ADD

ABU DHABI DIALOGUE

| SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING |

CHAIR'S INTERIM REPORT

OVERVIEW

1. The following document is an interim report, updating Senior Officials of Abu Dhabi Dialogue Member States on the activities that have taken place under the aegis of the ADD since the Fifth Ministerial Consultation, which took place in Dubai on 16th and 17th October 2019.

2. The Fifth Ministerial Consultation resulted in the adoption by the assembled Ministers of the Dubai Declaration, which summarised the achievements of the Sri Lankan Chairmanship. The Declaration furthermore provided some preliminary forward guidance on the programme of the ADD under the UAE Chairmanship, by mandating the establishment of a Chair's Advisory Committee. The Chair's Advisory Committee was called on by the Dubai Declaration to assemble on a regular basis, in order to discuss the elaboration of agendas for Senior Officials' Meetings and Ministerial Consultations.

3. Under the direction of the Chair, the Advisory Committee was duly formed in April 2020 and Terms of Reference that laid out guidelines for its operation were adopted by Member States. Under the Terms of Reference, the membership of the Advisory Committee included the UAE as Chair-in-Office; Sri Lanka and Kuwait as members of the Troika; and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Nepal as discretionary COO and COD governments.

4. Upon taking on the Chairmanship of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the UAE highlighted two priorities: first, to ensure that the regional perspectives that are unique to Regional Consultative Processes be reflected in and central to global dialogues on migration governance; second, to promote evidence-based policy development in the fostering of collaboration between Member States.

5. That the United Arab Emirates was also Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development over the course of 2020 served as an opportunity for Abu Dhabi Dialogue Member States to shape the global discourse on migration through the incorporation of regional perspectives in the GFMD's 2020 agenda. The outcomes of that process form the following section of this report.

6. In response to the second of the Chair's two priorities, the Dubai Declaration, in addition to establishing the Advisory Group, also mandated the creation of a formalised process for gathering together academics and specialised researchers, who were tasked with developing targeted research in support of ADD thematic initiatives and programmes. Four research tracks were identified, and the resulting research agenda was finalised by the Advisory Group in May 2020. Summaries of the preliminary outcomes of that agenda are provided below.

7. Finally, the achievements of the ongoing Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme since the fifth Ministerial Meeting are captured in the last section of this report. The CIOP pilot includes participation from Bangladesh, the Philippines, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates, and implementation is being supported by the International Organisation for Migration.

8. The Senior Officials' Meeting is tasked with reviewing the outcomes of these programmes and identifying possible future partnerships, as well as identifying an incoming Chair from among Countries of Destination. The ADD is increasingly recognised as one of the world's leading Regional Consultative Processes, due to the unique process that aims to build cooperation and trust between stakeholders on the basis of practical partnerships that generate tangible results. The outcomes of this Senior Officials' Meeting will therefore have a significant long-term impact on the future direction of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

9. Since the Fifth Ministerial Consultation, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue has played an important role through its engagement with global migration-related fora, in line with the goal of ensuring that regional perspectives are central to the development and implementation of global agendas.

10. Notably, the 2020 programme of activities of the Global Forum for Migration and Development was inspired by the ADD's research priorities and its history of focusing on the development of partnerships. To that end, the ADD was invited, alongside the African Union, the Bali Process, the OECD and the Puebla Process, to coordinate the organisation of a Regional Consultation, as part of the preparatory process for the GFMD's 2020 Summit. Although originally anticipated as an in-person meeting, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the Regional Consultation had to be held online.

11. The ADD Online Regional Consultation was held over the course of a week in July, with the Opening Plenary held on the 6th July, the Breakouts on the 9th July and the Closing Plenary held on the 13th July, resulting in a total of five individual meetings of the ADD, in which a total of 225 individuals participated. The Opening Plenary was opened by H.E. Nasser bin Thani Juma Al Hamli, UAE Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation and Chair of the ADD, alongside H.E Yamuna Perera, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Employment, Government of Sri Lanka, representing the ADD Troika.

12. The ADD Online Regional Consultation selected for discussion three of the six thematic priorities of the 2020 GFMD Chairmanship:

- The governance of labour migration in the context of changing employment landscapes
- Leveraging technology to empower migrants; and
- Fostering partnerships to realise the migration-related goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda

13. The first thematic priority was led by Ms. Michele Leighton of the ILO, who drafted a background paper for consideration by ADD participants. That paper recommended a human-centred approach to addressing Future of Work opportunities and challenges for migrants, and proposed integrating labour migration policies with national employment strategies to identify skills shortfalls and enhance regular migration pathways.

14. The second thematic priority, on leveraging technology to empower migrants, was led by Professor Gibril Faal, whose paper noted that technology is already embedded in a wide range of migration-related applications and practices, from biometric passports to intergovernmental data-sharing platforms. The paper also noted the opportunity that technology presents to bring down the cost and increase the portability of information, including that which relates to skills and educational certification, wages and salaries, and taxes and social security deductions.

15. The third thematic priority, on fostering migration partnerships, was led by Dilip Ratha of the World Bank and emphasised the impact that migration can have on development, as well as highlighting the need for an international Concessional Financing Facility to support the development of partnerships in a coordinated and efficient manner.

16. The synergies between the GFMD's thematic priorities and the ADD's research agenda led to the decision to hold an ADD side-event on the margins of the GFMD Summit. The online side-event consisted of two halves, the first featuring a presentation of the CIOP pilot and proposing replication by additional country of origin and country of destination pairs. The second half focused on the four-track research program: the future of work, the use of technology, pre-deployment testing of workers in ADD corridors and the role of RCPs in the global governance of migration. Over 200 individual participants attended the ADD GFMD side-event.

17. The GFMD's Open Space session also highlighted the work of the ADD, when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates announced an extension of the CIOP pilot to cover a number of African states, in cooperation with the African Union.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

18. The Abu Dhabi Dialogue has traditionally played a key role in fostering and developing migration-related partnerships in the Asia-Gulf corridors. The purpose of these partnerships has been two-fold: first, to address the migration-related challenges within these corridors; and second, to build trust and foster understanding between participating stakeholders. Typically, the design of these partnerships resulted from ad hoc discussions between Member States in seeking solutions to contemporary issues. However, the increased interest in understanding the impact on the future of work on migration flows in the ADD corridors led to the view that it was important that an evidence-based approach was necessary.

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19. To that end, the Chair's Advisory Group identified four thematic areas of interest:

- Anticipated changes in the employment landscape in the GCC and their Impact on Labour Supply and Demand in ADD Corridors
- Leveraging Advanced Technology to Improve Labour Mobility Governance
- Pre-Deployment Testing of Workers in Asia-GCC Corridors
- Global Governance of Migration: Towards Greater Engagement by Regional Consultative Processes in Global Fora

20. Of these four thematic areas, two – the role of technology and the testing and certification of workers – have historically been central to ADD programmes. The other two – the first and fourth – have emerged more recently as priority areas.

21. For each of the four tracks, a number of research papers were commissioned by the Chair and Advisory Group, with coordinators for each of the four tracks invited to ensure coherence in the findings of the various papers. The coordinator of track one was Yva Alexandrova of IOM; of track two, Professor Gibril Faal of GK Partners; of track three, Mr Yasser Al Otaibi of the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development; and of track four, Mr Alex Zalami of the UAE's Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation.

22. Track One resulted in the development of four research papers. The first, titled The Shifting Employment Landscape and International Migration in ADD Corridors: What Skills for the Future? highlighted the need for countries of origin and destination to adapt their education, labour market and migration recruitment systems to seize the opportunities brought by new technologies. The second, The Future of Work for Women Migrant Workers in the Asia-Gulf States Abu Dhabi Dialogue Regional Corridor, underlined the role of migrant women in lower-skilled work, and emphasised new opportunities for women in emerging sectors, if skills upgrades can be provided. The third, Upskilling for the Future, provided examples of upskilling strategies and recommendations on how policy makers can cater to skilling requirements for migrant workforces. The fourth, titled The Impact of COVID-19 on Labour Mobility Frameworks in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue Corridors, underlined the increasing importance of public health considerations in policy making and the potential disruptions to current labour migration models resulting from the pandemic.

23. Track Two resulted in the development of three research papers. The first, Tele-Justice: Facilitating Workers' Access to Justice through Digital Tools, examined how digital tools can improve operational aspects of migrant access to justice, from preventative, administrative, adjudication and litigation perspective. The second, Enabling Temporary Contractual Workers to Rate and Review Recruiters and Other Intermediaries through Online Platforms, describes best practices in developing online platforms that mitigate imbalances in information dissemination in the labour recruitment process. The third, Leveraging Technology to Enhance Compliant Labour Selection Practices and Improve Job Matching, looks at what technological and digital options exist to promote and streamline compliant labour selection and how stakeholders can approach the increasing demand for technological platforms within labour migration governance frameworks.

24. Track Three also resulted in the development of three research papers. The first, Migrant Workers' Skills Examinations in COOs and the Recognition of Skills by CODs, examined a skills verification programme underway in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, targeting more than 1.7 million temporary migrant workers and covering more than 1000 occupations. The second paper, Introducing the Gulf Health Council Program for Expatriate Health Checkups, examines the impacts of a medical screening process for migrant workers managed by the Gulf Health Council. The third paper, Exploring the Existing Practices of Skills Assessment (Nepal and Bangladesh) and Recognition (UAE and Qatar): A Comparative Study, aimed to provide policy insights for further strengthening skills testing, certification and recognition in intra-Asia labour migration.

25. Track Four resulted in a single paper, The Role of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in Regional and Global Migration Governance. That paper focused on how the ADD contributes to regional and global policy dialogue on migration by exploring convergent regional approaches to migration issues; by cooperating with other inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration; and by feeding into global processes such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

26. As Chair-in-Office, the United Arab Emirates wishes to express its sincere thanks on behalf of the ADD Member States to the researchers who have been involved in the development and drafting of the papers, and the coordinators for their additional expertise in bringing the findings of the papers together.

PROGRESS REPORT ON CIOP

27. The incorporation of the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme track into the thematic agenda of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue was first agreed during the Kuwait Ministerial Consultation (2014). The purpose of the programme is to establish coherence between the information and orientation programmes delivered by countries of origin and destination, accounting for the entire migrant journey, from pre-employment, through pre-departure, to post-arrival.

28. The first phase of CIOP consisted of the development of a regional guide for pre-departure orientation. The current second phase of CIOP enables participating ADD Member States (Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates) to operationalise a coordinated management system for the provision of orientation services, through the development of a tailored regional guide for post-arrival, as well as training materials, and train-the-trainer exercises.

29. Since the Fifth Ministerial Consultation, the following highlights have been achieved through the CIOP initiative.

30. First, nine country-specific and industry-specific Trainers' Manuals have been drafted. These include: PEO and PDO Trainers' Manuals for Bangladesh and a PAO Trainers' Manual for Saudi Arabia, focused on Bangladeshi drivers going to Saudi Arabia. PEO and PDO Trainers' Manuals for Sri Lanka and a PAO Trainers' Manual for the UAE, focused on Sri Lankan hospitality workers going to the UAE. PEO and PDO Trainers' Manuals for the Philippines and a PAO Trainers Manual for the UAE, with a focus on Filipino hospitality workers going to the UAE.

31. Ten PAO educational videos for the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been designed. The PAO design for the UAE and Saudi Arabia centres on the use of educational videos to disseminate key information. Advanced drafts of educational videos to be used in future PAO sessions have been delivered, with sustainability in mind, ensuring they can be used with different audiences and in alternative contexts.

32. To facilitate the implementation of CIOP and ensure robust systems are in place to monitor implementation performance, a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning guide has been drafted. The guide is complemented with a full kit of 47 tools and an information management system to support programme owners and master trainers in monitoring, evaluating and continuing to ensure that CIOP is responsive to evolving informational needs.

33. 50 CIOP Master Trainers have been nominated by their respective governments across the five countries participating in the CIOP programme, and all material to train Master Trainers has been drafted. This includes agendas and PowerPoint presentations, as well as guidance on adult learning theory and approaches.

34. Furthermore, IOM has carried out a Training of Master Trainers Workshop in the UAE for nominated national trainers. Participants were introduced to the CIOP approach and received training on how to implement a PAO session, step-by-step. It included facilitation of relevant training activities and use of all training tools and material. Participants will also receive guidance on how to train other trainers in the future.