



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

Abu Dhabi Dialogue Senior Officials' Meeting 2018

Report of the Chair-in-Office

Introduction

This report has been produced by Sri Lanka, the Chair-in-Office of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, in preparation for the 2018 Senior Officials' Meeting, to be held in Colombo over the course of May 08 – 09. The purpose of this report is to update Member States of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue on recent activities of the Chair-in-Office and Secretariat; provide an outline of key developments of minister-approved ADD bilateral and multilateral activities; and deliver context to the business meeting and thematic sessions of the SOM. This report will be delivered to Member States by the Chair-in-Office during the business meeting on the morning of May 08 2018.

1) Activities of the Chair-in-Office & Secretariat

- *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

The 2017-2018 international migration governance agenda has been dominated by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As per the Colombo Declaration of January 24 2017, which requested the Chair-in-Office and the Secretariat to “inform Member States of the progress and modalities of [the] global dialogue, and explore avenues for engagement”, Sri Lanka and the UAE chaired panels during the thematic consultations, and took a joined up approach during the stocktaking meeting in Puerto Vallarta in December 2017. Engagement was undertaken with a view to highlighting the i) the role of RCPs, including the ADD, in formulating collaborative programmes in migration governance, and ii) the development outcomes of temporary labour migration.

To date, a first revision of the zero draft of the Global Compact has been issued by the Co-Chairs. Many of the priorities of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue are captured within the first revision of the zero draft, including:



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- Positive references to the role of temporary and circular migration schemes in order to enhance the availability and flexibility of regular migration pathways
- Commitments relating to the importance of facilitating fair and ethical recruitment practices and investments in skills development and certification

Notably, under plans for implementation for the Global Compact, the first revision recognises “the important role of State-led processes and platforms at global and regional levels in advancing the international dialogue on migration [and] we invite... Regional Consultative Processes and other global, regional and subregional fora to provide platforms to exchange experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact”. This provides latitude for RCPs like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue to play a substantially bigger role in the development of international migration governance policy in the future.

- *Global Forum for Migration and Development*

Engagement in the Global Forum for Migration and Development continues to remain a priority for the Chair-in-Office and Secretariat. GFMD provides a crucial space for trust-building and dialogue on migration. The Chair-in-Office and Secretariat have been present at key GFMD discussions throughout the joint Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco, and the UAE is Chairing a GFMD Roundtable on “Harnessing Migrants’ Existing Capital to Build Resilience” over the course of 2018.

2) Follow Up on Minister-Approved Bilateral and Multilateral Activities

In July 2017, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue convened the *Special Workshop on Operationalising the Four Collaborative Programs Approved by ADD Ministers*. The Special Workshop was held in Dubai, and attended by thirteen ADD Member States, alongside observers from civil society, the private sector, and international organisations. The purpose of the Workshop was to operationalize the four collaborative tracks that were approved by the ADD Ministers at the Inter-Ministerial Consultation in Colombo in January 2017.

The Workshop laid the groundwork for follow up and implementation across three tracks, with consensus that the fourth – technology – should be rolled into



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the recruitment track. An additional track – on domestic work – has since been added. Key developments since include:

- *Certification and Mutual Recognition of Skills*

Significant progress has been made to date on the pilot project covering skills certification and mutual recognition. Phase I – a collaboration between UAE and India – is nearing completion, with an initial report on findings by Professor Yaw Nyarko of New York University Abu Dhabi to be included in documents shared among participants in advance of the Senior Officials' Meeting. A final report based on statistical analysis is to be shared once a final round of follow up surveys in India and UAE have been completed.

Planning is now underway for Phase II of the pilot, involving collaboration between the governments of Pakistan and the UAE.

- *Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programming*

The Special Workshop of July 2017 led to a series of pairings between Member States of the ADD to work together on Phase II of the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme. Phase II of the programme is devoted to the mapping of pre-employment orientation services and a needs assessment, informing the development of a pre-employment regional guide and management framework. The programme also involves post-arrival orientation and a post-arrival guide. The pairings involved in the programme are UAE-Sri Lanka; UAE-Philippines and KSA-Bangladesh. At the special workshop, each pairing chose to focus on sectors relevant to the corridor.

- *Strengthening Joint COO and COD Government Oversight and Monitoring of Recruitment Practices*

The governments of the Philippines and the UAE are undertaking a pilot scheme to create and test an alternative recruitment model, which enables joint government oversight and monitoring of recruitment processes between the two countries. The purpose of the pilot is to determine the extent to which strengthened government oversight and monitoring helps to improve recruitment practices. A flow chart of decision making processes was submitted to – and scrutinised by – the Special Workshop in July 17. The governments of the UAE and the Philippines met in February 2018 to further discuss the elaboration of the project, and an online platform to enable the pilot scheme has



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subsequently been developed. An example of the functioning of this platform will be demonstrated to participants at the Senior Officials' Meeting.

- *Research on the Future of Domestic Work in the Countries of the Gulf*

With the domestic work sector a focus for incorporation into mainstream labour standards within GCC countries, the Chair and Secretariat have undertaken research into the future of domestic work in the countries of the GCC, with a special focus on the UAE. A paper on this issue will be presented at the forthcoming Senior Officials' Meeting.

3) Agenda for the 08th May Business Meeting

The Business Meeting of the Senior Officials' Meeting will be held on the morning of the 8th May, prior to the thematic sessions, and will involve deliberation by Member States only, though it will be open to attendance by observer delegations. Key topics under discussion include:

- *Presentation, Discussion and Adoption of the Chair's Report*

Member State delegations will have an opportunity to scrutinise this document, address questions to the Chair, and raise points of order, with the proposed recommendation that the report be adopted by the SOM.

- *Discussion for Possible Dates for 5th Ministerial Consultation*

Member State delegations will be asked to propose and consider a range of possible dates for the 5th Ministerial Consultation, to be held in early 2019.

- *Overview of the new Abu Dhabi Website*

The Secretariat has recently undertaken a refresh of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue website and will take Member States through the key changes that have been made, with the aim of making the website a more useful tool for Members.

4) Overview of 8th – 9th May Thematic Sessions and Wrap Up

Subsequent to the Business Meeting on the morning of the 8th, the SOM will be organised around four thematic sessions over the course of the two days of the SOM. These thematic sessions will be:



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- Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programming
- Strengthening Joint COO and COD Government Oversight and Monitoring of Recruitment Practices
- Certification and Mutual Recognition of Skills
- The Future of Domestic Work in the Gulf

Key information relating to each of the four thematic sessions can be found above and in the briefing notes circulated to participants.

The format for the thematic panels will be as follows: each thematic session will have one lead presenter, with overall responsibility for the delivery of the project under discussion. The presenter will be joined by a number of discussants, from a variety of organisations, who will help to provide additional insights into the thematic session. Discussions will, of course, be open to all Member States and Observer delegations.

At afternoon of the 9th May will be focused on the wrap-up session, with the following submissions made by the Secretariat, moderated by the government of Sri Lanka, as Chair-in-Office:

- Draft agenda for the 5th Ministerial Consultation
- Summary of Collaborative Agenda moving forward
- Joint Communique