



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

Collaborating on a Human-Centred Approach to Managing Labour Mobility in a Changing World of Work

Abu Dhabi Dialogue 5th Ministerial Consultation: High Level Panel Discussion Concept Note

Overview

In February 2019, a number of ADD Ministers met on the sidelines of the World Government Summit in Dubai, where the focus of discussion was the Future of Work. There was consensus among attending Ministers that a number of questions regarding the impact of the Future of Work were pertinent to the issue of labour mobility, but there was insufficient understanding of the relationship between the two topics.

To bridge this gap, the ADD therefore convened, in April 2019, a High Level Symposium on the Future of Work, on the sidelines of the Senior Officials' Meeting. The High Level Symposium was facilitated by the International Labour Organisation, whose Centenary Report was focused on the challenges arising from new trends in employment, and which called on stakeholders to avoid the pitfalls of seeing the issue in “techno-deterministic” terms and instead adopt a “human-centric” approach to policy.

The Joint Communique of the April 2019 Senior Officials' Meeting called for “the development of a concept paper outlining the way ahead for discussion at the 5th Ministerial Consultation”. The ADD Secretariat consequently undertook the development of this Concept Paper.

The Concept Paper noted that, “ADD Member States have expressed an interest in assistance in the development of new national strategies, and / or the inclusion of future of work initiatives into existing national strategies. While the ADD may not be the appropriate platform – given the limitations in terms of mandate [of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue] – for providing space to collectively learn how to develop such strategies, the ILO can be called upon to provide such a space in due course.”

The Concept Note also noted that, “Where the Abu Dhabi Dialogue can undoubtedly play a role, in the immediate future, is in enabling joint consideration of the potential for Future of Work issues to impact labour mobility in our corridors. Understanding the scope of current trends in the region would be the primary task to deepening engagement and discussion among Member States on this question.



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

The Concept Note therefore called for the production of two documents: first, a literature review to provide “an evidence-based approach to addressing Future of Work-associated challenges in ADD corridors and identify potential areas for collaboration among Member States”; and, second, by the ILO, “a report on best practices relating to the incorporation of Future of Work initiatives into national employment policies, both within the region, and more broadly.”

Since then, both studies have been produced. The first, by Dr Steffen Hertog, Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics; the second under the oversight of the ILO’s Department of Employment Policy. Both these reports are contained within the literature circulated in advance of the Fifth Ministerial Consultation.

In line with the recommendations of the Concept Note, this High Level Panel is being organised during the Fifth Ministerial Consultation on 17th October. The discussion will be informed by the content of the two reports, and the aim is to produce recommendations for collaborative action by ADD Member States. Ministers are invited to deliberate and establish appropriate next steps for the incorporation of Future of Work-related programming into the thematic agenda of the next cycle of the ADD.