

Recommendations from Philippines National Tripartite Preparatory Workshop

**15th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour  
“Resumption of Labour Migration and Regional Cooperation”**

**14 October 2022**

**Sub theme 1 “Economic Recovery and Labour Migration”**

1. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic measures and transformation that will catalyze the creation of productive, remunerative, freely chosen, green, sustainable and gender inclusive jobs and payment of living wages.
2. Review, renegotiate, and/or forge Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) with countries of destination to revitalize labour migration and ensure occupational safety and health measures, secure and decent living conditions, access to justice, and achieve decent social protection from the migrant workers by addressing: discriminative practices and policies about social protection, lack of representation, and legal exclusion.
3. Streamline and simplify migration processes to make regular migration channels attractive and accessible for migrant workers as well as promote and uphold safe, fair and ethical recruitment and employer-pays model of recruitment of migrant workers.
4. Repeal all gender-based restriction on labour migration. Ensure equal opportunities for women, and gender-diverse and trans persons and migrants with disabilities. Revisit laws provisions/policies on deployment bans and restrictions on mobility that have adverse impact on women migrants, particularly migrant domestic workers as these borders on discriminatory policies against women migrants.
5. Continue to study labour market trends overseas to determine which sectors are in demand of migrant workers and to ensure skills-jobs matching of our migrant workers.
6. Give migrant workers access to skills training and recognition before migration and upon return, including recognition of prior learning and take stock/make an inventory of skills of migrants throughout their migration journey.

7. Expand services provided to migrant workers to assist with the return and reintegration including skills recognition and job matching of returnees with disabilities. Ensure access to social protection including but not limited to: disability benefits, employment and injury protection, family and child benefits, healthcare, long-term care and sickness benefits, maternity protection, end term benefits and financial inclusion before departure, during employment and upon return.
8. Facilitate financial inclusion of migrants throughout the migration cycle, including access to financial and banking institutions.
9. Promote equitable access to opportunities and freedom of movement of goods, services, capital, and people in ASEAN without unjust treatment or discrimination based on race, creed, gender, social status, and disability.
10. Recognize the importance of the migrant workers in the economy (both formal and informal sectors), the protection of their rights and dignity, the promotion of their health and welfare, and the guarantee of equitable and affordable access to opportunities and services (including quality education, training, healthcare, medical and dental services, legal services, social services, and psychological services).

**Sub theme 2 “Rights protection to maximize development impacts of labour migration”**

1. Consistently enforce laws on charging of recruitment fees or related costs to migrant workers.
2. Regulate and monitor activities of recruitment agencies and apply sanctions for violations by recruitment agencies.
3. Expand, guarantee fast and effective access to justice of migrants in the countries of origin and destination including virtual and/or online courts, cross-border and otherwise, specifically to address wage claims, labour rights violations, recruitment violations, and gender or disability discrimination.
4. Set up a social protection scheme or a migrant welfare fund, at no cost to the worker to protect migrant workers against risks such as delayed deployment, repatriation, and need for subsistence and legal aid in destination.
5. Guarantee access to and enable portability of social protection programs and services through bilateral and other administrative arrangements, giving prime importance to access to social protection measures a basic human right.
6. Deploy competent migrant-sensitive personnel abroad; strengthen and support embassies/consulates and migrant offices with adequate human and material resources; Support and recognize organizations of migrants as partners in migration governance and in providing legal aid, shelter and other services to migrants.
7. Promote organizing of migrant workers into trade unions before departure and portability of trade union membership.