

## ILO Pledge for the International Migration Review Forum 2022

Migrant workers comprise 70 per cent, or 169 million, of all working age migrants. Even those who do not migrate for work, such as those displaced by crises, accompanying migrant family members or students, often enter labour markets. Migrant workers contribute skills, talent and cultural diversity that are important to our communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many served on the front lines in essential jobs which helped maintain the functioning of economies and societies across the world, while often being among the most vulnerable to the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Too many experienced rights violations; inequality of treatment, especially in their wages and working conditions; and were denied access to social protection. Women migrant workers are in many cases particularly exposed to risks of abuses.

Fair and effective labour migration frameworks – those based on international standards and decent work principles which apply to all migrant workers regardless of status – are critical to achieving the objectives set out in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and to creating a more equal and just society.

ILO will continue to bring together governments, employers' and workers' organizations, UN agencies and other stakeholders to support the achievement of the GCM by increasing the rate of adoption and implementation of fair and effective labour migration frameworks, institutions and services to protect migrant workers and to support a business environment conducive to growth in decent work opportunities.

ILO will be guided by overarching commitments to:

- **Accelerate efforts to promote ratification and implementation of international labour standards**, including fundamental principles and rights at work addressing forced labour, child labour, freedom of association and collective bargaining, and non-discrimination in employment, and the Conventions with particular relevance for migrant workers as recognised in the GCM.<sup>1</sup>  
*Ratification and application of international labour standards is the fundamental basis for fair labour migration, decent work and good governance.*
- **Expand tripartism and social dialogue in the development and implementation of rights-based, gender responsive labour migration frameworks and policies.** ILO will support tripartite development and implementation of frameworks that guarantee equality of treatment for migrant workers in wages, working conditions and social protection, including access to health care and portability of social security entitlements, and in access to justice.  
*The tripartite approach is key to ensuring the legitimacy, durability and success of reforms, and is aligned with the GCM's call for a whole-of-society approach to governance.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97); Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143); Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

Toward this end, the ILO pledges to:

- 1. Accelerate global action to implement ILO's Fair Recruitment Initiative and engage in ILO's Global Knowledge Hub.**  
*Unfair, fraudulent and deceptive recruitment practices, are at the origin of migrant workers' exploitation, including trafficking and forced labour of migrant workers, harming migrant workers, penalising businesses and undermining efficient labour market functioning.*
- 2. Deepen efforts to ensure equitable access to skills development, training and lifelong learning for all, particularly women and men migrant workers.**  
*Investment in skills development and recognition helps migrant workers and businesses prosper, contributing to decent work and effective labour market functioning.*
- 3. Scale-up the implementation of key policy measures to accelerate the expansion and promotion of access to social protection by migrant workers and their families, including through ILO's global guidance, training and capacity-building.**  
*Access to social protection and portability of social security for migrant workers and their family members is a question of social justice and a key enabler of inclusion and sustainable development.*
- 4. Strengthen support to ILO constituents, UN partners and other stakeholders to implement international standards, tools and guidance on bilateral labour migration agreements (BLMAs), including promotion of UN system-wide guidance on BLMAs adopted by the UN Network on Migration.**  
*Bilateral labour migration agreements which are based on international human rights and labour standards and effectively implemented can help to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.*
- 5. Expand support for foster gender responsive national and regional labour migration policies and practices, including in sectors where women predominate, such as the care economy.**  
*Labour migration processes are gendered, resulting in uneven impacts of policies and practices on women migrant workers throughout the migration cycle, including in equal pay and treatment.*
- 6. Mobilize States and stakeholders to develop and implement a just transition to the green economy and decent work opportunities in their responses to climate change prevention and adaptation strategies.**  
*Climate change is impacting labour migration and mobility dynamics and will continue to do so. Ensuring safe, orderly and regular labour migration based upon international labour standards can create a positive environment for the contributions of migrant workers to economies and can support adaptation to climate change, resilience and just transitions to the green economy.*
- 7. Strengthen partnerships with UN agencies, regional organizations, such as Regional Economic Communities, and other multistakeholder processes.**  
*ILO recognises the importance of joint efforts to achieve the GCM, and already participates actively in the Executive Committee of the UN Network on Migration at global level, while also playing a key role in national and regional UN Networks.*
- 8. Continue to promote peace, enable recovery and build resilience in crisis situation, and to support decent work opportunities for migrants, refugees and those displaced.**  
*Conflict and other crises continue to affect individuals and societies, often resulting in mixed migration flows across borders, which require solutions that help build sustainable and resilient communities, such as through equitable labour market integration of those displaced or forced to migrate.*