

Statement by H.E. Deepak Dhital, PR/Ambassador of Nepal to UN in Geneva

Thematic Session 6: Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, & other relevant measures

Panel discussion-1: Irregular migration and regular pathways

Thank you, co-moderators! Thanks to the panelists for stimulating presentations.

A fair play in matching the market demand in the destination countries with supply of migrants in the origin countries in all skill categories is essential to end irregular migration. Irregularity has remained a complex question, though. It calls for proper identification of the push and pull factors of irregular migration and ensuring involvement of all stakeholders in the governance and management of planned and regular migration.

Irregular status of migration is often associated with labour exploitation and abuse of migrant workers and a violation in the human rights of migrants. Opening of regular pathways of migration in a planned and transparent manner provide a signal to the potential migrants to make correct choice and not get motivated to follow the risky path of irregular migration.

Nepal is the current chair of the Colombo Process, a regional consultative forum of 12 Asian countries involved in improving labour migration governance within the region and beyond in cooperation with destination countries. We acknowledge and associate with the statements made by the Philippines and Bangladesh as thematic Working Group chairs of the Colombo Process. As a region rich in demographic dividend, a number of principles, commitments and practices are pursued by the Colombo Process for the promotion of regular and managed migration, which, in our view, are relevant in the global context:

- Promoting regulatory harmonization of the recruitment intermediaries, including their monitoring, to ensure fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers, on both origin and destination ends.

Promotion of international benchmarks on ethical recruitment such as Fair Recruitment Initiative formulated by ILO and International Recruitment System developed by IOM.

- Promoting the ‘employer pay principle’ in labour recruitment.
- Empowering the migrants with pre-employment, pre-departure, post-arrival and post-return trainings and orientations on various important facets of information useful in the entire migration cycle and with awareness about their rights and responsibilities. Relating such initiatives as well as relevant best practices with destination countries and Regional Consultative Processes on Migration.
- Emphasis on the mutual recognition of skills and qualifications to enhance employability, and matching skills with jobs as well as certification of up-skilling in jobs, with participation of all relevant stakeholders in COOs and CODs.
- Advocacy for an equipped grievance redress mechanism in the destination country for access to justice and effective remedy, particularly in view of the need of the vulnerable segments of the migrant population.
- Creating user-friendly and effective platforms of labour market information backed by proper study and analysis that helps follow the market trends with proper choice and matching, and also ensures gender equality in the choice of migration destination and jobs.

Thank you!