



Labour mobility and the better management of global migration

Side event organized by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration during the fourth round of intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration

Monday 14 May 2018, 13:15-14:45

Conference Room 2 – UN Headquarters, New York

Labour – both the pursuit of gainful employment and meeting market needs -- is a major driver of international migration. The benefits of managing this in such a way as to maximize regular routes and diminish recourse to irregular, provides one important thread of discussion in negotiations towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Looking ahead, demographic trends, economic indicators, and potential changes to the way we work, suggest that labour considerations will remain key to shaping the development of well-managed international migration. Understanding this and developing or building on current cooperative models will inevitably form a vital part of effectively maximising migration's potential including by filling skills gaps in many labour markets, better managing irregular migration, tackling the pernicious impacts of the informal economy, and contributing to mutual development gains and the circulation of ideas and skills across and between regions.

To address the imbalance between supply and demand while reducing irregular migration, states should consider innovative approaches which provide hope and opportunity to the largest number of prospective migrants in an environment that protects the interests of both migrant and national workers, and which meets societies' labour needs.

This side event will seek to unpack this intertwined relationship between migration and labour; and explore different ways in which maximizing labour mobility can both contribute to – and benefit from – better structured systems of international migration.

Programme

Facilitator: Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Chief of Office, O/SRSG for International Migration

Opening remarks

- Mr. Reynaldo Catapang, Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines

Panel

- Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative for International Migration
- Mr. Michael Clemens, Senior Fellow at Center for Global Development
- Mr. Rajbinder Singh Randhawa, Managing Director AK Snathe Skills Training LLC

Interactive discussion with the audience

Closing remarks

- Mr. Reinhard Krapp, Head of the Economic Department, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York