shared during the special session on the Sharing of Best Practices;
- 5) have agreed to propose to our Ministers that the next Senior Officials' Meeting and 6th Ministerial Consultation be held between October 25 and October 28 2021;
- 6) take note of the progress that has been made to date in the operationalisation of the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme, and request that the Secretariat reports back on the results of the CIOP programme at the next Ministerial Consultation;
- 7) we take note of the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on migrants across the region and underline the importance of taking into account measures to protect the health and wellbeing of migrants in all policy decisions;



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8) on account of the discussions on the four research tracks that have taken place over the course of this Senior Officials' Meeting, and, in anticipation of the 6th Ministerial Consultation, make the following observations:

A) Skills Mobility Partnerships

- i. we note the diversity of models for the development of bilateral and multilateral skills mobility partnerships and express our interest in reviewing proposals for skills partnerships that benefit migrants, and countries of origin and destination in the planning of their responses to changes in labour market needs in ADD corridors;
- ii. we call upon the Secretariat to organise a meeting of interested Senior Officials to further define the central elements of such partnerships, to be presented at the 6th Ministerial Consultation;

B) Data Availability, Sharing and Dissemination

- i. we recognise that the availability, sharing and dissemination of data is a pre-requisite for the identification and building of partnerships;
- ii. we call upon the Secretariat to undertake an assessment of those planning priorities that can be best achieved through an improvement in the availability, sharing and dissemination of data, to be presented at the 6th Ministerial Consultation;

C) Building Technological Solutions to Migration Governance Challenges

- i. we underline the role that online platforms – both government and private-sector owned – and technological innovations can be leveraged in addressing migration governance challenges, notably in relation to job matching, recruitment, skills recognition, and access to justice;
- ii. we call upon the Secretariat to consult with Member States to assess and identify those solutions that can be implemented most efficiently in ADD corridors, taking into account the differences in technological development and the barriers that can be faced by migrants in accessing technology, to be presented at the 6th Ministerial Consultation;

D) Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation and Coordination



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- i. we commend the role that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue has played in promoting coordination with and among Regional and Inter-Regional Consultative Processes, and consolidating the role of these processes in global fora;
- ii. we call on international organisations that support Regional and Inter-Regional Consultative Processes to increase their coordination, including through the mobilisation of a Community of Practice whereby Secretariats meet periodically to exchange information and propose further coordination in international fora;

E) Accounting for the Empowerment of Women in a Changing Employment Landscape

- i. we note the important role that women migrants play in the economies of countries of origin and destination, and the need for labour regulations to continue to promote the empowerment, of women in a changing employment landscape;
- ii. we call upon the Secretariat to consult with Senior Officials to determine what steps can be taken to ensure that gender dimensions, including the empowerment, protection, agency and dignity of women migrants, are accounted for in the future governance of labour mobility, to be presented at the 6th Ministerial Consultation.

We further direct the Secretariat to draft, finalise and share with Member States and Observers a draft agenda for the 6th Ministerial Consultation that is informed by these recommendations.