



**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**ILO Statement by
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**Commission on Population and Development
Fifty-first session
Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration**

Mr. Chair,

The Secretary General's report on Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration recognises the importance of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

Decent work is a central pillar in the 2030 Agenda in which the member States of the United Nations resolved to create the conditions for "decent work for all", recognized "the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development", and pledged that "no one will be left behind".

The 2030 Agenda (target 8.8) calls for the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women.

In too many countries, migrant workers face discrimination. They work often in precarious forms of employment which can entail high risks and costs, especially for the low-skilled. Exploitation in the recruitment process is widespread, and can indeed result in the trafficking in persons and debt bondage.

What at first sight might look like a passport to prosperity may end in loss of your passport and forced labour. When policies are not grounded in international labour standards, migrant workers can suffer denial of their fundamental principles and rights at work, wage penalties, poor working conditions and an absence of social protection.

Labour migration can deliver benefits and opportunities for migrant workers, their families, and host communities alike if it is well-governed, fair and effective. It can balance labour supply and demand, help develop and transfer skills at all skill levels, contribute to social protection systems, foster business innovation, and enrich communities both culturally and socially.

The ILO's Decent Work approach, which supports a fair migration agenda for the Compact, provides a clear path forward. It calls for policy that is evidence-based, gender-sensitive, and grounded in international labour standards, and we think these are important aspects to be considered in designing a system for fair labour migration governance.

In its 22 objectives, the GCM currently captures many of the elements that we recognize are critical to responding to the labour market aspects of migration: whether in relation to building the knowledge base through better data, adopting fair recruitment practices and skills recognition, eliminating trafficking in human beings and providing social protection.

These are areas of priority for the ILO in our own work at the global, regional, national and local levels.

As a tripartite organization, we understand the benefits that social dialogue can bring to policy debate and implementation. This is evident in the guiding principles of the Compact, which encourages the Whole of Society Approach. We are working closely in national contexts and with Regional Economic Communities to support good practices in this regard.

Labour migration will continue to be a central reality of economic growth and productivity for many countries and the cities that host these migrant workers and members of their families.

The general discussion last year recognized this dynamic, and the need for fair and effective labour migration frameworks as essential to the goal of fostering a wider sharing of the benefits for all concerned.

We are committed to support the SG's UN Development System reforms for more coordinated actions globally and at the field level. In this regard, let me also assure you of ILO's commitment to deepening our valued partnerships with IOM and other UN agencies in this effort.

I thank you.