

Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

It is a great honour to join the 8th Abu Dhabi Dialogue as an Observer. At the outset, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation of the United Arab Emirates, as host and Permanent Secretariat of this yearly event, for the excellent organization and for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations. I also commend the Chair-in-Office and all Member States for their continued commitment to this Dialogue.

Since its establishment, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue has served as a trusted, state-led platform fostering cooperation between countries of labour origin and destination. Grounded in partnership, mutual respect, and shared responsibility, it occupies a unique position in global labour mobility governance. Bringing together some of the world's largest temporary labour migration corridors, the dialogue promotes cooperation through a voluntary and consultative approach, emphasizing the protection of migrant workers, empowering them to achieve their aspirations, and ensuring equitable outcomes, principles that are fundamental to effective labour governance.

The theme of today's consultation is both timely and forward-looking. Climate change, skills transformation, demographic trends, and evolving forms of work are reshaping labour markets across regions. These developments require coordinated responses that strengthen institutions, invest in people, and ensure that labour mobility remains fair, safe, and responsive to changing economic realities.

For many OIC Member States, labour mobility continues to play a central role in their development strategies. These countries include both major senders and receivers of migrant workers, and in each case, effective labour mobility contributes significantly to economic growth, productivity, and resilience. At the same time, shared challenges persist, particularly in relation to youth employment, skills mismatches, worker protection, and adaptation to economic and environmental transitions.

Distinguished Delegates, the work of the OIC Labour Centre aligns closely with the objectives of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, particularly in the areas of labour mobility and skills development.

We support Member States in strengthening labour governance and policy cooperation, including the development of effective labour market institutions, alignment with international labour standards, and the promotion of constructive social dialogue.

We place strong emphasis on human capital development for the future of work, notably through skilling, upskilling, and reskilling, the recognition of qualifications, innovative approaches to youth employment, and lifelong learning strategies that enhance employability and productivity.

In this context, we are also committed to advancing safe and fair labour mobility, by promoting decent working conditions for migrant workers, strengthening occupational safety and health, and supporting mutual recognition of skills and qualifications.

Excellencies, this year, the OIC Labour Centre is focusing on translating these priorities into comprehensive and concrete initiatives to strengthen labour mobility across our Member States. This includes developing a strategic framework for cross-border skills and qualifications recognition, aimed at enhancing transparency, comparability, and trust, while drawing on best practices and lessons from OIC and non-OIC regions, including the European Union, the African Union, Asia, and ASEAN. Together, these efforts seek to support skills-based mobility, inform dialogue, guide evidence-based policymaking, and contribute to more coherent and effective labour mobility systems.

These efforts are particularly relevant as Member States pursue just and inclusive transitions in the face of economic and environmental change. Ensuring that workers are equipped, protected, and able to adapt remains critical to the sustainability of our labour markets.

Excellencies, the OIC Labour Centre firmly believes that cooperation between such platforms, including the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, strengthens collective impact. We recognize this Dialogue as a valuable platform for advancing shared objectives related to labour mobility, skills development, and decent work.

As we look ahead, let us continue to approach labour mobility as a shared investment in human capital and sustainable development, one that requires sound governance, strong institutions, and a continued commitment to the dignity of work.

I wish you productive deliberations and successful outcomes from today's consultations, and I look forward to continued cooperation in the spirit of partnership and solidarity.

Thank you for your attention.

Wassalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.