

ACE Intervention
**Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe,
 Orderly and Regular Migration.**
11 March 2021, 15:30-17:00

Roundtable 4: Strengthening evidence-based policymaking, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23)

Objective 23: Strengthen **international cooperation** and **global partnerships** for safe, orderly and regular migration.

ACE Intervention

Thank you Mr. Chairman and the UN Network on Migration for inviting the ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) to participate in this round table discussion. It is a great honour for me to share the views and experience of ASEAN Employers, particularly in relations to **Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships** for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Employers regard regular migration as a necessary and positive phenomenon. When well-managed, it is a vehicle for fulfilling personal aspirations, balancing labour supply and demand, sparking innovation, and transferring and spreading skills. **Both employers** and workers benefit from clear, transparent, and well-implemented migration policies that facilitate economic growth and development and protecting workers.”

The ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) has been the collaborating partner of ILO, IOE, ATUC and other regional and international organization, working in various areas of work aim to strengthen the influence of employers in shaping a conducive environment for competitive and sustainable enterprises, promoting responsible business practices and collaboration among members in the region.

We have managed to implement many programmes and activities, from educating, awareness-raising, training, information sharing, promoting to policy advocacy. **We have** developed employers' policy position and policy briefs for sustainable labour migration in ASEAN. **We have** also established an employers' platform on migration, which serves as an employers' information, resource, and communication platform to facilitate collaboration among ASEAN employers. **We** have witnessed employers' progress, change of attitude and perception in recognizing the rights and contribution of migrant workers and towards fair and responsible recruitment and employment practices. **All these** milestones towards a safe, orderly and regular migration would not be possible without the regional and international organization's support and cooperation.

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) presents a key opportunity for **EOs** to **bring business recommendations to improve the governance of migration, address the challenges associated with today's migration, and strengthen the contribution of migration to sustainable development.**

It is important that **EOs** are consulted at the national level, and their inputs are **incorporated into the national guidelines** for implementation.

ACE fully endorses and supports the realization of objectives 23 to enhance the private sector's engagement in international cooperation and forge global partnerships to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. **At the global level**, the IOE Business Advisory Group on Migration works with the regional and **national focal points** in different regions for engagement in the Regional Multi-stakeholder review processes to reflect business realities and challenges in the labour migration policy

framework of their respective governments. **The national** and regional dialogue and consultation will facilitate and improve global policy initiatives' relevance and impact.

International Cooperation and global partnerships are based on one of the GCM's guiding principles of the "**whole-of-society' approach**, wherein all stakeholders bring their priorities and concerns and find ways of effecting addressing them. Through these consultations at the GCM multi-stakeholder consultations, **EOs** have managed to present their priorities and reiterated the need for governments to follow the "**whole-of-government" approach** for meaningful achievement of their recommendations.

The Asean Confederation of Employers (ACE) and **EOs** have presented our key priorities to the policymakers, which focus on:

- The need for predictable and transparent legal frameworks for the mobility of skills
- Responsible recruitment practices
- Skills development programmes, skills recognition schemes and skills matching frameworks that respond to labour market realities
- Leveraging the use of technology to improve migration management

The declaration serves to input the national and regional dialogues on migration as governments implement the GCM.

ASEAN Employers call

As all stakeholders will adapt to new realities in our globalized world, **it is now** high time for stronger collaboration between social partners, government and stakeholders on labour migration issues at the national, regional and international level. **In this framework**, and to support the governments implementing the GCM objectives, Asian Employers call for

- Regular and organized dialogue and consultation between policymakers and EOs through formal communications channels. **Mechanisms at** the national level should be put in place to ensure that this dialogue is a continuous ongoing process.
- On this, Asian Employers call for the establishment of coordinating institutions at the country level, as a National Task Force on migration, which would include the participation of the national employers' organisation for the implementation of the objectives.
- Asian employers also call for greater dialogue and G2G collaboration between countries of origin and destinations to improve overall migration framework and management. The Collaboration that reflects employers' view will also facilitate skills mobility policies and improve skills development, skills certification, recognition and matching.
- Asian employers call for investment in data collection, which is essential for evidence-based policymaking and makes a stronger case for improved regulations. **Governments could** begin compiling/publishing outgoing and incoming workers' statistics. **Employers should** have access to such information to source required skills as and when needed. **Besides**, if employers' also feed information on job availability, skills matching can be mutually beneficial.

Given that businesses form the backbone of economies, it would serve governments well to ensure that any decisions on migration policies are made in consultation with the private sector through EOs at the national and regional level.

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my sincere gratitude again for inviting ACE to this round table discussion. We look forward to the continuous collaboration and cooperation with national, regional and international stakeholder to achieve our common goal for a safe, orderly and regular migration. Thank you very much.