

OPENING STATEMENT
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Excellencies and esteemed colleagues,

Good morning and welcome to this first thematic workshop of the Global Forum and Migration and Development GFMD.

As we all know, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and regular Migration (GCM) is the first inter-governmentally negotiated global governance framework outlining a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. GCM marks the full mainstreaming of international migration discourses in the United Nations system.

This thematic workshop is continuing the tradition of the GFMD, and to which it also draws its strength, on having voluntary, informal and state-led processes that offers as platform in which we could discuss frankly with each other of our country's positions and stakes in the GCM.

This is the first ever workshop that the GFMD has convened after the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was overwhelmingly adopted by 163 States in Marrakech on 10 December 2018 and endorsed on by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2018. The Philippines and Bahrain actively participated in the processes leading up to the adoption and endorsement of the GCM.

As co-convenors of this GFMD thematic workshop, we see the convening of this forum on the GCM implementation as our continuing contribution to the nurturing of what has been achieved with the adoption of the GCM. It is for this reason, among many others that the Philippines and Bahrain readily accepted the request of the GFMD Chair, Ecuador, for our countries to co-convene this thematic workshop.

Yet despite the fact that the GCM is a product of comprehensive and inclusive consultation and negotiation process spanning two years since 2016 and endorsed by the overwhelming majority of the UN member states, including the Philippines and Bahrain, a number of countries had expressed their reluctance and reservations on the GCM. This is also another reason to convene this thematic workshop – to hear our not only those States that had endorsed the GCM but also those that had expressed reservations. This process of not including anyone behind in the discussion would result, we believe, in a sturdier building block for international cooperation.

As pointed out in the concept note, “now that the GCM has been adopted, the task ahead is to ensure that its principles take root and the menu of its actionable commitments is implemented. It is a shared responsibility to ensure that more migrants will be taken out of harm’s way and their lives will be saved, abuse and exploitation addressed, and migrants’ increased productivity and overall positive contribution to the development of their home

and destination countries promoted.” This thematic workshop is one of activities that could to nurture the GCM.

In this workshop, we will be focusing on the national implementation of the GCM, particularly on its objectives 5, 6 and 23. The human rights perspective and sustainable development agenda foundation of the GCM will be the springboard of forward with the discussion on the implementation of the GCM at the national level. We would explore ways and challenges on which States pursue regular pathways for migration, fair and ethical recruitment and decent work, and international cooperation and global partnerships.

In this thematic workshop, aim to provide the platform for states and other stakeholders to discuss how our countries and communities are operationalizing and implementing the GCM and share lessons and good practices. Along the way, we in the GFMD wish gather inputs for consideration of member States in the formulation and refinement of their national implementation plans on GCM.

We also wish to explore how the GFMD and UN agencies under the UN Migration Network could be of support to the member States. Finally, the outcome of this thematic workshop could be submitted as an important input to the report of the UN Secretary General on international migration and a contribution to International Migration Review Forum called for the UN.

Excellencies,

It is with honor that I welcome you to this first thematic workshop on the national implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration convened by governments of my country, the Philippines and that of Bahrain, in support of the Ecuador's 2019 Chairmanship of the GFMD.

Thank you. Have pleasant morning and fruitful discussion in the next two days. END