



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

# The Abu Dhabi Dialogue Sixth Consultation

Joint Declaration

27<sup>th</sup> October 2021: Dubai

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## *DRAFT*

We, Ministers and Heads of Delegations from Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam to the Sixth Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, convened in Dubai on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021,

Expressing our appreciation to the government of the United Arab Emirates for their outstanding Chairmanship of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue over the last two years, and their excellent management of this Ministerial Consultation,

Extending to the government of Pakistan our welcome and thanks in taking on the responsibility of Chair for the next two years,

Acknowledging the important role played by members of the Advisory Committee in examining and further defining the outcomes of the themes and priorities identified at the Fifth Ministerial Consultation,

Noting with gratitude the vital assistance provided by the researchers and research coordinators in the examination and drafting of thematic papers, and the experts in facilitating the resulting workshops,

Recommending to stakeholders the Chair's Report to the Sixth Ministerial Consultation,

Taking into account the valuable contributions of representatives of observer governments and government-affiliated entities, inter-state unions and inter-governmental communities, state-led Regional Consultative Processes, local administrations, civil society, the private sector, youth, and international organisations over the course of this Consultation,

Emphasising the value created by the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in establishing a space to raise issues of common interest to both countries of origin and destination, to facilitate open



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dialogue among Member States, and to enable the transfer of knowledge and best practices,

Underlining the important function that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue plays in advancing the development outcomes of temporary labour mobility in our region and the positive impact that has on the economic prospects of workers and their families,

Recognising the successful efforts of Member States to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on temporary contractual workers, including through the provision of economic and social support, the rollout of free health and vaccination programmes, and assistance with return and reintegration,

Recalling that the implementation of collaborative initiatives that we endorse by consensus is voluntary and subject to sovereign decisions by Member States, we:

Announce the launch of a joint programme that explores the following thematic priorities:

- 1) enabling and improving access to justice for temporary contractual workers;
- 2) facilitating and enhancing skills mobility between and among countries of origin and destination in response to changing employment landscapes;
- 3) addressing COVID-19 challenges;
- 4) integrating gender into employment promotion policies;
- 5) fostering international, intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation on migration governance.

In order to realise these priorities, we recommend further exploring and assessing the following recommendations for the elaboration of a collaborative agenda:

*1. On enabling and improving access to justice for temporary contractual workers:*

We recognise and endorse the important role that electronic systems and digital technology can play in enhancing ethical recruitment and the resolution of labour



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disputes between employers and employees through enabling remote access, reducing costs and facilitating multi-lingual usage;

We call for a programme to share knowledge among Member States about the design principles for the effective management of electronic dispute resolution systems that enable equal access to redress, as well as lessons learned from ADD Member States and beyond;

To expand protections for domestic service workers, we call for implementing Member States to assess options for extending their respective Wage Protection Systems to cover this category of work;

*2. On facilitating and enhancing skills mobility between and among countries of origin and destination in response to changing employment landscapes:*

We take note of the benefits of skills mobility partnerships in filling skills gaps, driving productivity gains and facilitating safe and orderly labour movement and call for:

- A study to map best practices on current and past skills partnerships globally and regionally and within the ADD Member States, and analyse lessons learned, with a particular focus on the identification of skills demand, key actors and aligning their incentives for participation, and data requirements;
- The development of a set of guidelines for designing regionally relevant skills partnerships that are tailored to meeting ADD Member States' priorities;

*3. Addressing COVID-19 challenges*

Noting the importance of protecting the health of temporary contractual workers and the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and underlining the positive impact of the Gulf Health Council's Programme for Expatriate Health Check-ups, we propose:

- Exploring possibilities for developing platform(s) for sharing information on health requirements for the admission and return of temporary contractual workers in ADD corridors, in languages relevant to those workers;

*4. On integrating gender into employment promotion policies:*



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Recognising the growing importance of women in the labour markets of countries of origin and destination and underscoring the importance of placing gender at the centre of policy development relating to employment and protection, we propose the further elaboration of the ADD research agenda to incorporate a focus on the following thematic priorities:

- Current and future labour market demand for women workers in technology-related, technology-facilitated and other relevant sectors;
- Mapping and analysis of good practice to enhance the employability, mobility and labour force participation of women workers in ADD corridors;

And in addition, call for a project to:

- Assess the benefits and disadvantages and avenues for extending national occupational standards for domestic service workers in ADD Member States to other categories of the care economy;

*5. On fostering international, intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation:*

Commending the efforts that have been made to date to foster international intra-regional and inter-regional cooperation between the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and other labour and migration related fora, we call for

- Coordination by the Chair and Secretariat of a project to identify opportunities and actions to strengthen inter-regional cooperation with other relevant State-led ISCMs and to identify opportunities and actions to input into the thematic and programmatic agendas of global fora on migration;
- Coordination by the Chair and Secretariat to identify options for organising a multi-year programme of activities focused on national efforts to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to enable Member States to share information and experiences.

In order to better understand how these recommendations could form the foundations for a collaborative agenda over the next two years, we request the assistance of the Advisory Committee.

Furthermore, in recognition of the invitation extended to state-led Regional Consultative Processes by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to contribute to the International Migration Review Forum by providing data, evidence, best practices,



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innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to implementation of the Global Compact, and in recognition of the fact that the first International Migration Review Forum will take place in May 2022, we:

Call on the Secretariat to draft a short report underlining how the Abu Dhabi Dialogue meets Objective 23 of the Global Compact (“Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration”) and submit this to the relevant organisations in advance of the IMRF.