

## Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue

By H.E. Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Federal Minister OP&HRD

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*InterContinental,  
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Excellencies,  
Honourable Chair,  
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for Pakistan to participate in the 8th Abu Dhabi Dialogue Ministerial Consultation. I extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for convening this timely and forward-looking dialogue.

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue has, over the years, emerged as a cornerstone of structured cooperation between labour-sending and labour-receiving countries in the Asia–GCC corridor. It has helped shift our engagement from transactional labour flows toward a partnership model anchored in skills, dignity of work, ethical recruitment, and sustainable development.

Pakistan strongly welcomes the themes under discussion—climate change and labour mobility, skills for a just transition, the future of gig work, and productivity through skills and diversity. These themes resonate deeply with our national priorities.

Pakistan today stands among the world’s leading labour-sending countries, with over 13 million Pakistanis contributing to the economies of host countries across the Gulf, Europe, East Asia, and beyond. In the past year alone, Pakistan facilitated the overseas employment of approximately 800,000 workers, a significant share of whom were deployed to GCC member states. Remittances reached 38.2 billion, underscoring the vital role that safe, orderly, and regular migration plays in economic stability, poverty reduction, and development.

We are acutely aware that climate change is no longer a distant risk—it is a present reality shaping mobility patterns. Pakistan, one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, has experienced devastating floods and heatwaves that directly affect livelihoods and internal and cross-border mobility. We therefore strongly support the Dialogue’s focus on climate-induced mobility and the need for skills pathways that support a just transition.

Pakistan is investing in green and future-ready skills through expanded Technical and Vocational Education and Training reforms, with particular emphasis on renewable energy technicians, construction safety, caregiving, digital services, and agri-tech. We stand ready to partner with receiving countries under *Skills Mobility Partnerships* that align training pipelines

with labour market needs in host countries, while safeguarding the rights and dignity of workers.

We also welcome the discussion on *virtual labour mobility* and digital work. Pakistan is a growing hub for IT and remote services, with over *4 million freelancers* contributing to the global digital economy. We believe that structured cooperation on digital mobility frameworks can unlock inclusive growth opportunities, particularly for youth and women.

Pakistan has placed the *protection of migrant workers* at the centre of its labour mobility governance. We have modernized our overseas employment regulatory framework, strengthened licensing and monitoring of recruitment agencies, expanded Migrant Resource Centres nationwide, and digitized worker registration and grievance redress systems.

Importantly, Pakistan has taken firm and credible steps to *curb irregular migration*. Through strengthened border management, employer verification protocols, biometric registration, pre-departure orientation, and bilateral cooperation mechanisms, we have significantly reduced irregular outflows and fraudulent recruitment practices.

The international community has begun to acknowledge these efforts. Pakistan's actions are now being recognized as a good practice in responsible migration governance, including by partner governments and international organizations. We remain committed to zero tolerance for trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue offers a unique platform to operationalize the principles of the Global Compact for Migration. Looking ahead, Pakistan proposes three priority areas for strengthened cooperation under the Abu Dhabi Dialogue:

First, Skills-to-Jobs Corridors linking training institutions in sending countries with employers in receiving countries, especially in green energy, healthcare, construction, and digital services.

Second, Ethical Recruitment and Fair Fees, with enhanced G2G, B2B, and B2G cooperation models to reduce worker costs and improve transparency.

Third, Migrant Welfare and Reintegration, including portable social protection, financial inclusion, and structured return and reintegration programs.

In conclusion, Pakistan reaffirms its strong commitment to the Abu Dhabi Dialogue as a practical, results-oriented platform for shared prosperity. We believe that mobility, when well governed, can be a powerful force for inclusive growth, resilience, and human development.

We stand ready to work with all partners to ensure that labour mobility in the Asia-GCC corridor remains safe, regular, rights-based, and future-ready. Thank You!

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