

The Third Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue

The Kuwait Declaration

Kuwait, 27 November 2014

We, ministers and heads of the delegations of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam to the Third Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, convened in Kuwait on this day, the 27th of November 2014,

Having reviewed general progress made in the operationalization of the *Framework for Regional Collaboration* we adopted at our Second Ministerial Consultation in Manila in 2012,

Having reviewed proposals for collaborative regional initiatives presented by the governments of the Philippines, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates that conform with the established guidelines of *the Regional Collaborative Framework* and are aimed at improving the administration of the contract employment cycle in a manner that increases its beneficial and development outcomes for workers, employers and member countries of labour origin and destination,

Having reviewed initiatives undertaken by the governments of six member states: Bangladesh, Oman, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates, that embody good practices and can inform the design and launch of similar initiatives by the governments of other member states,

Taking note of the proposals that were presented to us by attending representatives of the International Labor Organization and the International Organization on Migration on assisting Abu Dhabi Dialogue member governments to develop and implement joint initiatives that aim at promoting fair and transparent labor recruitment practices,

Taking note of the draft set of operating modalities for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue process that was revised by the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines and submitted for our adoption by the meeting of Senior Officials,

- 1- Collectively adopt the "*Pilot Project on Skill Development, Documentation and Recognition*" as a regional initiative of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and commit to monitor its progress and outcomes with a view to develop collaborative policies and schemes that empower workers through training, certification and the documentation and mutual recognition of their initial and acquired skills, afford employers the opportunities of better job matching and improved labor productivity, and serve the objectives of countries of origin and destination in expanding their qualified labor pools and their respective human capitals. We further call on participating international organizations, including the World Bank (WB), ILO and IOM to continue to lend support to this initiative.

- 2- Collectively adopt the “*Comprehensive Information and Orientation Program for Migrant Workers*” (CIOP) as a regional initiative of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and commit to monitor its progress and outcomes with a view to further empower workers by conducting collaboratively-designed and effective induction programs ,at the pre-employment, pre departure, post-arrival and reintegration stages, upholding the principle of informed consent and improving the prospect of successful and productive employment relations.
- 3- To develop initiatives and promote future understanding toward integration of systems within best practices presented to our Third Consultation among member states that may wish to benefit from such practices.
- 4- Welcome IOM’s proposal to conduct a “*Field research project on the transnational recruitment industry in the Asia-GCC corridor*”, and request IOM to present the study’s findings at a meeting of ADD Senior Officials late in 2015 to help guide concrete bilateral and multilateral action by member states to promote fair and transparent recruitment practices.
- 5- Welcome ILO’s proposal on to engage with Abu Dhabi Dialogue member governments to assist in reducing labour mobility costs, preventing abuse in the recruitment process, protecting workers’ rights, improving regulation and strengthening oversight of private recruitment and placement agencies, guided by its Fair Recruitment Initiative within the broader framework of its Fair Migration Agenda.
- 6- Recognizing that individual governments’ efforts may fall short, we resolve to work together to prevent and sanction exploitative recruitment practices that place workers at great risk and undermine their fundamental rights.
- 7- Reiterate our commitment to strengthening the Abu Dhabi Dialogue as a voluntary inter-government regional consultative process and, in this spirit, collectively adopt the draft set of operating modalities that were submitted to us during this Third Ministerial Consultation as the formal *Operating Modalities of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue*.

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