

## **The Fifth Ministerial Consultation of The Abu Dhabi Dialogue**

### **The Dubai Declaration**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 17 October 2019**

We, Ministers and Heads of Delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam to the Fifth Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, convened in Dubai on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2019;

Expressing our gratitude to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the excellent organization of our Fifth Ministerial Consultation, our thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for their capable Chairmanship over the past two year cycle, and looking forward to the able leadership of the UAE as incoming Chair-in-Office of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue;

Having deliberated the Secretariat's reports to our Fifth Consultation on current and prospective collaborative initiatives by Member States, and on strengthening Member State participation in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue;

Taking note of the valuable contributions, presentations and proposals by attending observer delegates of non-member governments, regional Intergovernmental Unions, state-led Regional Consultative Processes, international organizations, civil society and private sector actors on partnering with and / or assisting ADD Member States in advancing our collaborative agenda and realizing our common goals over the next two-year cycle;

Noting the many concrete successes that we achieved through our cooperation relative to enhancing the governance and development outcomes of labour mobility in our region and improving the quality of the lives of workers and their families;

Noting with satisfaction the status that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue process today enjoys at a regional and international level;

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

Firstly - Adopt the following guidelines for a collaborative agenda during the next two-year cycle:

1. *On the use of technology to promote compliant and transparent labour recruitment and placement practices:*

We acknowledge the successful efforts of the UAE and India in their integration of their IT systems for the recruitment and deployment of workers, as the first example of the role that technology can play in strengthening joint government oversight over the governance of labour mobility;

We reiterate our commitment to promoting compliant and transparent recruitment between countries of origin and destination;

We request that the governments of India and the UAE continue to share the results of the programme to support decisions with regards to further pairing of Member States;

We direct the Secretariat to solicit interest by other pairs of Member States to engage in similar projects and assist with identifying funding partners, should that need exist;

We request that the Secretariat reports back on the results of the programme at the next Ministerial Consultation;

2. *On skilling, skill certification and mutual recognition:*

We commend the programme for its capacity to address mismatches between workers' skills and employer requirements, improve the skills mix in the labour markets of countries of destination, raise productivity, and positively impact wage structures for expatriate workers;

We direct the Secretariat to solicit interest by other pairs of Member States to engage in projects that aim at harmonizing their respective skilling ecosystems and assist with identifying funding partners, should that need exist;

We acknowledge the need to incentivize workers to seek skilling, upskilling and certification, and employers to employ skilled workers;

We request that the Secretariat reports back on the results of the programme at the next Ministerial Consultation;

3. *On addressing the opportunities and challenges associated with the Future of Work:*

We emphasise the emerging importance of looking constructively ahead to gauge the impact of the Future of Work on labour demand and supply in countries of destination and countries of origin;

We acknowledge the importance the international organisations accord to this topic, and note in particular the ILO's Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work;

We direct the Secretariat to, firstly, develop a research agenda to further investigate the possible impact of the challenges and opportunities associated with the Future of Work, and, secondly, coordinate with the International Labour Organisation on capacity building for relevant government entities in Member States;

We request that the Secretariat reports back on the results of the programme at the next Ministerial Consultation;

4. *On the further development and implementation of a Comprehensive Information and Orientation Program in ADD corridors:*

We recognise and approve the progress made to date in the development of guidelines for the harmonization of orientation and information programming in countries of origin and destination;

We urge accelerated progress in the implementation of the pilot and train-the-trainer programmes to assess the efficacy of harmonization efforts, and encourage further pairings be developed between Member States;

We recognise and express our gratitude for the significant contributions made to this programme by community-based and non-governmental organisations;

We request that the Secretariat reports back on the results of the programme at the next Ministerial Consultation;

5. *On the further development of core Domestic Worker Competency Standards:*

We express our gratitude to the Abu Dhabi Qualify and Conformity Council for their work in developing the first four Domestic Worker Competency Standards;

We call for the expansion of this set of Domestic Competency Standards to encompass the full range of domestic worker occupations;

We encourage the skilling and certification of domestic workers in line with relevant standards;

We request that the Secretariat reports back on the results of the programme at the next Ministerial Consultation;

6. *On promoting inter-regional cooperation and positioning Regional Consultative processes to contribute to global dialogues on labour mobility:*

We take note of the potential benefits of more meaningful exchanges of experiences between state-led Regional Consultative Processes, and structured input by Regional Consultative Processes into global dialogues;

We express our support for the promotion of cooperation and exchange between Regional Consultative Processes and commit the Abu Dhabi Dialogue to working with likeminded processes to input into global dialogues;

7. *On enhancing ADD member states' engagement and participation:*

We commend the Secretariat for the preparation of the report on Strengthening Member State Engagement in Abu Dhabi Dialogue Processes;

We adopt into the modalities of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue all recommendations outlined in the report;

We accordingly call on the Chair to:

assemble the Advisory Committee to meet in earnest on a regular basis to discuss the elaboration of agendas for SOMs and Ministerial Consultations;

assemble a group of academics and specialised researchers, to assist with developing targeted research in support of ADD thematic initiatives and programmes;

We further adopt all additional recommendations of the report;

We trust that these recommendations will encourage Member States to take a more active role in ADD programmes and initiatives.