

Migration Profiles as a Tool for Informed Policy Making, Integration and Reintegration and Emergency Response

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Opening Remarks

by

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Your Excellency Honourable Rosalinda Dimapalis-Baldoz, Secretary, Department of Labour and Employment, Government of the Philippines; Honourable Esteban Conejos, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Director, Manila Administrative Centre and Chief of Mission for IOM Manila; Distinguished delegates and representatives of the Government of the Philippines from various ministries (including the Department of Labour and Employment, the Overseas Workers Welfare Association, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and others); the Distinguished government delegates from Asia and other parts of the world; representatives of the Global Migration Group, United Nations and other international organizations; representatives of civil society organizations; Ladies and Gentlemen – Good morning to all.

Before I begin, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Government and the People of the Republic of the Philippines for their warm welcome here in Manila. On behalf of the Swiss GFMD Chair-in-Office, Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, please permit me to also take this occasion to specifically thank and express the Chair's sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Your Excellency, Honourable Rosalinda Dimapalis-Baldoz, for your very personal commitment and support to the GFMD process, to the Swiss GFMD Chair, and more specifically to this thematic workshop, which would not have happened if not for your support Madame.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is of particular pleasure to be present here:

- First and foremost, to be welcomed into the home of the former hosts of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2008;

- Second, to be here for the 14th and the finale in the series of thematic workshops that have been convened so far under the Swiss Chairmanship.
- Third, this final thematic workshop discusses ‘Migration Profiles’, a tool for evidence based migration and development policies, in the Philippines, a country where migration is a key feature of the labour market.
- Fourth, this is also regionally important: To date, more than 70 different kinds of migration profiles have been prepared, but very few profiles have as yet been completed in Asia.
- And Fifth, to discuss a very important aspect of Migration Profiles, a tool that can be used – as it says in the title of the meeting – for “Informed Policy Making, Integration and Reintegration and Emergency Response”. The international community is following with certain anxiety the migration challenges related to the crisis in the Middle East and North Africa. The media glare on this region is a continuous reminder about the difficulties in relation to the management of migration for the benefit of all involved – the countries of origin, transit and destination and last, but surely not the least, the migrants themselves and members of their families.
- On a more personal note, this is also my first time to the Philippines and to this region. So thank you for your warm welcome!

Ladies and Gentlemen

The GFMD is a process which aims at producing tangible recommendations for governments to improve their policies and practices in favor of sending, transit and host societies as well as the migrants themselves. This year’s GFMD has provided space for a series of smaller, focused and action-oriented thematic meetings in support of the Chair’s flagship theme ‘Taking action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation’.

Under the Swiss Chairmanship, the GFMD has travelled the world, from Dubai to San Salvador, from Batumi to Accra, from Chisinau to now Manila. Having reached the end of a series of 14 thematic meetings we can look back at a wealth of knowledge being created, best practices shared, contacts established and synergies identified. All of this – including the outcomes of the meeting here in Manila – will come together at the “Grand Finalé”, the **GFMD 2011 Concluding Debate** on December first and second in Geneva. It will be an exciting moment of stock taking from 14 thematic meetings substantiated from the vast and concrete knowledge of experts on the ground. Let me also mention here that the Civil Society Days of this year’s GFMD will be on 29-30 November. All Member States and Observers of the United

Nations have been invited and I hope that your delegations have been announced through the foreseen channels.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2010 GFMD meeting in Mexico discussed and generally endorsed the usefulness of the concept of Migration Profiles, as a comprehensive and continuously in progress data and information tool for evidence-based policy making on migration and development, to be supported by appropriate capacity building. The Swiss Chair therefore decided to hold workshops in different locations with governments, relevant agencies and experts to further discuss the various intricacies related to Migration Profiles.

On the 30th of June, the Swiss Chair organized the first global workshop on Migration Profiles bringing together countries from all parts of the world in New York, and co-chaired by the Governments of Moldova, Argentina and Ghana. The New York workshop provided an opportunity for policy-makers from different regions in the world to raise awareness, develop in-depth knowledge and suggest improvements with regard to Migration Profiles. This was followed by a meeting in Georgia as a regional follow-up to the global workshop in New York and provided an opportunity for policy-makers from different countries to exchange their views on the migration profiles as a national policy tool, to discuss implications on the national level and among relevant state migration authorities and migration related actors, and suggest improvements with regard to both Migration Profiles and Extended Migration Profiles. Workshops in Nigeria and Moldova, which have only very recently concluded, have also witnessed inputs from Migration Profiles.

These regionalised workshops on MPs have been an excellent opportunity to create a framework for national ownership as a key condition for using such an instrument, and to show distinct views, expectations and priorities of governments on data collection. Peer exchanges were particularly significant and constructive. The Swiss Chair understands how and why the Migration Profile processes support the global approach to migration and towards mainstreaming migration into national development planning. The Swiss Chair therefore encourages the participants to make good use of this thematic meeting. It is a great opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. Please permit me to also remind you that the concept of migration profiles has to be seen as a process and not just as a product to show its added value in the formulation of a comprehensive development related migration policy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The workshop aims to promote the development and use of MP as a tool for evidence-based policy making on migration and development, specifically on three important areas: (1) mainstreaming migration into development planning, (2) designing more responsive integration and reintegration programs, and (3) improving crisis preparedness and response strategies. The workshop is also designed to highlight how development of MPs in the region can be useful to governments not only in the monitoring of migration flows and stocks but more importantly when making decisions and providing services to migrants within two countries' borders while they are abroad and upon their return. Existing gaps in data collection pointed to the need for improved migration data collection and analysis which would allow more coordinated, efficient and effective responses.

We wish you the very best for the two days of substantive discussions and intense sharing of experiences and knowledge that the international community and all other members of the GFMD will be able to benefit when debating the outcomes of the Manila workshop in Geneva at the 2011 GFMD Concluding Debate in Geneva on 1-2 December; less than 6 weeks away.

Once again, I would like to extend the GFMD Chair's and Swiss Task Force's sincere thanks to the Government of the Philippines for their leadership and for their proactive role in ensuring that this workshop is in the true spirit of the GFMD: a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and **outcomes-oriented dialogue**.

Special thanks also to Mr. Ovais Sarmad and his extremely efficient team at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Manila, the Swiss Chair's Supporting Partners for this event, without whose generous financial and substantial support this workshop would not have been possible.

Thank you one and all.