



حوار أبوظبي بين الدول الآسيوية المرسلات والمستقبلات للعمالة
Abu Dhabi Dialogue among the Asian Labor-Sending and Receiving Countries

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS FROM THE HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF WORK

- 1) At the end of the High Level Symposium, the Secretariat proposed a series of questions for further consideration by Member States:
 - First, how can we, as Member States, cooperate to ensure that our migration and Future of Work policies are human centric?
 - Second, how can we identify, analyse and share information among Member States on those jobs that are risk, and those sectors that will likely see significant employment growth? How can we act on that information?
 - Third, how do we incentivise lifelong learning? What is the role of governments, the private sector, and of workers themselves?
 - Fourth, what social protection schemes for migrant workers can member states explore? What non-contributory schemes can complement contributory systems?
 - Fifth, how can countries better share information on labour protection programmes they already have in place? What are the priorities for labour protection moving forward? And how can we harness technology to improve labour protection?
 - Sixth, how do we further develop mutual recognition and certification of skills?
 - Finally, how can we incorporate Future of Work priorities into National Employment Strategies? How can Member States collaborate on implementing pillars of National Employment Strategies that are of common interest?
- 2) It is important to recognise that many of the ideas found in the ILO's Centenary Report on the Future of Work support the goals of the SDGs, which Member States are committed to, and that initiatives to incorporate Future of Work planning and policies will help Member States reach those goals.
- 3) Member States were supportive of the central thesis of the Commission's report: that a human-centric approach to the Future of Work is crucial if we are to continue to deliver jobs and employment, respect human dignity, and enable our citizens to fulfil their potential.
- 4) Several Member States emphasised the importance of taking a whole-of-society approach to the Future of Work, and in particular ensuring that the private sector – as the primary creator of jobs – is involved in discussions on Future of Work policies. Boosting the green economy, in particular, was highlighted as a potential sector for collaboration.



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- 5) A number of Member States highlighted examples of initiatives that they are already undertaking at a national level to deal with Future of Work challenges. These include, for example, undertaking labour market analyses to identify jobs at risk and quantify the size of that risk; developing lifelong learning initiatives; and offering training and certification programmes for workers; and including Future of Work considerations with National Employment Strategies.
- 6) Concerns were expressed about the impact that increased requirements for skilled workers among Countries of Destination may have negative impacts on the economic and social fabric of Countries of Origin. It was noted that policies and recommendations outlined in the Centenary Report – and other similar reports – are often long-term in nature. A question was raised about what short-term solutions have been identified to tackle immediate challenges.
- 7) It was acknowledged that it is easier to extend schemes for expanding skills development, social protection, and labour protection to workers in the formal economy. However, a number of examples were provided of governments around the world taking action to assist workers in less secure forms of work and those in traditionally 'hard to reach' sectors, including the marine sector.
- 8) Member States also recognised that technology can also be harnessed to deliver significant benefits in protecting workers from Future of Work challenges. Examples included online advisory systems, the use of blockchain to validate contracts, and the sharing of information between regulatory agencies.
- 9) Several examples were put forward of initiatives currently provided by Member States across borders to protect migrant workers specifically which are already aligned with the recommendations contained within the ILO's Centenary Report. These include insurance schemes provided by both countries of origin and destination to protect workers from non-payment of salaries and deliver health coverage; and funds for assisting migrants in distress.
- 10) Two current programmes of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, in particular, are aligned with the recommendations of the Centenary Report. These are the linkage of labour migration IT systems and efforts to harmonise skills ecosystems.
- 11) A number of suggestions were proposed for immediate consideration within the context of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue. These included a proposal that the Secretariat develop a concept paper outlining a way ahead for discussion at the 5th Ministerial Consultation; ensuring that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue provides space for reflections on advances being taken on a bilateral level; and inviting officials from countries that are already advanced in their Future of Work planning to attend the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and share their experiences.