Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

(10–12 MARCH 2021)

AN ANALYSIS OF ITS MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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*The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Ackowledgements

Executive Summary

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first framework for cooperation addressing all aspects of migration governance, adopted as a result of an intergovernmental process by 193 United Nations Members States in December 2018. It established nine principles to guide the realization of its 23 objectives. Thus, the adoption of the Global Compact represents a significant moment in both the history of the United Nations and international migration governance.

As stated in the Global Compact for Migration, "its authority rests on its consensual nature, credibility, collective ownership, joint implementation, follow up and review" (paragraph 15b of General Assembly resolution 75/195). Member States agreed to review progress made at local, national, regional and global levels in implementing the Global Compact for Migration in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. For the follow-up and review, they also agreed on intergovernmental measures and invited the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews, beginning in 2020.

In response, regional commissions, in collaboration with their regional partners, organized regional reviews for the first time in 2020 and 2021. These regional reviews are to contribute to the International Migration Review Forums, the first of which will take place in May 2022. ESCAP, supported by the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific, organized the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration from 10 to 12 March 2021, using the ESCAP platform. The Asia-Pacific Regional Review consisted of a voluntary national member State survey, consultations with member States and stakeholders, and an intergovernmental meeting.

This report provides an overview of migration levels and trends in Asia and the Pacific, and analyses the different inputs to and outputs from the Asia-Pacific Regional Review, with a view to identifying emergent opportunities for evidence-based regional and national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The good practices, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities herein provide a non-exhaustive list. Also, whereas member States identified

opportunities for the further implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Asia and the Pacific, stakeholders made recommendations. The analysis in chapter 2 of the report follows this distinction. The analytical part of the report is written with a focus on empiricism, that is, the critical importance of evidence-based initiatives to achieve the specific objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. The theme of capacity-building, informed by analysis, is threaded throughout both the discussion and interpretation of the results, as well as the recommendations that follow. The official report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review, including its Chair's Summary, are reproduced at the end.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to increasing levels, complexity and impacts of international migration. Demographic, epidemiological, climatic and technological changes are affecting the situation of migrants and countries of destination and origin alike. Migrants have been recognized as key accelerators of sustainable development; yet they and their families face risks to their safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Many of these challenges have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the Asia-Pacific Regional Review, ESCAP member States reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. The analysis of the different inputs to and outputs from the Review reveals that, for many countries, the Global Compact for Migration serves as a comprehensive and holistic guiding framework for national migration policymaking. It helps define, strengthen and measure the relationship between migration and sustainable development, and is key for supporting international cooperation and coordination on migration. Its objectives and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles have been mainstreamed and embedded in national laws, regulations and policies. Many member States recognize that migrants and their families, and migration in general, contribute to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination.

In the region, there are many good practices and lessons learned in strengthening the knowledge and evidence base for safe, orderly and regular migration governance and policy. These have taken the form of, among others, development of registration systems for migrants, monitoring and evaluation of programmes

to provide social support and information to migrants, and bilateral exchange of information. There are also positive experiences in integrating migrants and in recognizing their contribution to development. A theme interwoven in the responses to the survey was the significance of access to social services (health and education, specifically) and employment in relation to integration. The role of information systems and information gathering at borders and upon entry of migrants was identified by several member States as an important dimension of protection of migrants and migrant rights. Good practices in value-driven and evidence-based policy and public debate on migration, and promoting international cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration were reported by some member States in terms of characteristics of national data sources, administrative research programmes and processes and approaches to data gathering.

Challenges to the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration often included the need for more, and more relevant and disaggregated data and data-sharing for programme and policy design, monitoring and evaluation. Engagement of embassies in support of diaspora was also identified as a challenge, as were bilateral coordination regarding the transferability of social security and effective policy and programme implementation in the face of variation in scale, characteristics and processes of migration regionally and within countries. Women migrants and children, including those working in the informal sector, experienced numerous vulnerabilities. Access to services, in particular health and education, and the protection of migrants' rights and dignity, regardless of their status, remained a challenge. Some migrants faced problems regarding their legal identity, and they encountered human rights violations, abuse and exploitation. Providing safe, orderly and regular migration pathways was important, and costs related to migration remained high, while skills training and professional development for migrant workers was often limited. Child immigration detention and other immigration detention remained a challenge in some countries in the region.

Four themes emerge as opportunities for regional and national implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration: 1) analytic resources and capacities; 2) comparative analysis; 3) theories, models and forecasts; and 4) capacity-building through partnerships, training and communication of information and evidence. Several member States and stakeholders are moving to actively realize these opportunities through, for example, harmonizing migration concepts and

measures within administrative systems; engaging international recommendations on migration statistics; considering variations in migration, among groups, geographies and over time; modelling the causes and consequences of migration at different levels – regionally, nationally and locally; building partnerships with civil society; and fostering international and regional cooperation in research, analysis and communication of information about migrants and migration.

With a focus on enhancing evidence-based policymaking in order to support regional and national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, member States and stakeholders are called upon to:

- Integrate analytic resources, through data collection, analysis and dissemination, into national policymaking on migration

- Develop new and strengthen existing meaningful and inclusive partnerships with stakeholders in the conduct of research, models and forecasting to inform policymaking on migration

- Engage with initiatives of the scientific community regarding methods and models of migration, development and environmental change

- Build on national leadership in the region, for example, the work of the Asia-Pacific 'champion countries', as a resource for implementing analytic initiatives and innovations

- Capitalize on extant national leadership, and current leaders, as well as bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation and partnerships to strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda

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SUMMARY OF MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS

Chapter 1

An overview of migration levels and trends in Asia and the Pacific

1.1 Introduction

The Asia-Pacific region is home to increasing levels, complexity and impacts of international migration. Especially over recent years – with demographic, epidemiological, climatic and technological change – migrants are being recognized as key accelerators of sustainable development. However, in countries of origin, destination and transit they and their families face numerous challenges, including risks to their safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Many of these challenges have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Determined to improve cooperation on international migration, United Nations Member States adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018, based upon the core purposes and principles of the United Nations, including the United Nations Charter and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others. The Global Compact for Migration's cross-cutting, interdependent guiding principles and its 23 objectives and associated concrete actions provide a framework and roadmap for the international coordination and cooperation needed to address challenges and opportunities of migration now and in the future.

The years 2020 and 2021 marked the first time that ESCAP and other regional commissions, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 73/195 and 73/326, and in collaboration with regional partners, reviewed the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. The summary of migration levels and trends contained in this chapter, drawn from the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020, with updates, provides context for parts II and III. Part II summarizes and analyses messages and recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, convened from 10 to 12 March 2021, using the ESCAP platform. Part III reproduces the Report from the aforementioned Regional Review, including the Chair's summary.

1.2 Regional context: Demographics and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific is both large and diverse. It has over 4.6 billion people (about 60 per cent of the global population) and is home to the world's most, and the majority of its least, populous countries. It also has some of the fastest ageing populations, while certain countries continue to have growing working-age populations.

The region has made considerable progress towards sustainable development and has been the engine of global economic growth and innovation. Nevertheless, regional progress remains uneven; for instance, an estimated 233 million people still live below the international extreme poverty line (less than $1.90 a day), and almost 2 billion, close to half of the region's population, live on less than $5.50 per day (the poverty line for upper middle-income countries). Where data are available, under half of the poorest quintile are covered by social protection, and the income gap between rich and poor in many countries is increasing (ESCAP, 2021a).

Gender inequalities, and informal and poor-quality employment also remain prevalent. Emerging risks threaten progress: in Asia and the Pacific, natural hazards affected 6.9 billion people and killed more than 2 million per year over the 1970—2020 period (ESCAP, 2021b), and are increasingly becoming more climate-related. Although the number of conflicts in the region decreased in the period, the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, and the conflicts in Myanmar and the Syrian Arab Republic, caused large-scale displacement. Meanwhile, conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon and Libya have affected migrant workers from the region, resulting in large-scale returns of migrants. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic poses further threats to the health and well-being of the population, including immigrants in the region, as well as emigrants from the region residing in other parts of the world. The period also saw rapid economic growth, both within the region and in neighbouring regions, especially in the Middle East. Although the growth has appeared to be durable in the region, recessions in 2008/09 and the ongoing recession as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, have slowed these trends and led to temporary reversals due to contractions across emerging market and developing economies, including those in Asia and the Pacific (World Bank, 2020a).

Other trends include the following: intra- and inter-regional connectivity increased with strengthened economic cooperation and integration in subregional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Eurasian Economic Union. Mobile phone and internet penetration massively increased people's access to information and communication across borders, albeit unevenly. The region has transitioned from a mostly rural to a mostly urban population, achieving this in 2019, with an additional 1.2 billion urban dwellers projected by 2050 (UN DESA, 2018; ESCAP and others, 2019).

1.3 Immigration to Asia and the Pacific

The number of immigrants in the Asia-Pacific region grew from almost 52 million in 1990 to 67 million in 2020, representing a quarter of the global international migrant stock of 281 million in 2020 (UN DESA, 2020). Migrants made up 1.4 per cent of the region's total population, compared to 3.6 per cent of the global total. Nevertheless, significant variations existed between subregions: migrants represented 0.5 and 22.0 per cent of the population, respectively, in East and North-East Asian, and the Pacific.

At the regional level, figure 1 shows a general increase in the international migrant stock, while the variation between subregions has been reduced. This is due to falls in numbers of migrants in North and Central Asia (reflecting the consolidation of populations in the former Soviet Union), and South and South-West Asia (with Afghan refugee and migrant returnees re-establishing their lives in their country of origin, and the ageing of those who moved during the partition of India), and growth in other subregions.

FIGURE 1
Growth in the international migrant stock by subregion in Asia and the Pacific, 1990–2020

Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

A comparison of major countries and territories of destination is depicted in figure 2. The Russian Federation remained the region's main destination country, with over 11.6 million people born abroad. The regional changes over the past two decades were driven by diverse factors; these included sustained policies to attract immigrants to Australia, the economic transformation of Malaysia and Thailand into attractive countries of destination for migrant workers, and large-scale refugee movements to Turkey due to the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In 2020, the percentage of male and female migrants was roughly balanced at 50.1 and 49.9 per cent, respectively (figure 3). There was, however, significant subregional variation, such that female migrants represented the majority of migrants in North and Central Asia, East and North-East Asia, and the Pacific.

FIGURE 2

Top 10 countries and territories of destination of migrants in Asian and Pacific countries, 1990 and 2020, absolute numbers (million people)

1990	
Russian Federation	11.6
Australia	7.7
Turkey	6.1
India	4.9
Kazakhstan	3.7
Thailand	3.6
Malaysia	3.5
Pakistan	3.3
Hong Kong, China	3.0
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	2.8

2020	
Russian Federation	11.5
India	7.6
Pakistan	6.2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4.3
Australia	4.0
Kazakhstan	3.6
Hong Kong, China	2.2
Uzbekistan	1.7
Turkey	1.2
Japan	1.1
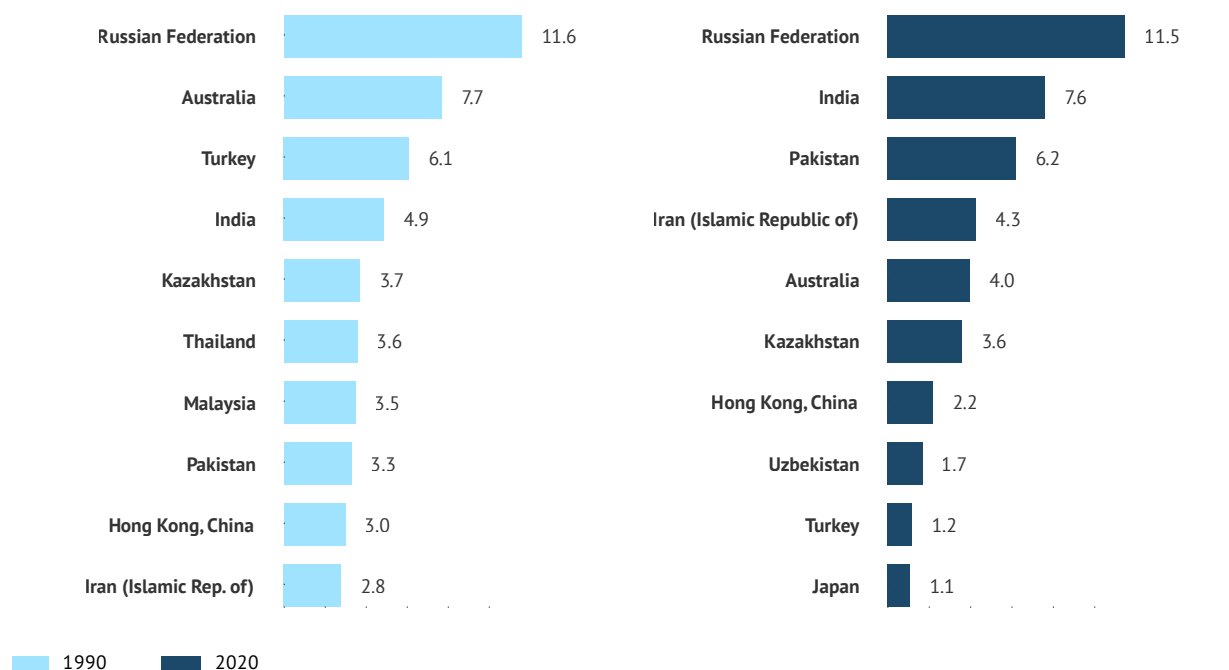
■ 1990   ■ 2020

Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

FIGURE 3

Percentage of female immigrants in Asia and the Pacific and its subregions, 1990–2020

Asia-Pacific (ESCAP Region) values: 1990: 49.8, 1995: 50.2, 2000: 50.2, 2005: 50.5, 2010: 50.4, 2015: 49.8, 2020: 49.9

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE IMMIGRANTS

■ East and North-East Asia   ■ South-East Asia   ■ South and South-West Asia
■ North and Central Asia   ■ Pacific   ●─ Asia-Pacific (ESCAP Region)

Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

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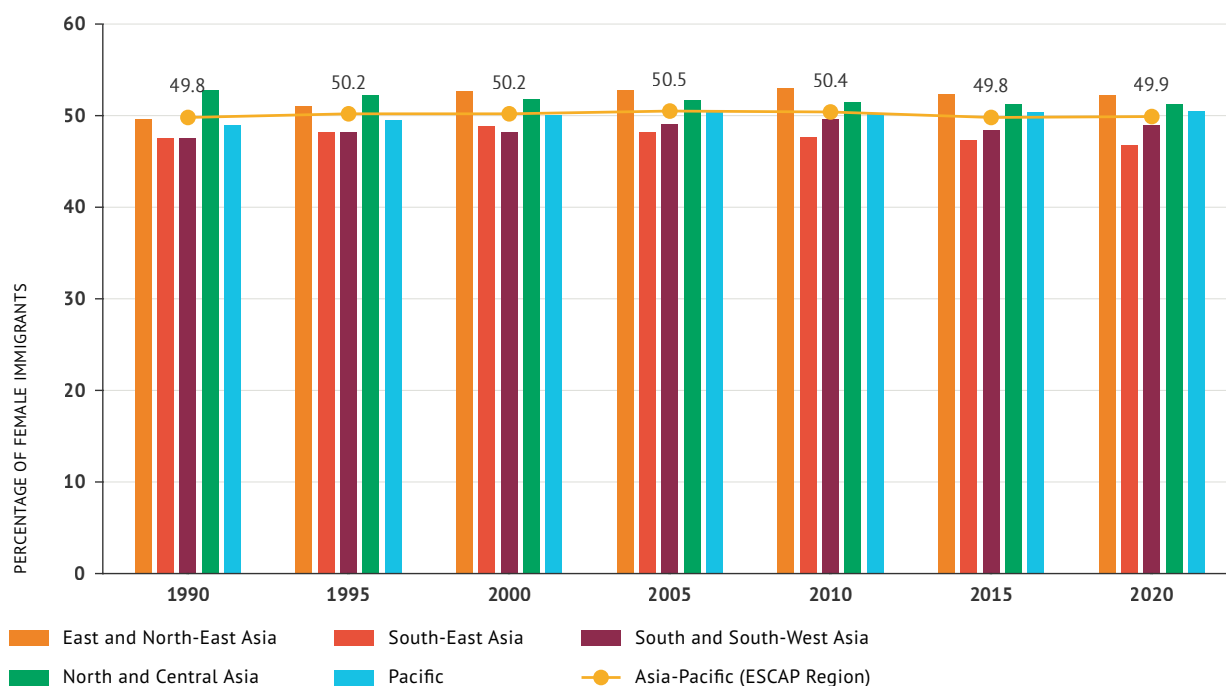
The migrant population age structure is significantly different to that of the general population. Migrants in Asia and the Pacific are concentrated in prime working ages, with over 77.4 per cent (almost 52 million migrants) aged 15–64 in 2020, compared to 67.7 per cent of the general population (figure 4) (UN DESA, 2020). The rapid pace of population ageing across the region means that migrants are likely to be crucial in bolstering ageing workforces.

FIGURE 4
Population pyramids of the total and the migrant populations in Asia and the Pacific, 2020
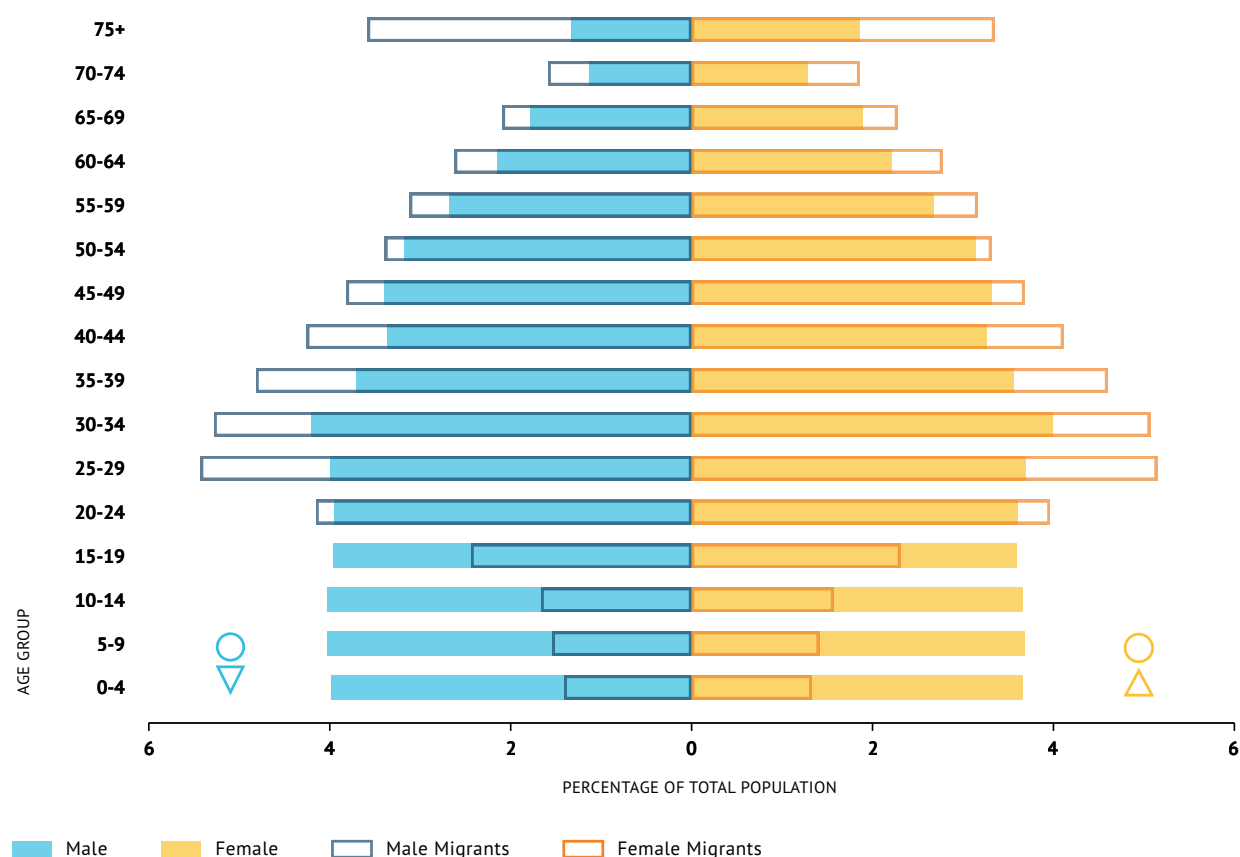
Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

1.4 Emigration from Asia and the Pacific

In 2020, almost 109 million people from the region lived outside their country of birth (figure 5), about 39.0 per cent of all the world's migrants, and equivalent to 2.3 per cent of the region's total population of over 4.6 billion in 2020. This proportion varied from under 1 per cent in East and North-East Asia, to almost 8 per cent in North and Central Asia. The rise in emigrant numbers of over 40 million during 1990–2020 was largely driven by emigration from South-East Asia, increasing from 7.7 million to nearly 23.6 million, and South and South-West Asia, where emigrant numbers grew by almost 18.9 million.

The numbers of migrants from East and North-East Asia, and the Pacific roughly doubled, and, while numbers from North and Central Asia dropped slightly during 1990–2020, an upward trend occurred since 2010.

The main countries of origin in 1990 and 2020 remained largely similar, besides Turkey, which dropped from the top 10 origin countries, and Myanmar, which took Turkey's place in 2020 (figure 6). In absolute terms, migrant numbers from India almost tripled from 6.6 million to 17.9 million; China, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines also saw significant growth. The number of emigrants from the Russian Federation decreased, linked to post-Soviet return migration of Russian compatriots.

FIGURE 5

Emigrants from Asia and the Pacific and its subregions, 1990–2020
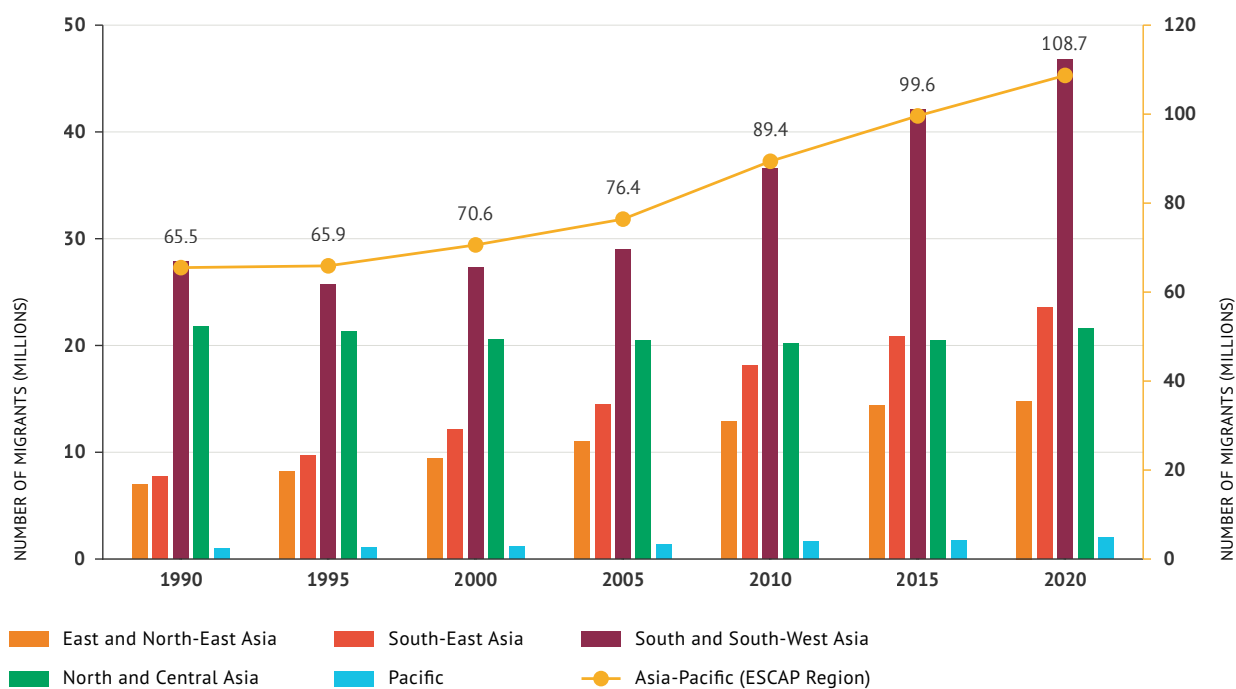
Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

FIGURE 6

Top 10 countries and territories of origin for migration in Asia and the Pacific, 1990 and 2020 (million people)

1990		2020	
Russian Federation	12.7	India	17.9
Afghanistan	7.7	Russian Federation	10.8
India	6.6	China	10.5
Bangladesh	5.5	Bangladesh	7.4
China	4.2	Pakistan	6.3
Pakistan	3.3	Philippines	6.1
Kazakhstan	3.0	Afghanistan	5.9
Turkey	2.5	Indonesia	4.6
Philippines	2.0	Kazakhstan	4.2
Indonesia	1.6	Myanmar	3.7
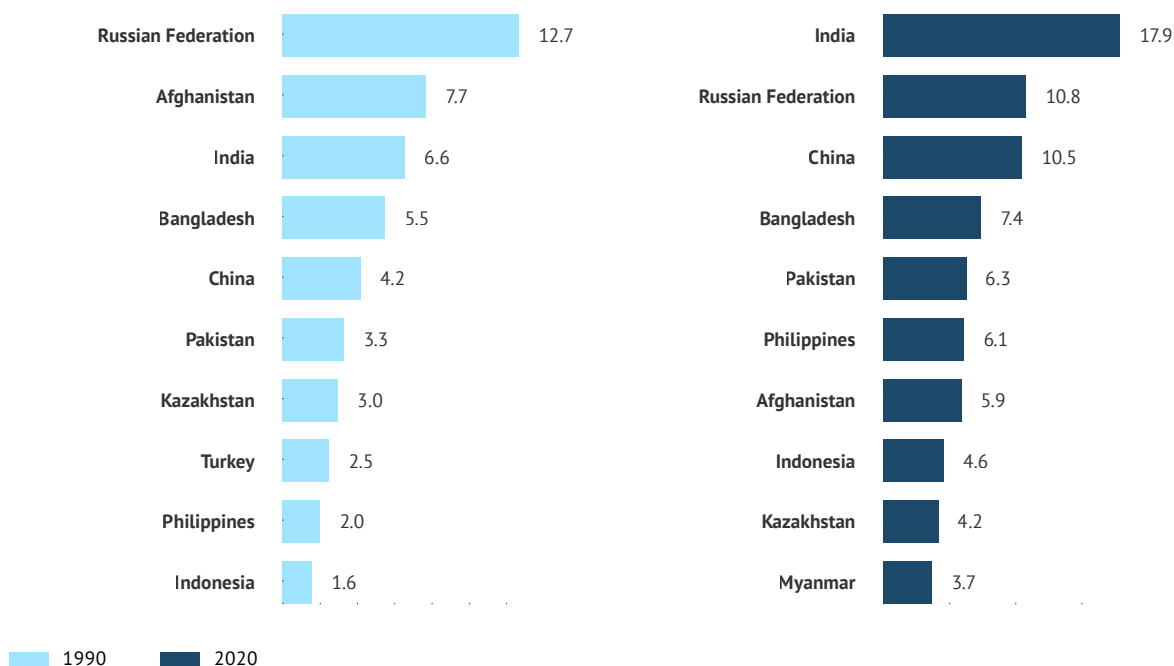
Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

1.5 Intraregional migration

Over 70 per cent of the foreign-born population in the region has consistently come from within it. More than 47 million migrants from Asia-Pacific countries moved to other countries in the region – 44 per cent of all emigrants from Asia-Pacific countries, in 2020. Yet, this was a far lower figure that that for 1990 (almost 60 per cent). In 2020, the majority of intraregional migrants were in other countries of the same subregion; in South-East Asia the proportion was about two thirds of all migrants. Considering gender, in 2020, there were similar numbers of male and female migrants from other Asia-Pacific countries in the region (around 23.5 million females and 23.8 million males). Intraregional migration trends reflect intermediary factors such as common linguistic and historical ties, greater connectivity, preferential migration regimes including free visa regimes (for example between India and Nepal) and subregional free movement of labour (such as within the Eurasian Economic Union), as well as the existence of recruitment industries connecting migrants in countries of origin with employers in countries of destination.

FIGURE 7
Top 10 extraregional countries of destination for Asia-Pacific migrants, 2020 (million people)

United States of America	13.4
Saudi Arabia	9.4
United Arab Emirates	6.7
Germany	5.6
Ukraine	4.1
Canada	3.6
United Kingdom	3.1
Kuwait	2.3
Oman	2.1
Qatar	1.8
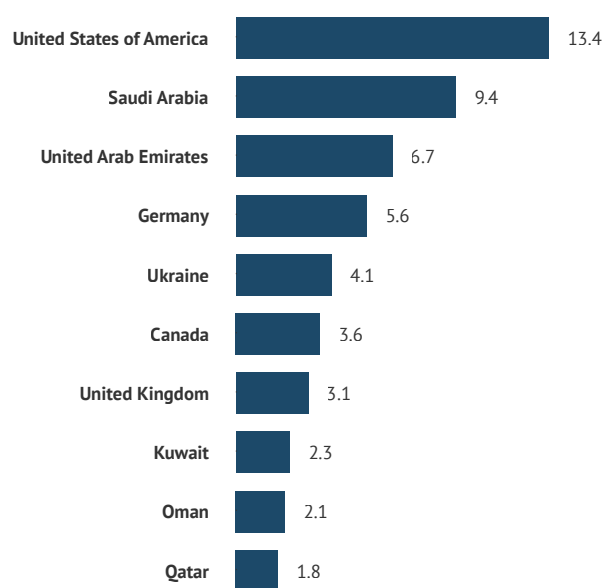
Source: ESCAP calculations based on UN DESA (2020).

1.6 Interregional migration

In 2020, there were 19.3 million migrants from countries outside the region residing in it and comprising 29 per cent of the migrant stock. The shares of extra-regional migrants were greatest in the Pacific (48 per cent), followed by South and South-West Asia, North and Central Asia, East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia. The origins of these migrants were diverse, with the largest numbers coming from Ukraine and the Syrian Arab Republic (3.8 million migrants each, residing, respectively, primarily in the Russian Federation and Turkey). Historical factors – such as of the break-up of the Soviet Union, active encouragement of migration and refugee movements – explain some of these trends. About 61.4 million migrants (around 56 per cent of emigrants) from the region had moved outside it in 2020, compared to 26.5 million migrants (40 per cent) in 1990. Figure 7 shows the main destination countries outside the region, with these ten countries alone hosting around 52 million migrants.

1.7 Main determinants of migration

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (United Nations, 2016, para. 1) recognizes that: "Some people move in search of new economic opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape armed conflict, poverty, food insecurity, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations and abuses. Still others do so in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters (some of which may be linked to climate change), or other environmental factors. Many move, indeed, for a combination of these reasons." The following subsections consider the principal determinants of migration in Asia and the Pacific.

1.7.1 Temporary labour migration

Most documented migrants to and from the region are temporary migrant workers in occupations classified as either low- or medium-skilled. This report focuses on international migrant workers defined as those of working age "who, during a specified reference period, were in the labour force of the country of their usual residence, either in employment or in unemployment".[1] The short-term duration of migration means that many migrants are not necessarily captured in censuses, the source of migrant stock data. Furthermore, an unknown proportion occurs in an irregular fashion. Nevertheless,

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1   The ILO definition also includes: "persons who, during a specified reference period, were not usual residents of the country but were present in the country and had labour attachment to the country, namely, were either in employment supplying labour to resident producer units of that country or were seeking employment in that country" (ILO, 2018a).

the data presented in table 1 highlight the scale and direction of labour migration, with disaggregation by sex. Albeit not comparable, the data point to the immensity of labour migration, with over 1.5 million and 0.7 million people, respectively, migrating through organized labour pathways in a single year from the Philippines and Bangladesh. Most labour migration from the region is South-South, with destinations either within the region or in the Middle East.

TABLE 1
Annual labour migration outflows from selected Asia-Pacific countries, latest available year

Country	Number (latest available year)	Number of female migrants (percentage)	Main country of destination (number)
Armenia	86 800 (2017)	5 100 (5.9)	..
Bangladesh	700 200 (2019)	104 800 (15.0)	Saudi Arabia (399 000)
Bhutan	7 100 (2018)	4 500 (62.9)	India (2 200)
Cambodia	96 200 (2019)	28 200 (29.3)	Thailand (82 800)
Fiji	26 800 (2017)	7 100 (26.4)	..
India	368 000 (2019)	..	Saudi Arabia (161 000)
Indonesia	261 800 (2017)	184 000 (70.1)	Malaysia (89 000)
Kyrgyzstan	263 400 (2018)	60 700 (23.0)	Russian Federation (254 600)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	49 400 (2017)	26 400 (53.5)	..
Mongolia	41 800 (2018)	..	..
Myanmar	161 900 (2017)	63 900 (39.4)	Thailand (149 000)
Nepal	354 000 (2016/17)	16 600 (4.7)	Qatar (113 500)
Pakistan	625 200 (2019)	4 100 (0.7)	Saudi Arabia (332 700)
Philippines	1 595 400 (2017)	..	Saudi Arabia (433 600)
Samoa	1 700 (2017)	..	..
Sri Lanka	211 500 (2018)	81 700 (38.6)	Qatar (5 600)
Thailand	115 200 (2017)	25 100 (21.8)	Taiwan, Province of China (35 200)
Viet Nam	134 800 (2017)	53 300 (39.6)	Taiwan, Province of China (67 000)

Source: Armenia, Bhutan, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Samoa: ILOSTAT (n.d.); Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam: ILO (2018b); Bangladesh: Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (n.d.a), (n.d.b); Cambodia: Chuop Narath (2020); India: Ministry of External Affairs, Overseas Employment Division (n.d.); Nepal: Nepal, Ministry of Labour (2018); Pakistan: Pakistan Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (n.d.); Philippines: Levinson (2020); and Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (n.d.)
Note: ".." indicates data not stated or not available.

As indicated in table 1, data on the gender composition of labour migration outflows vary significantly; the proportion of women ranged from less than 1 per cent in Pakistan, to over 70 per cent in Indonesia. Available official data suggest that most outflows were male dominated. This does not, however, account for women who migrated irregularly. Changes in migration over time have been caused by factors such as efforts by destination countries to raise the share of their national employees, trends towards automation and diversification of economic activities, changes in oil prices, and (in an increasing number of countries) population ageing and workforce upskilling, creating demand for migrant workers in sectors such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing and services, as well as domestic work, where women are often concentrated.

Evidence suggests that such labour migration generally benefits destination countries and does not displace national workers. For example, in Malaysia, a World Bank simulation found that adding 1,000 migrants to the workforce created 836 new full-time and 169 part-time jobs for Malaysian workers, while estimates of the contribution of migrant workers to the Thai economy in 2013 ranged from $6 billion to $24 billion (ESCAP and others, 2015). However, the low status of migrant workers and negative stereotypes contribute to restrictive pathways to regular migration that often limit migrant access to services.

Laws and policies in main countries of destination seek to make labour migration temporary. Migrants in low-skilled and low status jobs are generally admitted for specific periods and for a single employer. Permission to reside is usually linked to an employment contract; on its expiry, migrants are expected to return, rather than take up a new contract or move towards permanent residence. Although some destination countries (such as Qatar, the Republic of Korea and Singapore) have facilitated greater labour market mobility for migrants, the effect of these reforms are limited. In other countries (such as Australia and New Zealand), the nature of work means that migration may be seasonal. Measures that support the temporary nature of their stay affect migrant workers' ability to enjoy human rights, such as rights to association and family unity. Procedures are often complex, and many migrants rely on recruitment agencies for assistance, leaving them vulnerable to high fees, debt, exploitation and abuse. Moreover, migrant workers, not only have limited access to social protection, they face risks of workplace injury while abroad. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of the vulnerabilities migrant workers face.

1.7.2 Remittances

Most migrant workers send remittances to families and others in their origin countries, thus supporting household consumption and contributing to poverty reduction. Remittances are recognized as important contributors to development in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development. For example, in Kyrgyzstan, household survey data indicate remittances reduced poverty rates by 6–7 percentage points between 2010 and 2014 (UNDP and EADB, 2015). At a macroeconomic level, remittances can support governments to service debts and contribute to keeping current account deficits under control (Chami and others, 2008). As a share of income, women migrant workers often remit larger proportions of their salaries than men. Remittance-sending can also raise the status of migrant women, as they become their household's main income-earners (UN Women, 2017).

According to World Bank data (2021) remittance flows to Asia and the Pacific rose from $180 billion in 2009 to $327billion in 2020, slightly less than half the global total of about $700 billion in 2020. India and China were the world's largest remittance recipients, receiving over $83 billion and $59 billion in 2020, respectively. The Philippines ($35 billion), Pakistan ($26 billion) and Bangladesh ($22billion) were also among the top ten global remittance receivers. Figure 8 shows much of this growth was driven by remittances to South and South-West Asian countries; these received $149 billion in 2020, up from $78 billion in 2009. The growth has not been steady, among others due to the impact of COVID-19, economic recessions and changes in oil prices.

Remittance volumes vastly outstrip overseas development aid, and, while foreign direct investment inflows to the region are greater, remittances are less volatile. Indeed, they often show counter-cyclical tendencies, rising during crises, reflecting obligations and altruism underpinning the sending of remittances. For example, remittances to Nepal surged after the 2015 earthquake (Ratha and others, 2020). Remittances are not only important in absolute value, in some countries of the region, remittances make up a significant part of gross domestic product (GDP). Tonga is the world's most remittance-dependent country: remittances made up an estimated 37.7 per cent of the country's GDP in 2020. Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal (27.3, 29.4 and 23.5 per cent, respectively) are also among the top ten countries in the world in this regard.

FIGURE 8

Remittance inflows to the Asia-Pacific region and subregions, 2009–2020, billions of $

Legend:
- East and North-East Asia
- South-East Asia
- South and South-West Asia
- North and Central Asia
- Pacific
- Asia-Pacific (ESCAP Region)
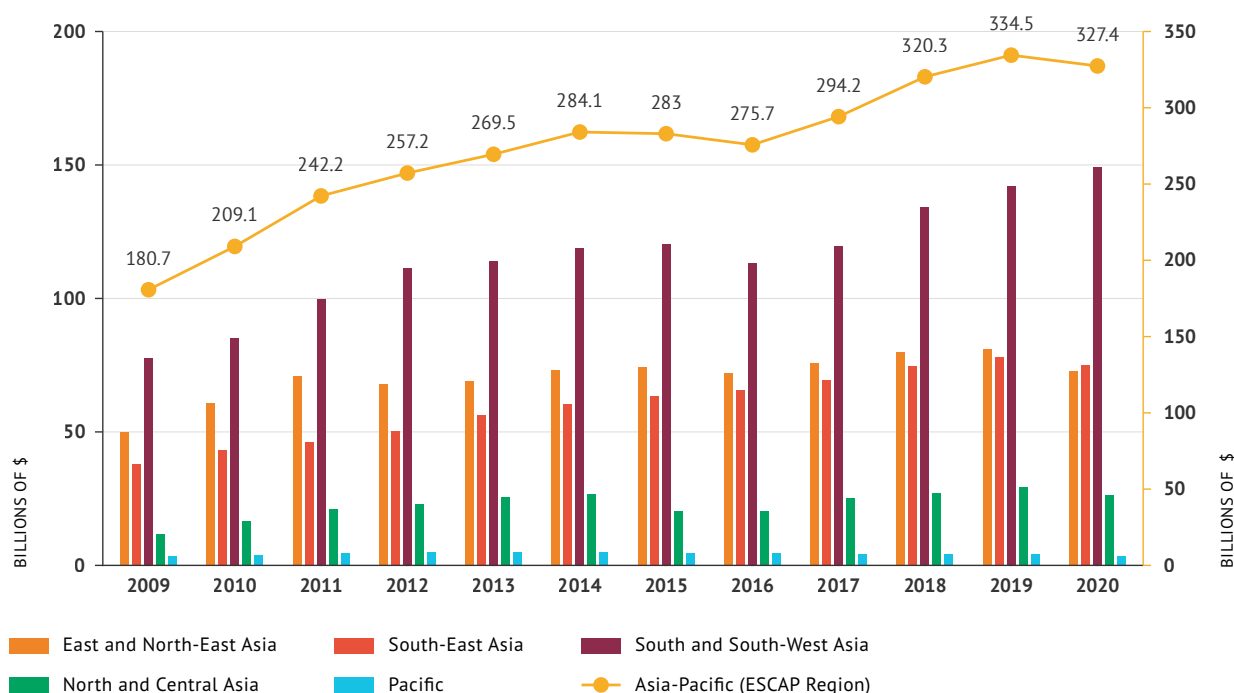
Source: Wold Bank (2021). Migration and remittance data, available at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data, accessed 30 January 2022.

The region was the source of $94 billion in remittances in 2020, up from $62 billion in 2009. The largest source country was China, with $18 billion originating from it in 2020, followed by the Russian Federation ($17 billion), the Republic of Korea and Malaysia (about 9 billion each), and Thailand ($8 billion). Relatively few studies exist on the impact of outgoing remittances for countries; evidence suggests minimal impacts compared to the size of the country from whence remittances are sent, and these are offset by migrant contributions to growth (Naufal and Genc, 2017). Costs of sending remittances are often significant, limiting their development impact. According to World Bank (2020b) data, the median cost of sending $200 in remittances to Asia-Pacific countries in the first quarter of 2020 was 2.7 per cent. Though this meets the 2030 Agenda target of being below 3.0 per cent, the range was from -5.8 per cent, to send money from Pakistan to Afghanistan, to 21.0 per cent, to send money from South Africa to India.[2]

Figure 9 shows that the cost of sending remittances has declined since 2011, driven by greater competition in the remittance sector. As a subregion, the Pacific is a major outlier (hence its inclusion in the figure);

significant compliance costs with anti-money laundering measures and a lack of economies of scale have led to median remittance sending costs remaining high (at around 6–8 per cent). By contrast, the median costs of sending remittances to countries in North and Central Asia (another subregional outlier) are, at 2 per cent, below the target of SDG 10.c. Notably, in all cases there is no indication of what volume of remittances are sent through cheaper or more expensive means. Thus, figures below are unweighted, and migrants may be paying more than the costs indicated here.

Figure 10 shows that, according to World Bank data, the median cost of sending $200 from selected Asia-Pacific countries in the first quarter of 2020 was highest in Pakistan, followed by Turkey and Thailand, measured as a percentage of the amount sent.

2   "A negative total cost for [an] operator may be due to a promotion active at the time information was collected and does not mean that the sender is remunerated for using the service" (World Bank, 2020b).

FIGURE 9

Median cost of sending $200 to Asia-Pacific countries and selected subregions, 2011 – 2020, percentage of amount sent
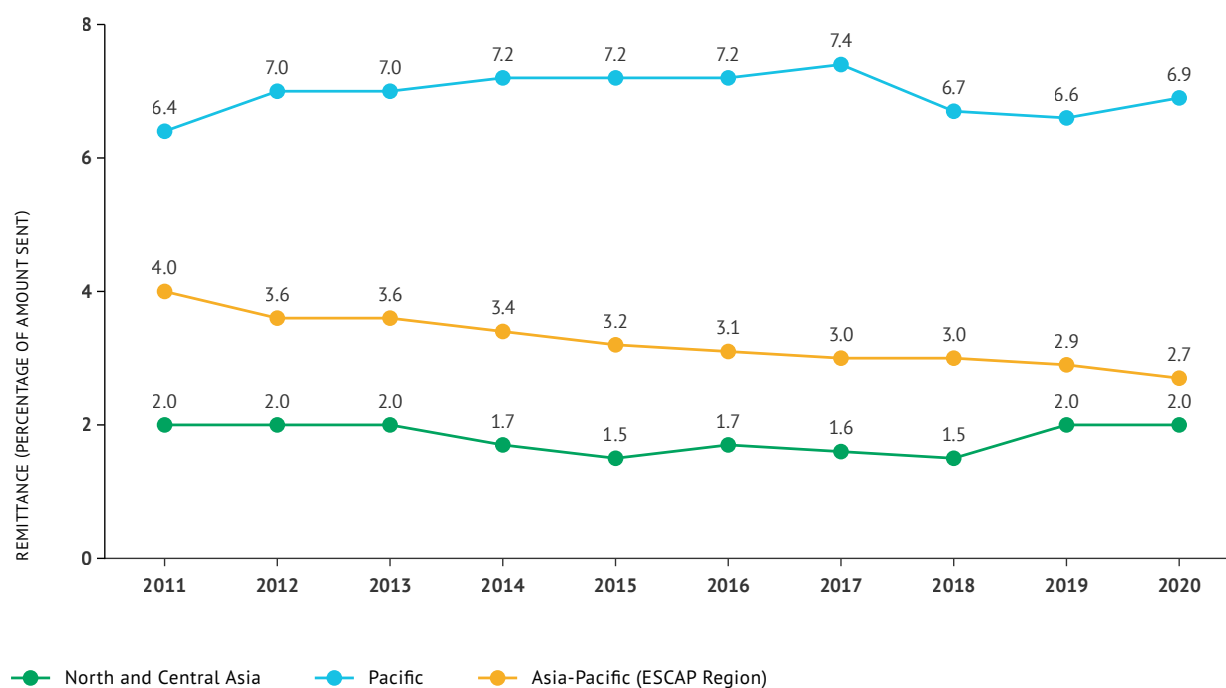
Source: ESCAP calculations based on World Bank (2020b).

FIGURE 10

Median cost of sending $200 from selected Asia-Pacific countries, Q1 2020, percentage of amount sent
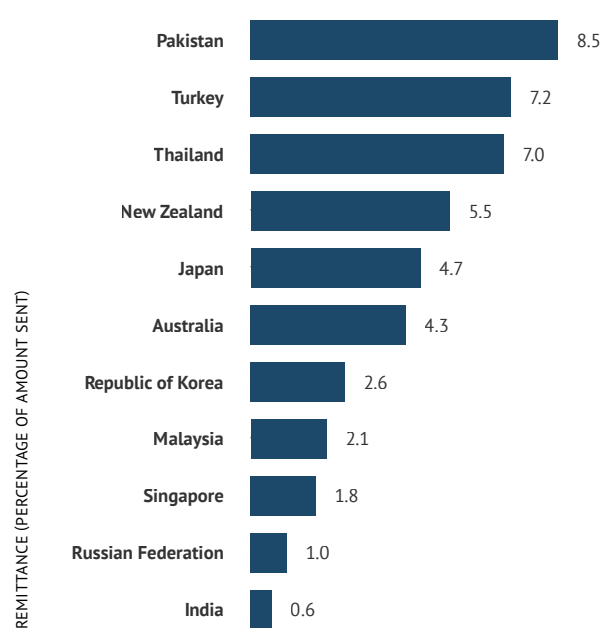
Source: World Bank (2020b).

1.7.3 Student and highly-skilled migration

Migration for education is becoming more important in the region due to: settled populations of international migrants in destination countries seeking higher levels of education; large and growing university-age populations; greater wealth and development; increased educational aspirations among young people; and encouragement of student mobility by recipient countries and their respective educational institutions (UNESCO, 2013). This is particularly evident in China and India. Traditionally, the flow of students had been towards English-speaking countries, such as Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. However, this pattern is changing, with a sharp increase in the flow and exchange of students in Asia and the Pacific, and the development of several education hubs in the region. Numerous universities, especially those from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, have set up branch campuses or signed collaborative agreements with Asian-based providers (UNESCO, 2013). Sex-disaggregated data on outbound internationally-mobile students are unavailable; yet, for inbound internationally-mobile students, more males than females (64 to 36 per cent) studied in Asia-Pacific

universities in 2017. For countries of origin, student migration may enable students to access skills otherwise unavailable in origin countries. As such, student migration can play an important role in country of origin development if skills are used or transferred upon return. However, in many cases, students are seen as potential highly-skilled, long-term immigrants, as well as an important source of income, with countries such as Australia, Japan and Singapore enabling students to stay after graduation (Baas, 2019).

Highly-skilled migrants, with education and skills perceived as valuable, follow different migration paths to low-skilled migrants. Compared to the restrictive policies for migrants in low-status occupations, destination countries actively aim to attract highly-skilled migrants, generally classified as migrants with tertiary education and/or engaged in high-level positions or ones requiring specific technical skills, such as medicine. Countries offer these migrants family reunification, pathways to permanent residence and other incentives. OECD data show that almost 36 million migrants from Asia-Pacific countries were in OECD countries in 2015/16: 19 million women and 17 million men. This represented a rise of around 2 million since 2010/11. Of these migrants, over 14 million (almost 40 per cent) had a tertiary degree and may be considered highly skilled (compared to 13 million, or 37 per cent in 2010/11). India and China supplied the largest groups of highly-skilled migrants: 3.1 million and 2.0 million, respectively, followed by the Philippines (1.8 million). Women made up over half the highly-skilled migrant population in OECD countries: almost 7.6 million migrant women with tertiary degrees, 53 per cent of the population of highly-skilled migrants. The largest number of highly-skilled female migrants came from India (1.4 million), followed by the Philippines (over 1.1 million) and China (almost 1.1 million). The data also indicate that many highly-skilled migrants (over a half of whom women) were not able to effectively use their skills, as they were economically-inactive, unemployed or overqualified for their work.

1.7.4 Refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally-displaced persons

The majority of people voluntarily move in search of a better life. Yet many others, some of whom are stateless and do not have a nationality of any country, move involuntarily. This includes refuges and asylum seekers, forced to cross international borders because of armed conflict or persecution, and internally-displaced persons, displaced within their own countries

by disasters, climate change or conflict. At the end of 2020, over 7.8 million refugees and people in refugee-like situations were estimated to be living in Asia-Pacific countries, representing 38 per cent of the global refugee population under the mandate of UNHCR, and the largest refugee population in the world (UNHCR, 2020). Many more could be considered vulnerable migrants, driven by similar urgency, but without the same recognition. Developing countries continued to shoulder a disproportionately large responsibility for hosting refugees. States across the region maintained their long-standing tradition of hospitality towards refugees, even though only 22 of them had acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (in addition, Turkey had ratified and Fiji and Tuvalu had succeeded). Turkey, followed by Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, were the main countries of asylum in Asia and the Pacific (table 2).

TABLE 2
Top five countries of asylum in the Asia-Pacific region, end-2020

Country of asylum	Population of refugees and people in refugee-like situations, end-2020
Turkey	3,652,362
Pakistan	1,438,940
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	800,025
Bangladesh	866,534
China	303,405

Source: UNHCR (2021). Refugee data finder, available at: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=66ZdS1 (accessed 29 January 2022).

Over 90 per cent of refugees in the region came from three origin countries. The largest number (3.6 million) came from the Syrian Arab Republic; 99 per cent of those who had fled to Asia-Pacific countries were in Turkey (the Asia-Pacific country hosting well over half of the region's refugee population). There were also 2.4 million refugees from Afghanistan, mostly in Pakistan (1.4 million) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (780 thousand), and 1.0 million refugees from Myanmar, primarily in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand (UNHCR, 2021). Demographic data were available for 81 per cent of

the total refugee population in the Asia-Pacific region, equivalent to 6.3 million people. At the end of 2020, available data for the region indicated roughly equal numbers of male and female refugees. Almost 5.0 million refugees in the region had left their country of origin at the end of 2020, over 4.0 million of whom remained within the region.

Five main countries of origin accounted for some 90 per cent of refugees from the region to other parts of the region as well as beyond it (table 3).

TABLE 3
Top five Asian-Pacific countries of origin for refugees, end-2020

Country of asylum	Population of refugees and people in refugee-like situations, end-2020
Afghanistan	2,594,826
Myanmar	1,103,246
Viet Nam	316,728
China	175,361
Sri Lanka	142,662

Source: UNHCR (2021). Refugee data finder, available at: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=66ZdS1 (accessed 29 January 2022)

There were 528,000 asylum seekers in the region at the end of 2020. About 320,000 were in Turkey, while 81,000 were in Australia, about 50,000 were in Malaysia and around 24,000 were in Japan. Approximately 165,000 asylum seekers came from Iraq, followed by 147,000 from Afghanistan (UNHCR, 2021). About 858,000 asylum seekers originated in the region. The largest number (around 239,000) came from Afghanistan, almost 108,000 from China, and about 77,000 from the Islamic Republic of Iran. In practice, asylum claims can take long periods (even years) to process. During this period, asylum seekers may be constrained from working legally and be at risk of arrest and detention, while children seeking asylum may face difficulties accessing education and other services.

At the end of 2020, there were almost 2.3 million stateless people in the region. Most were residing in Bangladesh

(866,000), Myanmar (600,000), Thailand (480,000), Malaysia (111,000) and Uzbekistan (70,000). Most stateless refugees in Bangladesh came from Myanmar. Other stateless persons became so due to factors such as shifting borders, restrictive citizenship laws, and inadequate civil registration and vital statistics systems.

In 2020, the stock of conflict-induced internally-displaced persons was over 4.5 million in the region, with almost 2.9 million in Afghanistan alone. An estimated 2.6 million children (39 per cent) were internally-displaced in Asia-Pacific countries as a consequence of conflict and violence. Some 58 per cent of whom, 1.5 million, were living in Afghanistan (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2020).

Disasters caused almost 20.0 million people to be newly displaced in 2019, with the largest numbers being in India (over 5.0 million), the Philippines and Bangladesh (4.1 million each) and China (4.0 million) (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2020). Although such displacement may be short-term, if internally-displaced persons are unable to return to their communities of origin, or if they remain vulnerable to repeated displacement, they may turn to forms of unsafe, disorderly and irregular international migration. With climate change impacts being expected to accelerate, these risks are likely to increase.

In sum, patterns of human mobility are complex and involve people with different legal statuses and in differing vulnerable situations. A full comprehension of international migration requires understanding the situation of diverse groups of people on the move, such as refugees or stateless persons.

1.7.5 Irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons

Irregular migration occurs alongside regular migration, sharing the same major origin countries, though it is difficult to quantify its numbers. Undocumented migrants, or those in an irregular status, do not fulfil the requirements established by the destination country to enter, stay or exercise an economic activity (United Nations, 1994). Most enter destination countries with required documentation, and then voluntarily or involuntarily enter an irregular status due to violation of permission to stay or reside by overstaying or working without proper documentation due to policy changes or unscrupulous practices by recruiters or employers. Some make use of smugglers, others migrate independently.

While it is motivated by widespread desire to migrate to improve livelihoods or escape destitution, deprivation or environmental degradation, irregular migration is an infringement on a core element of State sovereignty, the right of States to determine who enters and remains in the country. It also introduces numerous risks to migrants, including of abuse and exploitation, along with limited access to services such as health or education. This, as in many cases, has been compound by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unscrupulous employers may use their status to force irregular migrants to work longer hours for lower pay, while irregular migrants may not report such practices for fear of arrest, detention and deportation.

Smuggling of migrants represents a subset of irregular migration. The services provided, for a cost, can include arranging for fraudulent documents and clandestine travel. Migrant smuggling raises concerns for a number of reasons. It can constitute a risk to migrants' health, safety and human rights, especially where clandestine forms of travel are used or where smugglers subject migrants to inhuman or degrading treatment. It is not uncommon for migrants to encounter deceptive recruiters, employment agents or employers who charge steep fees for recruitment, travel and employment opportunities. Some smuggling groups have links to organized criminal or terrorist groups, with profits fuelling other forms of crime and disruption.

Many migrants, however, pay for the services of smugglers because they hope for a better life, despite these risks. For some people fleeing conflict or persecution, smuggling might be perceived as the only choice to reach asylum. For migrant workers, engaging smugglers may be cheaper and faster than going through regular processes (ILO, IOM and Rapid Asia, 2017). Most detected migrants who have been smuggled from the region are young men. Moreover, smugglers are often of the same nationality as the migrants whose movement they facilitate, with linguistic ties being fundamental elements bringing them together. In an unregulated market, a reliable connection is key, and smugglers often aim to establish a relationship to gain trust with migrants (UNODC, 2018).

Migrants in an irregular situation are at high risk of being trafficked. Trafficking differs from smuggling insofar as it need not involve cross-border movement and is defined by exploitation, more so than contravention of laws on movement across international borders for profit. Rather than a separate phenomenon from migration, it represents extremes of exploitation that many migrant workers experience. As with smuggling,

knowing the scale of trafficking is challenging. Globally, an estimated 40 million people live in conditions of modern slavery, nearly 25 million in Asia and the Pacific (ILO and Walk Free Foundation, 2017). Among the world's estimated 4.8 million victims of forced sexual exploitation, 73 per cent are in Asia; they reportedly remain trapped in such situations for an average of two years. Children under age 18 comprise 21 per cent of all victims (ILO and Walk Free Foundation, 2017).

1.7.6 Migration for permanent residence and family reasons

While most migration in the region is temporary, some countries aim to attract migrants for permanent residence and citizenship. The criteria for permanent residency vary, although higher education, skills or willingness to invest are often common factors. Other considerations include marriage, and family formation and reunification; reunification of ethnic groups; humanitarian reasons; or retirement. In some countries, policies enable members of specific ethnic groups to migrate and obtain citizenship. Traditional countries of permanent settlement in the region are Australia and New Zealand. Singapore also attracts migrants who are highly skilled to permanent residence. Countries in South-East Asia attract older persons who intend to retire. Lower costs of living, high-quality services and pleasant climates are some of pull factors, and countries of destination, such as Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand have instituted retirement visas.

1.7.7 Return and circular migration

Most migration in the region is temporary labour migration, hence migrants are expected to return to their origin countries when their contracts end, and the majority of migrants aim to do so (Battistella, 2018). Migrants may return for many reasons. For instance, on achieving their objective, such as acquiring qualifications or reaching a savings aim, or on retirement; due to personal or family circumstances; or on feeling that circumstances in their origin country have evolved in an agreeable way. Alternatively, migrants may be compelled to return due to contracts or visas ending, or crises in their countries of destination. COVID-19 has made numerous migrants from Asia and the Pacific and beyond return to their countries of origin. For many migrants, return may be temporary, and large numbers of migrants engage in circular migration, moving repeatedly between origin and destination country.

1.8 Conclusion

Migration to, from and between countries of the Asia-Pacific region is significant, diverse and growing. People move to: work and support their families; seek education to improve their skills; form or reunify families; seek asylum; settle or re-settle; retire; or return to their country of origin, often only to migrate again. The largest proportion of migrants in Asia and the Pacific are temporary migrant workers. Although the majority of migrant jobs are low-skilled, they form an important part of the labour market of destination countries, and contribute to their development, while remittances support poverty reduction in origin countries. Most people move with adequate documentation; yet, a large number migrate, live and work in irregular situations, potentially being exposed to risks of abuse and exploitation. In extreme circumstances, migrant workers face trafficking, forced labour and modern-day slavery. Even on return to origin countries, migrants often need support to reintegrate and overcome the human rights violations they may have suffered.

Migrants contribute to development of destination countries through work and innovation, frequently providing essential skills and experiences, and linking origin and destination countries for mutual benefit. Migrants able to move in a safe, orderly and regular manner are best placed to make positive contributions. In pursuit of such objectives, United Nations Member States called for "orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration" in the 2030 Agenda, and negotiated and adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The following two chapters, in part II of the report, shed greater light on this from the Asia-Pacific perspective.

PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
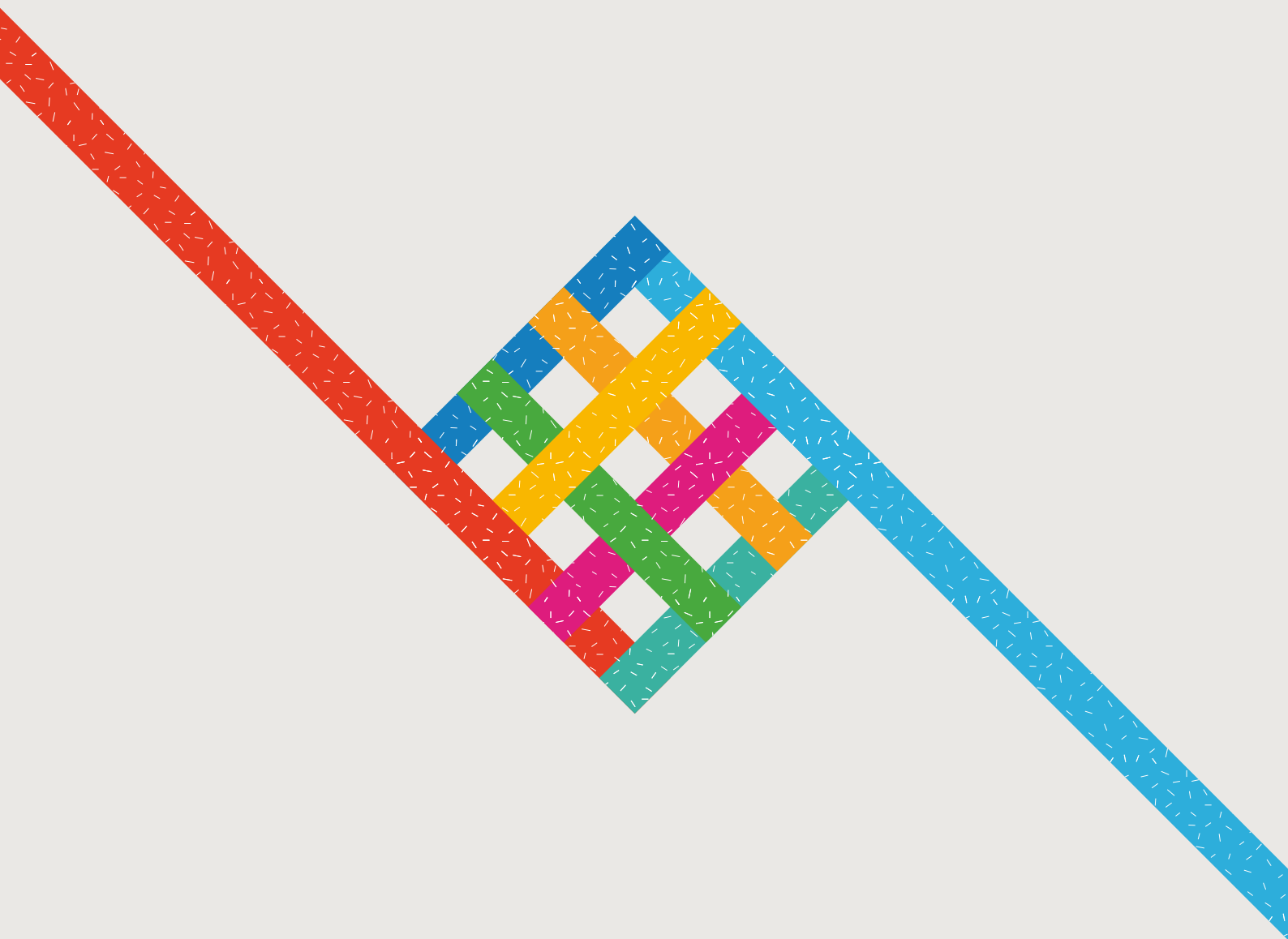
Introduction

This part of the report provides an in-depth analysis of the progress and challenges in implementing the Global Compact for Migration in Asia and the Pacific. The analysis is based on reports and papers prepared for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held from 10 to 12 March 2021 and organized by ESCAP, with support from the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific. Moreover, the report considers member State surveys, meeting deliberations and stakeholder consultations held in the context of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review.

These sources are considered as a basis, first, to synthesize tendencies within the region and reveal patterns of variation among member States regarding: priorities, good practices and successes, lessons learned and challenges. Second, the analysis gives focus to opportunities for addressing capacity gaps in implementing the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. It provides recommendations for building analytic capacity among member States within the Asia-Pacific region for national implementation efforts in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Broad analytic tools of demography are used to identify opportunities for comparative analysis of trends and patterns in migration and migrant integration, and experience within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region. Focus is given to data collection (both quantitative and qualitative), research and analysis of causes and consequences of migration for countries and communities of origin and destination, as well as individual migrants and migrant households.

These results are interpreted in relationship to the general goal of informing member States in Asia and the Pacific about both progress towards and opportunities of continued implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. The theme of capacity-building, informed by analysis, is threaded throughout both the discussion and interpretation of the results, as well as the development of recommendations. Recommendations are presented that seek to express feasible goals and strategies for regional and national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, and, critically, in relationship to coordinating implementation efforts in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

A total of 23 member States responded to a survey on Global Compact for Migration implementation.[3]

As with General Assembly resolution 73/326, of 19 July 2019, the survey was structured according to the clusters of Global Compact for Migration objectives forming the basis of four round tables proposed for the International Migration Review Forum in 2022:

◆ Cluster 1: Ensuring voluntary, regular, safe and orderly migration (Objectives: 2, 5, 6, 12, 18)

◆ Cluster 2: Protecting migrants through rights based border governance and border management measures (Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21)

◆ Cluster 3: Supporting migrants' protection, integration and contribution to development (Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22)

◆ Cluster 4: Strengthening evidence based policy-making, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23)

The survey also asked questions concerning the relationship between national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and progress towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda, national priorities in Global Compact for Migration implementation, the place of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration in regional plans and strategies, the approach to preparation of survey results, and, finally, the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic for Global Compact for Migration implementation, as well as specific support provided to migrants in response to the pandemic. Member State surveys were summarized by ESCAP in a conference room paper submitted to the Asia-Pacific Regional Review (ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2).

The Global Compact for Migration contains 10 cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles, and two of these focus on the whole-of-government and whole-of society approach to implementation. In response, in preparation for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review, four stakeholder consultations were held between October 2020 and February 2021, each addressing one of the four conceptual clusters of Global Compact for Migration objectives. Leadership for organization of the consultations was shared between stakeholders and members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific, with support from ESCAP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The first consultation (on Cluster 1) included about 90 stakeholder participants from

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3   For more information on the survey, see: https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly

20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region; the second consultation (on Cluster 2) included approximately 80 stakeholder participants from 15 countries in the region; the third consultation (on Cluster 3) included around 60 stakeholder participants from 20 countries in the region; and the fourth consultation (on Cluster 4) included approximately 70 stakeholder participants from 20 countries in the region.[4]

The convening of each consultation followed principles of transparency, inclusivity, diversity and meaningful participation. Each convening yielded a summary report, as well as a joint statement from stakeholders, presenting recommendations regarding priorities for implementation aligning with each cluster of Global Compact for Migration objectives. While most of the survey responses submitted by member States referred to the four conceptual clusters, documentation of each of the four stakeholder consultations included assessments of the challenges, good practices and recommendations for each of the individual (23) objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Particular issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic for implementation of the Global Compact for Migration were also addressed by stakeholders for each objective. Consultations among stakeholders were summarized by ESCAP using each of the four conceptual clusters as a framework and submitted to the Asia-Pacific Regional Review (ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2).

The following chapter focuses primarily on priorities and good practices in Global Compact for Migration implementation identified by member States and stakeholders through surveys, consultations and statements at the intergovernmental meeting. Challenges and opportunities for capacity-building are also mentioned. Whereas member States identified opportunities for the further implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Asia and the Pacific, stakeholders made recommendations. The analysis in chapter 2 of the report follows this distinction. This summary is non-exhaustive, and the reader is encouraged to consult the full record of the intergovernmental meeting and the consultations, as well as the national voluntary survey responses posted at: https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly.

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4   For more information on the stakeholder consultations, see: https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly

Chapter 2

Priorities, practices and challenges: Regional and national experiences in implementing the Global Compact for Migration

2.1 Member States

Many of the survey documents submitted by member States in the Asia-Pacific region provide an overview of international migration levels and trends, and in some cases, migration within the country (internal migration). Documentation submitted by the six 'champion countries' is illustrative regarding many of the Global Compact for Migration objectives. For example, Bangladesh recognized labour migration and remittances as core dimensions of national development and relatedly underscored the need for bilateral and multilateral partnerships in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration. Cambodia and also Bangladesh drew attention to the critical place of public and private partnerships in realizing the principles and objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Nepal and Indonesia stressed the vital role of information systems, coordinated and harmonized in a whole-of-government framework, for progress both toward achieving the SDGs and in implementing the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Indonesia illustrated the benefit of integrating social scientific research in processes of implementation. The Philippines identified the Global Compact for Migration as a dominant framework in national migration policy development. Thailand expressed the importance of international partnerships and cooperation in meeting the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, and nationally, the role of migration in sustainable development, in addition to benefits of implementing the Global Compact for Migration for capacity-building throughout national governmental processes and structures.

2.1.1 Priorities

Priorities for implementation of the Global Compact for Migration were expressed by each of the 23 ESCAP member States included in this analysis. Over half of the member States identified priorities for promoting or maintaining migration that is voluntary, orderly and regular (Cluster 1).

◆ Several countries gave priority to implementing systems of national migration governance and regulations that were effective, consistent and comprehensive, and representative of whole-of-government frameworks. For example, Bhutan, Pakistan and Viet Nam gave priority to the monitoring of laws and regulations regarding migrants. Moreover, the following were noted: Kazakhstan would implement the Migration Policy Concept it had developed; Azerbaijan would work to adopt and implement its National Strategy on Migration for 2020—2025;

and the Russian Federation would work to develop a 'migration road map.'

◆ At least five member States (the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Viet Nam and Vanuatu) gave priority to governing migration in relationship to environmental disasters and climate change.

◆ Tonga and Viet Nam underscored the relationships between migration, climate change and economic development as dimensions of migration governance and policy.

◆ Nepal gave priority to national policy embodying relationships between migration and development.

◆ Some member States (Indonesia, Myanmar and Tajikistan) gave priority to the role of national policies and administrative support for national migrant workers abroad and processes of overseas employment.

All member States endorsed the need to address the challenge of human trafficking and smuggling, issues inherent in Cluster 2, addressing the protection of migrants through rights-bases border governance and regulation. Approximately one third of member States had established specific priorities for strengthening measures to protect migrants at risk of exploitation.

◆ Malaysia had established itself as a regional leader, 'Lead Shepherd,' in addressing the challenge of human trafficking and smuggling.

◆ Both the Philippines and Sri Lanka identified the reduction of obstacles, and improvement in consistency in the regulation of migrant documentation and permits as priorities in the protection of migrants.

◆ Turkmenistan recognized the importance of strengthening support from consular offices abroad in the protection of emigrants; Uzbekistan identified the risks of overseas workers as a priority.

◆ Vanuatu similarly recognized the risks in human trafficking among overseas workers as well as migrants within the nation.

Priorities regarding the integration of migrants within nations and migrant contributions to development (Cluster 3) were expressed by over one third of member States with foci on access of migrants and their households to social services and on the significance of remittances from overseas migrant workers to national development.

◆ Bhutan, Malaysia, Mongolia and Sri Lanka underscored the significance of equal access among migrants and migrant households to national services: health care, education and judicial systems.

◆ Sri Lanka and Thailand identified the significance of documenting the contributions and achievements of migrants to national welfare and development.

◆ Kazakhstan gave priority to monitoring the dynamic relationship among migration, migrant contributions and development; Turkmenistan recognized the diversity of migration, and hence the diversity of effects of migration for national development; Uzbekistan gave priority to understanding the causes and consequences of emigration for national development.

Priorities for improving value-driven and evidence-based policy and public debate on migration, and promoting international cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (Cluster 4) were expressed by approximately half of responding member States. Their statements underscored the need for harmonization of national information systems regarding migration, as well as international and regional cooperation for national progress in the implementation of the value-driven objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.

◆ Several member States reported on specific initiatives regarding data collection concerning migration and migrants. For example, Mongolia gave priority to the need for more information on rural to urban migration within the country and the potential role of registration systems for internal migrants and movers.

◆ Kazakhstan gave priority to monitoring and evaluation of migration and national migration processes; the Russian Federation similarly had advanced the role of data and evidence in national policy evaluation.

◆ Malaysia had advanced the need for a Global Knowledge Base regarding international migration, and labour migration in particular.

◆ Tajikistan drew specific attention to the need for research on processes of irregular migration to inform national policy.

2.1.2 Good practices and lessons learned

Survey responses and statements by member States offered extensive information on initiatives and good practices and, to a lesser extent, lessons learned. Below

are themes aligning with initiatives and practices which strengthen the foundation of evidence and international and regional cooperation in implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

Nearly all member States reported undertaking steps to strengthen the foundations for voluntary, orderly and regular migration policies and programmes aligning with Cluster 1.

◆ Member States identified initiatives related to monitoring, assessment and oversight of policies and programmes addressing safe and orderly migration. From its experience in implementing a planning perspective regarding migration and national development, Mongolia noted the role of research in effective migration policy formation and analysis; Nepal had encouraged local governments to assess levels and dimensions of unemployment in relationship to migration.

◆ Members States (including Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu) had advanced registration systems for migrants, and labour migrants in particular, to strengthen migration policy effectiveness; Myanmar recognized similar value of online applications for migrant workers in relationship to effective safe migration; Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan identified the value of civil registration for monitoring national population movements.

◆ Within East and North-East Asia, both Japan and the Republic of Korea had implemented initiatives to address the role of crises in producing migration and displacement: Japan had provided regional support to foster responses to crises and promoted national and community resilience, while the Republic of Korea had participated in research and data sharing regarding environmental disasters.

The protection of migrants and specifically the reduction of vulnerabilities of migrants to human trafficking and smuggling (Cluster 2) finds a range of initiatives and activities reported by nearly all member States. The role of information systems and information gathering at borders and upon entry of migrants was identified by several member States as an important dimension of protection of migrants and migrant rights.

◆ Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea noted the significance of systematic information in border management in relationship to risks to the human rights of migrants, including monitoring the rights of detainees.

◆ The Philippines underscored the necessity of harmonization of information systems in establishing protections.

◆ Many member States gave focus to evidence-based measures to address human trafficking and smuggling. For example, Japan and Malaysia underscored the critical role of bilateral exchange of information regarding smuggling and human trafficking.

◆ Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Turkey described the role of data and research in monitoring human trafficking, violence towards migrants and experiences of migrants.

◆ Clarity of administrative processes and information concerning migration policy and benefits for migrants was identified as a component of migrant protection by Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Vanuatu.

Good practices supporting the integration of migrants and their contributions to development (Cluster 3) were identified by a number of member States. A theme interwoven in the responses was the significance of access to social services (health and education, specifically) and employment in relation to integration and the positive effects of migration for national socioeconomic development.

◆ Several member States illustrated the role of monitoring, research and analysis regarding the experience of migrants in accessing services, including Bangladesh, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Tonga, Turkmenistan and Viet Nam. The Russian Federation underscored the need for coordination among governmental units in promoting access of migrants to services.

◆ Japan and Turkey each described the value of research on acceptance of/bias towards migrants within society and communities; the Philippines underscored the need to understand issues of mental health among migrants; Pakistan identified the value of understanding the expectations of those intending to migrate in order to provide effective support.

◆ Information on national diasporic populations was valued by several member States, including the need for research and analysis on the flow, or lack thereof, of remittances and access to social security programmes in the country of emigration (for example, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam).

◆ Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu noted the value of bilateral cooperation concerning the contributions and experiences of migrants; Vanuatu appreciated the need for international cooperation regarding training of migrants, particularly at the university level.

◆ Several member States described outreach initiatives to integrate migrants and also reintegrate returning migrants. Armenia had established Migration Resource Centres; Kazakhstan described the role of Public Service Centres serving migrants in communities throughout the country.

Good practices in value-driven and evidence-based policy and public debate on migration, and promoting international cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (Cluster 4) were reported by member States in terms of characteristics of national data sources, administrative research programmes (including databases), and processes and approaches to data gathering. In terms of approaches to data gathering, the Republic of Korea was notably committed to inclusion of the opinions of migrants in national policy debates and analysis; the National Policy Advice Committee represented a clear expression of value-driven policy aligned with the principle of people-centredness.

◆ Several member States highlighted national data sources (censuses, national survey, and population and migrant databases) in relation to evidence-based policy analysis (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Tonga). The Philippines had introduced the rationale, goals and value of its inaugural National Migration Survey as an input to evidence-based policy.

◆ Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam similarly described specific research programmes. For example, Sri Lanka noted the value of research on the demand for skills in national sectors; Pakistan identified the need for research on those intending to migrate; Viet Nam underscored the importance of generating research on the causes and drivers of migration within the nation and the region. As noted in the discussion of Cluster 3, several member States expressed the importance of research on remittances, and the experiences of migrants and the diaspora in accessing social services.

◆ Sri Lanka noted the value added of bilateral analysis of international migration processes and dynamics. Indonesia and the Philippines had documented the

importance of harmonizing data concepts and measures within national sources, endorsing a whole-of government perspective and approach.

◆ Several member States (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea) provided examples of the role of the scientific community (particularly population research centres/institutes) in contributing to empirical analysis of migration processes and policy issues.

2.1.3 Capacity-building

Member States reported building strong national capacities to support, directly or indirectly, implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Regarding national policies and programmes to ensure voluntary and safe migration (Cluster 1), member States reported and illustrated investments in information systems and technology, training, management and administration, and bilateral cooperation.

◆ Bhutan and the Republic of Korea described efforts in training of officials in migration policy and administration.

◆ Bhutan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkmenistan described examples of increased effectiveness in administrative infrastructure for migration, particularly labour migration. Uzbekistan noted the establishment of offices in the Republic of Korea and in the Russian Federation as orientation centres for emigrant workers. The Russian Federation reported developing processes to receive and respond to asylum applications. Indonesia identified the increasing role of information systems in supporting national migrant workers abroad.

◆ Azerbaijan had provided leadership in regional progress in bilateral cooperation regarding migrants. Kazakhstan reported fostering bilateral relationships concerning refugee migration.

Capacities for protecting the rights and welfare of migrants through border management and governance (Cluster 2) align in similar ways with investments reported for Cluster 1 and include trainings, administrative processes, bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and research.

◆ Training of officials to identify processes and vulnerabilities to human trafficking and smuggling were described by Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar

('Safe Migration' training), Tonga, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu.

◆ Strengthening of administrative processes and infrastructure at borders, including through information technologies, were strategies reported by Mongolia and Viet Nam. Bangladesh reported on efforts to increase access to information by migrants to aid in protection.

◆ Development of bilateral relationships in protecting migrants between and among member States were reported by the Philippines, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Shared information on border crossing with India was reported by Nepal.

◆ Research capacities were recognized as a dimension of national capacities to protect migrants by Mongolia and Tajikistan.

Capacity-building to promote integration of migrants and amplify the role of migrants and migration in national development (Cluster 3) were noted as being well aligned and included investment in training and convenings and research, as well as programmes and resources to support the experience of diaspora and reintegration of returning migrants.

◆ Efforts to expand capacity of teachers and schools regarding cultural diversity were described by the Republic of Korea, along with trainings, addressing the relationship between migration and national development; Japan noted convenings on dimensions of the integration of migrations within the country; Armenia reported conducting workshops on similar issues.

◆ Programmes to support the integration of migrants and also the positive experience of national workers overseas were reported by Armenia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Turkey. In addition, programmes to support reintegration of returning migrants were reported by Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

◆ Research on the contributions of migrants and migration to development were reported by several member States. Armenia noted the dissemination of research on international migration and indicators of migration and development; Pakistan and Tonga reported engagement of research on remittances; Turkey described research on belonging in the context of national society.

Capacities reported to promote the use of evidence in national policy analysis (Cluster 4) complemented the advances presented above.

◆ Training in migration research was underscored by Armenia as a critical dimension of the capacity for evidence-based policy analysis.

◆ Specific national initiatives and perspectives for building statistical capacities in support of evidence-based migration policy analysis were described by Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines. Bangladesh had developed an integrated database on migrant workers that held potential for longitudinal analysis (see below); Indonesia underscored the value of administrative data resources for purposes of research (also noted below); the Philippines discussed the potential of its National Migration Survey to complement, through harmonization, other national information and data systems for purposes of enhancing the evidence base for policy.

◆ The role of unified systems of information on population movements, both for international and internal migrants, was recognized by the Russian Federation and Vanuatu. The Russian Federation presented the concept of 'human capital accounting' in relationship to population flows. Tonga drew upon efforts integrating climatic and environmental change in analysis of population movements.

2.1.4 Challenges

Challenges to the implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration were expressed throughout surveys submitted by member States, with the need for more, and more relevant data for programme and policy design, monitoring and evaluation highlighted. Understanding of national migration policy and policy issues among Government officials was expressed as a challenge (for example, Pakistan), as was sharing of information regarding migrants and migration within and among national government offices, as well as at different levels of government administration (for example, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation). Engagement of embassies in support of diaspora was also identified as a challenge (for example, the Philippines), as were bilateral coordination regarding social security (for example, Indonesia), and effective policy and programme implementation in the face of variation in scale, characteristics and processes of migration regionally within countries (for example, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea).

Countries and international organizations noted the particular vulnerabilities of women migrants and children, including those working in the informal sector. Access to services, especially health and education, and the protection of migrants' rights and dignity regardless of their status remained a challenge. Some migrants faced problems regarding their legal identity, and had encountered human rights violations, abuse and exploitation. Access to legal services and migration information was limited for many migrants and their families. Providing safe, orderly and regular migration pathways was important and costs related to migration remained high, while skills training and professional development for migrant workers was often limited. Detention of child migrants, along with other migrant detention, remained a challenge in some countries in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic had hindered the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, while also serving as a timely call for countries in Asia and the Pacific to accelerate its implementation.

2.1.5 Opportunities

Member States recognized opportunities for new steps and approaches to implement the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Indonesia recognized the value of analytic potential of national administrative data systems (for example, civil and vital registration systems, and permit systems) for statistical analysis of migration patterns, trends and impacts. Several member States (including Viet Nam) identified opportunities for data and statistical coordination as a component of evidence-based policy analysis. Similarly significant was recognition by the Republic of Korea of opportunities to generally integrate issues concerning migration and migrants into national policy analysis and formulation. Relatedly, Turkey had invited national stock-taking of the achievements and contributions of migrants and migration within countries. The Russian Federation had advanced the framework of 'human capital accounting' to be integrated with other processes of national and subnational development. Tonga noted opportunities for collaboration with private sector entities, for example, with banks and regarding the flow and impacts of remittances.

As an apposite conclusion, and with a connection to expanding analytic resources (Chapter 3), Kazakhstan observed that the identification of gaps in national capacities could be imagined as challenges to be addressed, and thus, opportunities to advance national progress to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Moreover, the value of causes and correlates of migration for evidence-based policies

were expressed by Mongolia vis-à-vis human trafficking and smuggling, and by Tonga regarding the relationship between environmental and climatic change and migration and displacement.

2.2 Stakeholders

As with the surveys and statements submitted by member States, documents available from stakeholder consultations are useful in giving focus to practices and potentialities for implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration through evidence-based actions and approaches to monitoring and evaluation.

A strong characteristic of the inputs received from stakeholders was emphasis on empirical grounding for initiatives: the role of information and data analysis in effective migration policy implementation, the role of monitoring and evaluation of initiatives, and the importance of sharing information and data among member States, within governments and with the public, and migrants specifically. Stakeholders also underscored the role of research to address drivers of migration, and more importantly, variability in outcomes of migration at different aggregate scales and between migrants.

2.2.1 Priorities

The joint stakeholder statements focusing on all four clusters of Global Compact for Migration objectives expressed overarching priorities, as noted below:

- To ensure that migration is voluntary, regular, safe and orderly, States should put greater emphasis on rights-based and intersectional migration governance, ensuring access to justice and services to all migrants regardless of status.

- To protect migrants through rights-based border governance and border management measures, States should ensure they have access to suitable legal identity, accurate and accessible information, and accessible compliant mechanisms.

- To support the integration of migrants and their contribution to development, States should ensure legal and policy frameworks are in compliance with ILO Core Conventions for migrant workers and their families and promote inclusive narratives recognizing the positive contributions of migrants.

- To improve value-driven and evidence-based

policymaking and public debate, and to enhance cooperation on migration, States should ensure a transparent and inclusive data collection process, and that migrants are informed and empowered at every stage of their journey (Introductory Stakeholder Statement, 2021, 1-2).

Additional priorities were expressed in statements by stakeholders participating in the consultations. Critical themes were generated concerning the role of information, evidence, analysis and research in implementation of Global Compact for Migration objectives.

- For example, regarding Cluster 1, stakeholders advocated giving priority to the implications of crises and disasters for regional and national migration and displacement, as well as for migration policies and responses. They also noted that the inter-generational effects of displacement should be understood in relationship to education and health, as well as trauma.

- Statements from stakeholders regarding priorities in the protection of human rights of migrants (Cluster 2) included the importance of consultation with civil society and the collection of data from stakeholders regarding human trafficking and smuggling. They further noted that there should be progress to expand legal frameworks regarding refugee migration and asylum to include displacement from the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

- Stakeholders also gave priority to operationalizing the role of city and local governments in migration governance for implementing objectives concerning integration and contributions of migrants (Cluster 3)

- In advocating strongly for the priority of timely and accurate data on migration as a foundation for policy (Cluster 4), stakeholders underscored the specific need for data processes of protection and access to social services among the most vulnerable groups of migrants.

2.2.2 Good practices and lessons learned

Stakeholders presented a series of examples of good practices and lessons learned across each of the four clusters, as follows:

- Regarding Cluster 1, the use of information technology for effective and safe labour migration as well as combatting human trafficking was noted.

Illustrations included the value of partnerships involving civil society organizations and businesses in improving processes of labour migration and migrant employment. Stakeholders also noted the benefit of involving partnership between member States and regarding flow and exchange of information on migrant workers. Stakeholders also recognized various voluntary regional dialogue processes, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Forum on Migrant Labour and different regional consultative processes.

◆ Concerning Cluster 2, the significance of cities as actors in migration governance was illustrated through the case of Quezon City, the Philippines, and its registry of migrants. Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the potential for information technology to inform and support migrants. Other examples included initiatives among civil society to address missing and deceased migrants; local efforts to support victims of human trafficking and smuggling; and international cooperation to establish formal agreements, such as bilateral memoranda of understanding, regarding the rights of migrants and combatting human trafficking. Stakeholders also highlighted the usefulness of rights-based training of border officials, including on gender-responsive and child-sensitive law enforcement. There was also recognition of a global campaign dedicated to identifying people missing in connection with conflicts, natural disasters or migration, and bilateral memorandums of understanding on the protection of child migrants and how these contributed to cross-border child protection.

◆ For Cluster 3, cases cited included Bangladesh in engaging consulates to increase and improve the flow of information to migrants regarding access to services and resources, implementation of community information systems to monitor poverty at the local level (the Philippines' Community Based Monitoring System), and statistical initiatives to include questions on migration in national survey instruments. The bilateral transfers of information regarding migrant worker contracts were also presented. Some destination countries had also allowed migrant children, irrespective of their status, to enrol in public schools, and other countries had provided early childhood education for children of migrants and migrant children. Stakeholders further reported that some countries had adopted legislation on overseas workers which had established a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers and their families.

◆ In the context of Cluster 4, examples of local data bases inclusive of migrants, and the activities of local civil society organizations in profiling migrant populations and their contributions were described in relationship to evidence-based migration governance. Stakeholders also recognized the value of addressing migration in national surveys. The bilateral transfers of information regarding migrant worker contracts were also presented. National human rights commissions were collaborating in different countries with governments in monitoring the situation of undocumented migrants. Technology had been used increasingly to protect migrant workers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some countries had conducted campaigns on the regularization of undocumented migrant workers and had extended work permits.

2.2.3 Challenges

Among stakeholders, some of the main challenges to implementing safe and effective migration were as follows:

◆ The lack of consultation regarding migration policy and programmes between government offices and civil society organizations, as well as across levels of government – national, regional and local were noted (Cluster 1). Challenges also included the lack of effective labour market analysis and consistency in skills assessment among groups of workers. Several countries in the region had not ratified relevant international human rights and labour law frameworks. Irregular migration was common, creating vulnerable situations for migrants. Because of gender-specific barriers and limitations, women migrant workers were often pushed into irregular migration. In some countries, migrant workers were prohibited from joining unions, which affected decent work conditions, and the protection of migrants in the context of mixed migration movements remained a challenge. In some countries, a lack of uniform skills-based assessment frameworks and of mutual skill recognition schemes, as well as high costs of formal recognition and translation of documents, were barriers to skills development, the recognition of skills and their transferability.

◆ Consistent with priorities to recognize climate change and environmental disasters as drivers of migration and displacement, stakeholders underscored the implications of the omission of these drivers in legal frameworks for the protection and human rights of migrants (Cluster 2). Challenges to registration of children of migrants in irregular and

other vulnerable statuses within countries existed in the context of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, as well as relevant SDGs to provide legal identity to all persons. Weaknesses in bilateral and international coordination of information regarding missing and deceased migrants remained a challenge. Stakeholders also noted the lack of effective monitoring and coordination systems to support migrants in need and save lives. Dignified return of migrants, particularly of women migrants and migrant children, was a relevant challenge, with a call for cooperation and coordination between countries to support return migrants. There was limited knowledge sharing on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling within and among countries, which hampered dialogue, coordination and the development of policies and practices. While some countries had developed policies to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, their implementation remained a challenge. There was also limited knowledge-sharing on these issues among countries, including with civil society organizations which were active on the ground.

- Weaknesses in national plans and planning to include migrants and migration were recognized as a challenges to the promotion of integration within society (Cluster 3). Also identified were the lack of data on the role of migration in national and regional development and the lack of consultation with stakeholders and civil society in both data collection and dissemination of information. There were limited resources and lack of coordination between consular representatives and authorities of countries of destination, resulting in a lack of effective support and protection to migrants. Restrictions in freedom of association, inability to contribute to and obtain social security and limited access to affordable and safe housing and independent and unbiased legal aid remained challenges.

- Challenges and implications of weaknesses in data resources were underscored regarding migration and migrants, with note of limited common migration definitions, indicators and approaches to analysis among and within countries. Regional and rural-urban differences in statistical and technological infrastructure posed challenges for data collection that was nationally relevant and representative. The lack of understanding differences in vulnerabilities and utilization of the agency of migrants in promoting integration and inclusion of migrants within society were identified as further challenges to implementing Cluster 4. The dearth of

user-friendly digital and reliable information channels was listed as a key barrier to the wide dissemination of accurate and timely data and information for migrants. Moreover. there was a risk that misinformation was spread via some social media channels, which had been the case in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The statement by one participant concerning the relationship between science and policy is worth quoting: "… on climate change there was a lack of linking scientific evidence with social science forecasts on demographic trends influenced by climate change. If combined, this information would support long-term planning at national and regional levels in the region" (Asia-Pacific Global Compact for Migration Review Stakeholders Report/2021.4, p. 5).

2.2.4 Recommendations

Recommendations generated by stakeholders for each of the four clusters of Global Compact for Migration objectives, with a focus on improving the evidence base for policymaking and capacity-building, are listed below:

Regarding Cluster 1, it was noted that there was need to:

- Increase meaningful consultation with civil society concerning migration
- Improve consultation across different government offices and levels
- Conduct research on labour market trends to identify needs skills and skills development
- Conduct research on causes and consequences of migration
- Improve regulation and monitoring of recruitment agencies
- Collect timely, relevant data on the protection and vulnerability of migrants
- Collect the stories of migrants regarding their life and lived experiences

Concerning Cluster 2, there was a call to:

- Provide documentation for all migrants
- Develop more comprehensive perspectives on border governance to include the complexities of motivations for migration
- Build human rights capacities within border governance and management
- Promote the registration of births to migrants
- Promote programmes of reintegration of returning migrant workers and households

- Conduct and share research on causes of human trafficking, and community perspectives on migration and migrants
- Document live experiences of victims of human trafficking

In relation to Cluster 3, attention was drawn to the need to:

- Develop indicators of migrant integration
- Monitor processes of integration and access to protective and social services
- Conduct analyses of the use of remittances at the local and community level, and on the contributions of migrants to local communities
- Support work of consulates in promoting civil registration of migrants in host countries
- Determine needs of migrants in host countries and communities

With regard to Cluster 4, of note was the need to:

- Provide comprehensive and inclusive conceptualization of migration and migrants
- Recognize the complexity of the migration experience
- Ensure comprehensive and uniform systems of data collection and analysis within and among countries, respecting privacy and safety concerns of migrants and their families
- Monitor compliance with migration policy and laws pertaining to migrants at all levels of government
- Conduct research on causes of attitudes toward migrants
- Address the dissemination of misinformation about migrants and migration, and disseminate accurate information about contributions of migrants and migration

Chapter 3

Building analytic resources: Emergent opportunities for regional
and national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

3.1 Four themes for enhancing regional and national implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

The analysis of member State surveys and statements, and statements and summary documents from stakeholder consultations generated themes regarding the role of evidence-based processes of implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Throughout the voluntary review process, both member States and stakeholders noted the significance of empirical foundations for progress toward objectives in extant policy and programmes as well as embedding evidentiary processes within initiatives.

Member States, including 'champion countries,' and stakeholders demonstrated strong interest and activities consistent with the integral role of evidence-based approaches to pursuing safe, orderly and regular migrations. The analysis now turns to the 'measurement' of emergent themes regarding the empirical foundation for implementation of the Global Compact for Migration objectives to identify how the extant resources of member States and stakeholders can be tapped to support national and regional migration governance and management.

Four emergent themes are considered as opportunities for regional and national implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration: 1) analytic resources and capacities; 2) comparative analysis; 3) theories, models and forecasts; and 4) capacity-building through partnerships, training and communication of information and evidence.

3.2 Analytic resources and capacities

Analytic resources and capacities are conceptualized here to include: sources of data and data collection relevant for the analysis of migration and groups of migrants; concepts and definitions of migration and migrants; characteristics and indicators of migrants and migration; and research design.

From the perspective of national demographic accounting, sources of data and data collection initiatives relevant for the analysis of international migration include national censuses and surveys, and civil and vital registration systems. In the responses to the voluntary review surveys, a number of member States specifically identified national censuses as sources of data on international migration, for example:

- The Philippines described the inaugural National Migration Survey and underscored the analytic importance, and value, of coordinating this with the other statistical programmes of the Philippine Statistical Authority.

- Azerbaijan and Vanuatu noted their passenger surveys and how these held potential to generate statistical information on international migrants and returning nationals.

Many member States described the development of registration systems for migrants, or subgroups of migrants such as workers, and children born to migrants. For example:

- Azerbaijan indicated it planned to link its Unified Migration Information System to the State Statistical System.

- Kazakhstan noted that its system of unified registration of migrants monitored entry and exit, and also generated information on reasons for migration.

- Both Indonesia and Pakistan reported how they had generalized the potential of administrative data systems for demographic analyses of migrants and migration.

From the perspective of measuring and monitoring the impacts of migration on national development processes, there is merit to harmonizing definitions among information sources. This would provide an evidentiary foundation for national planning regarding assessing the role of migration in development and in identifying emerging migration dynamics holding potential consequences for social, economic and environmental change. Harmonization of national statistical definitions of migration need not fulfil the statutory or administration requirements of particular policies or programmes, but would benefit from common demographic criteria, for example, country of birth or citizenship, as a basis for considering the impacts of migration on national processes of development and change, and as considered below, international and regional processes and relationships.

Similarly, characteristics of migrants and indicators of migration documented in information or administrative data systems reflect the requirements of the particular policy or programme being implemented. Developing the potential for common definitions of migration using demographic criteria is similarly enhanced when partnered with core characteristics

to foster comparison among programmes, and when considering the impact of migration on national development. Harmonization of indicators of migration to reflect national goals and priorities for planning and potential includes indicators of geography (for example, country of birth and citizenship, country of last residence, location within country of migration), social demography (such as age, gender, marital status, family and household composition), and human resources (for instance, reasons for migration, indicators of education, training and occupation, marital and household composition). Many member States completing the survey were explicit in recognizing the critical analytic value of harmonization of migration data collected by government offices and the coordination of statistical and administrative systems pertaining to migrants.

Research design and analysis are introduced here as an emergent dimension of national analytic resources to provide national goals, priorities and planning relevant to migration. The main issue is that of effectively representing migrants and migration in the context of national processes and population analysis, and, fundamentally, as the denominator of proportions, ratios and rates.

Any valid assessment of the role of migrants and migration in national economic sectors and the impact of migration on educational institutions, housing or local environments, and even population change, as examples, requires comparison to the relevant populations or communities subject to, or 'at risk,' employing a demographic lens, of those relationships or impacts. Comparison of migrants to nationals, for instance, by total numbers or by age and gender, measures migrant differentials, namely differences between migrants relative to specific national, regional or community populations or groups. For example, the age characteristics of migrants in a locality may be different to the age characteristics of the resident population in the place of destination. Comparison of the characteristics of migrants relative to the population of origin measures migration selectivity. For instance, comparison of educational levels of a national diaspora to a national population of origin represents a measure of the educational selectivity of emigration from a country.

Analyses of migrant difference and selection yield descriptive results that ultimately hold potential for developing explanations of variation among migrant groups and communities at one point in time, or patterns of variation emerging over time in relationship other national and regional processes of change.

Many member States described policies and programmes to promote access among migrants to available national social services, such as health, education and other forms of social support (see, as examples, the Philippines, Turkey and Viet Nam). Analysis of use of social services by migrants may, or may not, be different from use of the same services by non-migrants. Comparison of migrants with non-migrants in use of services provides a framework for assessing met and unmet need (among both groups) and potential understanding of whether migration status is a factor in relative use or other factors are also at play in migration differentials. Nepal noted interest in the health status of Nepalese migrants in host countries, which could be assessed relative to health among the host population (again, migration differentials) or to health of the Nepali population (migration selectivity). Several other member States expressed interest in the impacts of migrant remittances on communities of origin (see, as examples, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu). One of the analytic challenges in the study of migrant remittances is to place these within the framework of other sources of investments in communities and households, and ongoing trends in community development over time. These analytic challenges are also characteristic of research on the reintegration of returning migrant workers in national and local society, which was expressed by several member States (see, as examples, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nepal). These cases are illustrative of the analytic benefit of comparisons, and the relevance of research design guiding data collection and analysis that is derived from specification of policy questions.

The critical value of national census or nationally representative survey data for national and subnational analyses of difference and selection put into context the significance of harmonization and coordination of definitions and indicators of migration and migrants with characteristics of national and subnational populations. Developing measures of the salient comparison ultimately reflects national policy and programme goals, and the research or analytic questions that derive from these goals.

3.3 Comparative analysis

A second theme that emerges from the present analysis builds on the previous discussion concerning comparative analysis of trends, patterns and characteristics of migration and migrants, but shifts the focus to bilateral and multilateral comparisons of migration and migrants. The United Nations Statistical Commission

has established Expert Groups to develop recommendations for statistics on migration and on refugees, respectively.[5] The Expert Groups have reported the results of their deliberations and recommend the consideration by Member States of standardized statistical definitions of migrants and also the collection of data on common core indicators and characteristics of migrants.

The framework on international migration statistics reflects, to a certain degree, a social demographic perspective on international migration (giving focus to lifetime migration, country of birth and length of stay as criteria for international migration), but also acknowledges the salience of citizenship and residence in national data sources on international migration and population movements. The goals of these international recommendations are to complement national statistical and information practices regarding migrants and refugees for purposes of national planning and policy analysis (as described above) and to foster international and interregional analysis of international migration dynamics and the bilateral exchange of statistical information on levels, trends and characteristics of migration flows and stocks.

The questions of the voluntary review survey did not generate specific acknowledgement of international statistical frameworks for international migration and refugee migration. The Philippines did state, however, that bilateral cooperation in information sharing would benefit the work of the Philippine Statistical Authority. Moreover, as noted above, there were expressions of receptivity to harmonization of data within national statistical and administrative systems, and potentially even more forcefully, support for bilateral exchange of information, as well as the conduct of research. Nearly every member State advocated for more meaningful exchange of information regarding migration flows, especially concerning labour migration (Malaysia's Global Knowledge Base is a case in point), but also around issues of trafficking in persons and smuggling (notably the contribution by Japan) and refugees (see, for example, Kazakhstan). Collaborative research around issues concerning the nexus between migration and sustainable development was also articulated by several member States.

Relatedly, international and regional comparison of migration dynamics, including causes and consequences of migration within national contexts, was supported by a world migration survey, an initiative advanced and reinvigorated by the International Union

for the Scientific Study of Population. Building on the model, and record of value, of programmes of the World Fertility Survey, followed by Demographic and Health Surveys, a world migration survey would embody the conduct of a representative national survey of migrants and non-migrants within participating countries using a core questionnaire (along with modules customized for national and regional policy and analytic goals) to yield data that are internationally comparable. As envisioned by the aforementioned International Union, the world migration survey would provide the foundation for analysis of the causes of migration (given the potential for measurement of migration selectivity), as well as the consequences of migration at the national and subnational levels through measurement of migrant differentials for critical characteristics (Cerrutti and others, 2021). The incorporation of migration modules or selected questionnaire items into existing national survey instruments or programmes holds strong analytic potential in this regard.

3.4 Theories, models and forecasts

A third emergent theme is the role of migration theory, modelling and forecasting in relationship to drivers for the implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. Several member States noted the value of understanding the drivers of different forms of migration and the potential of developing resources for forecasting and prediction of migration in relationship to those drivers.

These analytic themes were generated in relationship to both environmentally-induced migration and displacement (see, for example, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Vanuatu and Viet Nam), as well as the outcomes of processes of migration for progress in sustainable development (see, for example, Armenia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand) and trafficking in persons and smuggling (Japan and Mongolia). Stakeholders, too, noted the role of research on causes of migration, and specifically, migrant vulnerabilities and risks in safe and regular migration. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and Tonga considered the role of modelling and 'mapping' environmental hazards and climate change in relation to migration outcomes. Tajikistan identified the need for understanding changing labour markets and migration in the future.

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5   See: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/task-forces/ and https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/news/egris

3.5 Capacity-building through partnerships, training and communication of information and evidence

Theory development and modelling the relationships between migration and sustainable development represent a robust area for fostering partnerships among national governments and civil society, an emergent dimension of capacity-building regarding the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration within and among member States. As described previously, several member States identified the role of scientific centres and institutes in contributing to the collection of data and analysis concerning migration patterns and processes (see, as examples, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey). Stakeholders also reported good practices in terms of partnerships with governments on specific initiatives. An opportunity that emerged from these good practices was more comprehensive collaboration and also delegation of research and analysis, both descriptive and explanatory, to nongovernmental organizations for completion and communication.

A corollary to more dedicated research and analysis concerning migration and development processes is the amplification of social scientific skills throughout both government and nongovernmental organizations. The call by governments for proposals for research and analysis, as well as responses to those calls, require informed perspectives on migration dynamics and policy issues within countries. In this context, many member States recognized the need for training among government officials concerning migration and national migration policy and administration, including structures and processes to address trafficking in persons and smuggling (see, for example, Bhutan, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tonga and Turkmenistan). Training among government officials in the measurement, analysis and research on migration was not widely noted by member States and represents an opportunity to alter political and administrative cultures in order to embrace evidence-based migration governance and management, respectively.

Effective dissemination of evidence – results of monitoring and evaluation of extant policies and programmes, as well as results of research initiatives concerning migration – was addressed by some member States and stakeholders, primarily in terms of the value of exchange of information between and among countries and also among government offices within countries. Timely and systematic communication of analyses of patterns and trends in migration emerged as a component of the cycle of evidence-based policy analysis to inform national and regional progress in implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and to inform public debate (see, for example, Armenia, Cambodia, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam).

3.6 Interpretation and discussion

The results of this analysis have revealed emergent analytic themes regarding the progress toward implementation of the Global Compact for Migration among member States and stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific. Member States and stakeholders expressed, with clarity, priorities in moving forward. Although challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was energy, momentum and innovation in efforts to implement the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, informed and inspired by the guiding principles, particularly the adoption of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implementation. Several member States reported that the Global Compact for Migration served as a guiding framework in national planning regarding migration, and the relationship between migration and sustainable development (see, for example, Mongolia, the Philippines and Viet Nam).

A wide range of initiatives, in the form of good practices and lessons learned, in strengthening the knowledge and evidence base for safe, orderly and regular migration governance and policy have been generated through the documentation considered above. Good practices take the form of, among others, development of registration systems for migrants, monitoring and evaluation of programmes to provide social support and information to migrants, and bilateral exchange of information.

Emergent themes reveal the potential for strengthening the role of evidence to inform public policy and private programmes in fostering safe, orderly and regular migration and to protect migrants within the context of sustainable national and regional development. These themes are grouped as analytic resources and capacities; comparative analysis; migration theory, models and forecasts; and partnerships, training and communication of information and evidence. Several member States and stakeholders are moving to actively realize these opportunities for migration analysis: harmonizing migration concepts and measures within administrative systems; engaging international recommendations on migration statistics; considering variations in migration, among groups, geographies and over time; modelling the causes and consequences of migration at different levels – regionally, nationally and locally; building partnerships

with civil society; and fostering international and regional cooperation in research, analysis and communication of information about migration and migration.

3.7 Recommendations: Building analytic capacities for implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

Specific recommendations to promote national capacities for evidenced based implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration that are derived from this analysis can be developed to bridge both generated and emergent themes. The following may inform priorities of Asia-Pacific member States to build analytic capacities and strategies among other countries, as well as stakeholders, to support the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in the region:

◆ Recognize national censuses and surveys as primarily sources of data on international and internal migration and migrants; consider incorporation of migration modules within extant national household surveys.

◆ Consider the potential of extant and new administrative and other information systems as sources of data on migrants and migration.

◆ Harmonize and coordinate measures and indicators of migration and migrants within and among government offices and also across levels of government.

◆ Consider integration of recommendations of international migration statistics and indicators into national statistical and administrative systems pertaining to migrants (censuses, surveys and registration systems).

◆ Develop bilateral and international cooperative partnerships in the collection of data on migration and migrants, and in research.

◆ Provide training for government officials in migration analysis and research.

◆ Consider the relationship between research on the causes and consequences of migration for national policy and planning, particularly in relationship to the SDGs.

◆ Consider strategic partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and civil society in the conduct of research, models and forecasting.

◆ Disseminate information on migration within government and publicly.

Many of these specific recommendations are aligned with opportunities for progress in implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration articulated by member States and also stakeholders. General recommendations, however, may serve as guidance to member States and stakeholders within the United Nations regional framework. Four broad recommendations, with a focus on evidence-based policymaking, are offered as follows:

1. Analytic resources of United Nations entities should be integrated into national migration governance initiatives. Critically, the relevance and implications of the United Nations recommendations on international migration and refugee statistics and indicators for the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration and their implementation should be examined within the context of the Asia-Pacific region. Collection, analysis and dissemination of timely, relevant and comprehensive data with a focus on migrants and their impact on countries of destination, origin and transit would play a key role in this.
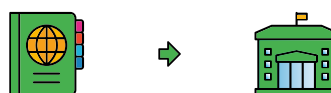
2. Engagement of initiatives within the scientific community regarding methods and models of migration, development and environmental change should be facilitated for member States and stakeholders within the Asia-Pacific region. For example, the National Migration Survey of the Philippines holds significant potential as a pilot for a world migration survey within the Asian and Pacific region.

3. National leadership and current leaders within the region exist as a significant resource for analytic initiatives and innovations in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. This should be built upon, with the work of the Asia-Pacific 'champion countries' serving as a resource for implementing analytical initiatives and innovations.

4. Through bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation, these initiatives can be elevated to strengthen Global Compact for Migration implementation. Priorities expressed by member States and stakeholders represent potential commitment to next steps and innovations in data collection, analysis and research that might be supported as pilot projects to inform adoption elsewhere in the region. Evidence collected, disseminated and analysed this way can be a useful tool in supporting the recognition of the contributions of migration and migrants to sustainable development at all levels and in promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration.

REPORT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION
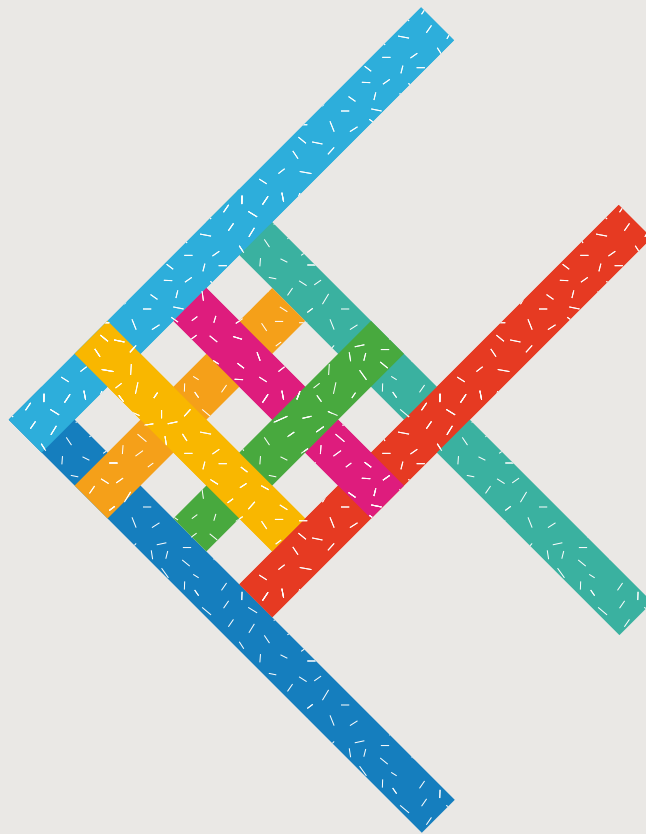
Chapter 4

Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

I. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

1. The following decision adopted by the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision

The meeting decides to submit its report, including the Chair's summary, as well as pre-session documents ESCAP/GCM/2021/1, ESCAP/GCM/2021/2, ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.1 and ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2 to the International Migration Review Forum, scheduled to be held in 2022, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 73/195 and 73/326.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the meeting

2. The meeting was jointly organized by ESCAP and the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific[1] and held in Bangkok and online from 10 to 12 March 2021. The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration and Director General of IOM delivered a video message. The Assistant Director-General and Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thailand; and Ms. Shiella Estrada, Chairperson, Progressive Labour Union of Domestic Workers of the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, made statements.

B. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission: Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkey; Turkmenistan; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

4. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Austria and Switzerland. In addition, representatives of Sweden attended as observers.

5. Representatives of the following offices of the Secretariat attended: Development Coordination Office; Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; OHCHR; Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and UNODC.

6. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and other United Nations entities and related organizations attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; ILO; IOM; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; UNDP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UN-Habitat; UNHCR; UNICEF; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and UN Women.

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1 The following United Nations entities are members of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific: ESCAP; International Labour Organization (ILO); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); World Food Programme; and World Bank.

7. Representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development attended.

8. Representatives of the following other entities attended: Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; and Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

9. The list of stakeholders who registered for the meeting is available online at www.unescap.org/ intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly.

C. Election of Officers

10. The meeting elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Sarah Lou Y. Arriola (Philippines)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Mohammed Abdul Hye (Bangladesh)
                Mr. Dicky Komar (Indonesia)
                Mr. Nadhavathna Krishnamra (Thailand)

D. Agenda

11. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

    (1) Opening of the meeting:

        (a) Opening statements;
        (b) Election of officers;
        (c) Adoption of the agenda.

    (2) Review of progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, including the implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic.

    (3) Thematic discussions on progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact at all levels, with due respect to the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the Global Compact:

        (a) Ensuring that migration is voluntary, regular, safe and orderly (addressing objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18);

        (b) Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance and border management measures (addressing objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21);

        (c) Supporting migrants' protection, integration and contribution to development (addressing objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22);

        (d) Strengthening evidence-based policymaking, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23).

    (4) Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the meeting.

E. Other events

12. The following side events were held in conjunction with the meeting:

   (a) 10 March 2021, side event: "A migrant's journey: a human perspective and humanitarian implications", organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross;

   (b) 11 March 2021, side event: "Labour mobility and human rights: examining migrant labour governance in the Middle East in the context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", co-organized by the Government of the Philippines with the IOM Regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific and for the Middle East and North Africa;

   (c) 11 March 2021, side event: "On the move and out of school: migrant children's struggles to access education in Asia", organized by Save the Children, the Burmese Migrant Teachers' Association, the Child Rights Coalition Asia, the Help Without Frontiers Thailand Foundation and TeacherFOCUS;

   (d) 12 March 2021, side event: "Making migrants' vulnerability history: highlighting and addressing living and working vulnerabilities of migrant workers", organized by the Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants;

   (e) 12 March 2021, side event: "Implementing alternatives to detention: lessons learned from the global pandemic", organized by the Government of Thailand, Boniĝi Monitoring, the International Detention Coalition and the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth;

   (f) 12 March 2021, side event: "Migrants, wages and the pandemic: where are we now on the issue of wage theft?", organized by the Migrant Forum in Asia, the Council of Global Unions/Building and Wood Workers' International, the Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development in Bangladesh and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines;

   (g) 12 March 2021, side event: "Regular pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations in Asia and the Pacific", organized by OHCHR, the United Nations Network on Migration working group on regular pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations and the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network;

   (h) 12 March 2021, side event: "Realizing the rights of children in the context of migration in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region", organized by the Government of Thailand through the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security with support from ASEAN member States, UNICEF, Terre des Hommes Germany, IOM and UNHCR.

III. Chair's summary

13. The deliberations during the hybrid meeting will be summarized in a Chair's summary, which will be available within a week following the conclusion of the meeting and included as annex II to the present report.

Annex I
List of documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda item
General series		
ESCAP/GCM/2021/1	Review of progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, including the implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic	2 and 3
ESCAP/GCM/2021/2	International migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	2 and 3
ESCAP/GCM/2021/3	Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	
Conference room papers		
ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.1	Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: a synthesis of voluntary Global Compact reviews in Asia and the Pacific	2 and 3
ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2	Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: summary of stakeholder consultations for Asia and the Pacific	2 and 3
Limited series		
ESCAP/GCM/2021/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/GCM/2021/L.2	Draft report	4
Information available online		
www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Guide%20to%20Participation_Hybrid%20Meeting_rev.pdf	Guide to participation	
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly	List of participants	
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly	Programme	

Annex II
List of documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda item
General series		
ESCAP/GCM/2021/1	Review of progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, including the implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic	2 and 3
ESCAP/GCM/2021/2	International migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	2 and 3
ESCAP/GCM/2021/3	Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	
Conference room papers		
ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.1	Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: a synthesis of voluntary Global Compact reviews in Asia and the Pacific	2 and 3
ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2	Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: summary of stakeholder consultations for Asia and the Pacific	2 and 3
Limited series		
ESCAP/GCM/2021/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/GCM/2021/L.2	Draft report	4
Information available online		
www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Guide%20to%20Participation_Hybrid%20Meeting_rev.pdf	Guide to participation	
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly	List of participants	
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly	Programme	

Annex III
Chair's summary of proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the AsiaPacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held as a three-day hybrid meeting, for six hours per day on 10 and 11 March 2021 and for two hours on 12 March 2021. Bangkok-based representatives of members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and a small group of stakeholders were provided with the option of attending in person.

2. The Chair's summary covers the discussions and the proceedings of the meeting.

II. REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, INCLUDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PANDEMIC (AGENDA ITEM 2)

3. The meeting had before it the notes by the secretariat on the review of progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, including the implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic (ESCAP/GCM/2021/1) and on international migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/GCM/2021/2), as well as the conference room papers entitled "Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: a synthesis of voluntary Global Compact reviews in Asia and the Pacific" (ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.1) and "Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: summary of

stakeholder consultations for Asia and the Pacific" (ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2).

4. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Nepal; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkey; Turkmenistan; United States of America; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

5. The meeting welcomed the first Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, noting its timeliness and relevance to regional dialogue and cooperation on international migration, while addressing potential challenges to its implementation, including the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several member States particularly thanked the secretariat, the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Thailand, as the host country, for organizing the meeting.

6. The meeting recognized the significant scale of migration and the major contributions of migrants and their families to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, remittances were a major source of income, contributing to poverty reduction and improving livelihoods.

7. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the vulnerabilities of migrants and exposed them to an increased risk of infection, the lack of or inadequate access to public health services and opportunities for decent work, and inadequate protection and support services, as well as discrimination, stigmatization and xenophobia. Increased border restrictions had limited the mobility of many migrants. One representative noted that migrant

women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other migrants in vulnerable situations were among the most marginalized and faced significant risks of human rights violations, abuse and exploitation. Migrants' families, especially those relying on remittances, had also been adversely affected.

8. In such challenging times, representatives highlighted the need to provide adequate support to migrants through social protection and other measures of social inclusion and engagement in society. Such efforts were essential to uphold migrants' rights, foster economic recovery and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Representatives reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact. Many member States reported that they had developed national plans to advance the implementation of the Global Compact. Some representatives noted the high value and nature and interdependence of the Global Compact principles, which also included respect for State sovereignty, the promotion of non-discrimination and respect for and protection and fulfilment of the human rights, including labour rights, of all migrants as important cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles.

10. The Global Compact served as a comprehensive and holistic framework for international cooperation and coordination on migration and could guide Governments in addressing migration issues, improving international migration governance, and promoting safe, orderly and regular migration. Some representatives indicated that the objectives and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the Global Compact were mainstreamed and embedded in their national laws, regulations and policies on international migration.

11. Several representatives reported positive developments in the implementation of the Global Compact. Those included, but were not limited to, the development, adoption and implementation of national migration policies and action plans; the establishment of national coordination mechanisms and inter-agency working groups on migration; improved transparency, certainty and simplification of migration procedures; improved access to and governance of safe, orderly and regular migration pathways; amendments to laws and regulations on international migration in accordance with international laws and humanitarian principles; reduced costs related to migration processes and remittance transfers; skills training and professional development for migrant workers; support of United Nations entities in advancing the implementation of the Global Compact on the ground; establishment of country-level United Nations Networks on Migration and the operationalization of the Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and increased bilateral and multilateral agreements related to migration.

12. The meeting was also informed of some good practices by members and associate members in extending support to migrants and their families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those included, but were not limited to, supporting the voluntary repatriation of distressed citizens from abroad; the extension of stay and work permits; non-discriminatory coverage of migrants in public health services, health insurance and social protection schemes; the establishment of COVID-19-related hotlines for migrants; and increased consular assistance and protection.

13. Several representatives called attention to the challenges encountered in implementing the Global Compact, such as lack of resources and capacitybuilding for officials and service providers on the ground and lack of comprehensive, disaggregated data on migration and migration-related indicators. Some representatives requested the United Nations Network on Migration and other partners to provide technical assistance to support the implementation of the Global Compact on the ground, including by improving the collection and dissemination of relevant migration data for evidence-based policymaking. They also recognized the relevance and timeliness of the *Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020: Assessing Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration* and expressed hope about implementing the recommendations in the report.

14. Some representatives underlined that the COVID-19 pandemic had hindered the implementation of the Global Compact, while noting that it also served as a timely call for countries in Asia and the Pacific to accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact.

15. Some representatives noted the particular vulnerabilities of women migrants and children, including those working in the informal sector, in accordance with Global Compact's cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of gender-responsiveness and child-sensitivity. One country representative pointed out that an inclusive approach to the implementation of the Global Compact would ensure that migrants in vulnerable situations had equal access to services and protection of their rights and dignity regardless of their status.

16. Many representatives highlighted the relevance of subregional, regional and international cooperation and partnerships on international migration, recognizing that international migration was complex, multi-dimensional and transnational in nature and that migration governance was a responsibility shared by all countries. Some member States also asked for more knowledgesharing, exchange of best practices and peer learning among countries in the region. Several representatives reiterated their commitment to expanding multilateral and bilateral cooperation on international migration across countries within and outside the region, as well as partnerships with all stakeholders, including the international community, the private sector and civil society, and following a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach for implementing the Global Compact.

17. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations, offices of the Secretariat, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes and related organizations as well as other entities made statements: Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Organization for Migration (IOM); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

18. The representatives of international organizations welcomed the AsiaPacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact, recognizing that it would provide an important input to global processes, including the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 and the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021.

19. The representatives noted the progress and efforts made by Governments in the region in implementing the Global Compact, including better emergency preparedness plans, relief measures and the provision of social support and services extended to migrants during the COVID19 pandemic. Some representatives noted efforts to include migrants in priority vaccine rollouts.

20. Despite progress, the representatives highlighted that migrants continued to face an array of challenges that constrained them from receiving equal treatment and protection and that their rights and dignity continued to be at risk. In particular, many women migrants had to cope with exploitative and abusive working conditions and sexual and gender-based violence, while the future of migrant children and children of migrant parents had been compromised due to their lack of access to education, health services and child protection, which had been further exacerbated during the pandemic.

21. To address those challenges, the representatives of international organizations called upon Governments in Asia and the Pacific to ensure that the rights of all migrants were respected, irrespective of their migration status, age, gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity. A number of representatives

called for an end to immigration detention, particularly for children, for the protection of migrants from death and disappearance, and for ending the prosecution of victims of human trafficking through the criminal justice system. The representatives invited Governments to invest in data collection on migration for evidence-based discourse and policymaking. They called upon Governments to step up the implementation of the Global Compact and reaffirmed their commitment and readiness to support and collaborate with Governments and other stakeholders in realizing the objectives of the Global Compact.

22. Representatives of the following stakeholder groups made joint statements: Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants; Boniĝi Monitoring; HOST International; Institute of Informatics and Development/Civil Society for Global Commitments on Migration; and United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth.

23. The stakeholder representatives noted that the rights and positive contributions of migrants were often undermined in many countries by, for example, measures curtailing the right to organize, exercise freedom of association and collective bargaining, or join or form unions, as well as the criminalization of migrants in irregular situations.

24. The stakeholder representatives also made several recommendations and called upon Governments in the region to implement a range of actions to protect and support migrants and their families, including ensuring migrants' access to basic services, legal identity, legal services and information in multiple languages; expanding safe, orderly and regular migration pathways; ending child immigration detention and limiting other immigration detention to a measure of last resort; protecting migrants against exploitation and discrimination in all forms; ensuring compliance of labour frameworks with international standards; collecting accurate, disaggregated data as a basis for policymaking; and strengthening international and cross-border collaboration and capacity-building.

25. The stakeholder representatives emphasized that the COVID19 pandemic had amplified

inequalities faced by migrants, many of whom were left without proper protection or support in countries of transit and destination.

III. THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS ON PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL COMPACT AT ALL LEVELS, WITH DUE RESPECT TO THE CROSS-CUTTING AND INTERDEPENDENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT (AGENDA ITEM 3)

26. The meeting had before it the notes by the secretariat on the review of progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, including the implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic (ESCAP/GCM/2021/1) and on international migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/GCM/2021/2), as well as the conference room papers entitled "Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: a synthesis of voluntary Global Compact reviews in Asia and the Pacific" (ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.1) and "Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: summary of stakeholder consultations for Asia and the Pacific" (ESCAP/GCM/2021/CRP.2).

27. Thematic round-table discussions on the key issues under sub-items (a)–(d) of agenda item 3 were held in the form of panel discussions covering groups of objectives of the Global Compact with interactive discussions among panellists and representatives from the floor.

Ensuring that migration is voluntary, regular, safe and orderly (addressing objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18) (Agenda item 3 (a))

28. The meeting benefited from a panel discussion on the topic. The panel was moderated by Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization (ILO). The panel comprised Ms. Pataraporn Samantarath, Assistant Permanent Secretary,

Ministry of Labour, Thailand; Ms. Pui Yu (Fish) Ip, Regional Coordinator for Asia, International Domestic Workers Federation, Hong Kong, China; Ms. Swati Mujumdar, Pro-Chancellor, Symbiosis Skills and Professional University, Pune, India, and Pro-Chancellor, Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences, Indore, India; and Ms. Irene Xavier, Consultant and Co-Founder, Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor – Friends of Women. A discussion with member States and other participants followed.

29. The panel noted that most migration in the region was due to a combination of political, economic, social and environmental factors and included many people in search of decent work and those migrating on humanitarian grounds or due to the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

30. The COVID-19 pandemic had increased vulnerabilities of migrants across the region, especially those already in precarious situations, who, among other challenges, had limited access to services, including COVID19 testing, and were subject to discrimination, including xenophobia and related intolerance.

31. Migrant leaders also played an important role as organizers for domestic migrant workers, and they also provided support and influenced policy debates around domestic migrant worker issues. Changes in the use of specific terms to describe domestic workers, for example, were identified as contributing to positive mindsets and shifts in behaviour. Governments in the region had taken the lead in several cases, for example by replacing the term "servants" with "domestic workers".

32. Despite progress, many challenges remained with regard to the legal status of domestic migrant workers. Greater inclusion of domestic migrant workers in labour rights, more effective use of local legislation and greater recognition of domestic migrant workers as workers was needed. That was exemplified by the lack of laws and policies in place to protect migrant domestic workers in certain countries. Recruitment processes were often not formalized, leaving migrant workers at risk of exploitation and abuse.

33. Courts were increasingly taking a more progressive stance in settling disputes involving migrant domestic workers. Moreover, regular days off for domestic migrant workers had been established by laws in some countries, and migrant workers had been allowed to self-organize, giving them a voice in society.

34. Partnerships and international cooperation, including bilateral and multilateral partnerships to protect workers, were an important aspect of moving forward, while leaving no one behind.

35. The issue of skills development and recognition was further highlighted, in particular the need to make the skills of workers more comparable in order to enable vertical and lateral mobility of migrant workers. Examples from India were shared, including skills development initiatives with a view to industry demands, collaboration between universities and local governments to identify skill gaps and better alignment between the demand and supply side in the labour markets.

36. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Indonesia; Japan; Philippines; Turkmenistan; and Viet Nam.

37. The representative of the following stakeholder group made a statement: South Asian Regional Trade Union Council.

38. Several representatives affirmed their support for the Global Compact and noted actions to support its implementation, including the ratification of United Nations and ILO conventions related to international migration; the alignment of national policies and plans with the objectives of the Global Compact; the signing of bilateral agreements; awareness raising and sharing of information; and direct support to migrant workers, such as legal protection and skills development and language classes. In addition, representatives noted that work had been done to create procedures that made migration more straightforward and transparent and to promote the reintegration of returning migrants to countries of origin.

39. A stakeholder representative stressed that COVID-19 had posed many challenges over the preceding year, such as wages being withheld, contracts not being implemented and passports being confiscated. To allow for the protection of workers in countries of destination, it was noted that migrant workers should have the right to organize.

Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance and border management measures (addressing objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21) (Agenda item 3 (b))

40. The meeting benefited from a panel discussion on the topic. The panel was moderated by Mr. Julien Garsany, Deputy Regional Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The panel comprised a youth participant of an ethnic minority in Thailand; Ms. Aliya Yunusova, Commissioner on Children's Rights, Uzbekistan; Mr. Rolliansyah Soemirat, Director for International Security and Disarmament, Directorate General of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia; Ms. Moomina Waheed, Human Rights Commission of the Maldives; and Ms. Carolina Gottardo, Executive Director, International Detention Coalition. A discussion with member States and other participants followed.

41. The panel underscored the importance of equal access to quality education and health care for all children and youth, including those on the move. Universal health care was a basic right for every child. Moreover, all children should be granted legal status in the country in which they lived, while also having access to child protection. Children, especially those on the move, often faced discrimination and detention, and that needed to be addressed through more effective policies for safe migration. In addition, children and youth should be given more opportunities to be part of decision-making processes that affected them.

42. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated vulnerabilities of migrants and communities, including difficulties in accessing health and social protection. In resolving such challenges, no government could effectively govern migration alone, as migration policy required international cooperation in compliance with international law. With regard to children on the move, the best interests of the child needed to always be at the centre of all migration policies and practices, to ensure they had access to national systems, including protection, education, health, justice and social safety nets. Concerning the reintegration of children from conflict zones, early planning and the need for additional investment for supportive measures, such as psychosocial support, were stressed. Some good practices were shared, including initiatives in reducing statelessness.

43. The Global Compact was acknowledged as the global framework to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, and examples were noted with regard to strengthening internal coordination among relevant stakeholders, the facilitation of outreach programmes and the development of action plans to implement the Global Compact. The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime was highlighted as an effective mechanism to strengthen regional efforts and promote shared responsibility among countries to act on concrete measures that responded to the irregular movement of people. National-level action had to be mirrored at local levels.

44. The panel shared information about initiatives in some countries to promote the rights of migrant workers, for example through the registration of migrant workers, the clarification of the rights and responsibilities of employers, the guarantee of a standard of living for migrant workers and the provision of accommodation guidelines with regard to migrant workers. One panel member remarked on progress in using biometrics for regularization programmes for migrant workers, while respecting privacy and being sensitive to data protection concerns, though challenges still remained in terms of expanding coverage.

45. The high human and economic costs of immigration detention were noted, and the need to implement alternatives to detention, in alignment with Global Compact objective 13, was stressed. The need to end

the immigration detention of children and families was highlighted, including through timebound, scaled-up, pilot programmes that guaranteed the preservation of the family unit, integrating the release of children from immigration detention with the provision of services and integrating released children into national child protection systems. Examples from Asia and the Pacific were shared, including a memorandum of understanding signed by various government entities in Thailand to end immigration detention of children and the development of an accompanying interministerial framework for implementation; a policy by the Government of Indonesia that children could no longer be detained in immigration detention; and the release of people in immigration detention during the COVID-19 pandemic by the Government of Japan.

46. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Philippines; Thailand; Turkmenistan; and Viet Nam.

47. The representative of the following stakeholder group made a statement: Equal Asia Foundation.

48. Several country representatives shared experiences in protecting the rights of migrants and stateless persons, including programmes to register all children born in the State and provide relevant documentation; provide ongoing consular support services to assist in the voluntary repatriation of citizens and offer help to undocumented citizens in times of distress; actively promote alternatives to the detention of migrants; and work through regional networks on migration to enhance cooperation, including with regard to information-sharing and law enforcement coordination. Information about promising initiatives was shared, such as that of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking of the Philippines that coordinated all such efforts; the common guidelines on alternatives to detention in Thailand, the Government's Immigration Act and Child Protection Act and its multi-disciplinary approach to addressing alternatives to detention; the registration of all children born in Turkmenistan and the provision of documents for stateless persons

and pathways to become citizens; the collaboration of the Government of Viet Nam with neighbouring countries to address citizenship issues; and the use of information and technology in Turkmenistan to discover cases of human trafficking and fight various crime groups in cyberspace.

49. A stakeholder representative stressed the need to close gaps in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender inclusion in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to adopt an intersectional approach inclusive of all in addressing social justice issues.

Supporting migrants' protection, integration and contribution to development (addressing objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22) (Agenda item 3 (c))

50. The meeting benefited from a panel discussion on the topic. The panel was moderated by Mr. Mohammad Naciri, Regional Director, UN-Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with closing remarks given by Dr. Maria Nenette Motus, Regional Director, IOM Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The panel comprised Ms. Loretta Brunio, Migrant Domestic Worker, Pinoy Worldwide Initiative for Investment Savings and Entrepreneurship, Hong Kong, China; Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to ESCAP; Mr. Carlos Bernardo O. Abad Santos, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines; Ms. Noraini Roslan, Mayor, Subang Jaya, Malaysia; Mr. Robin Gravesteijn, Lead, Data and Research on Remittance and Migration, United Nations Capital Development Fund; and Ms. Joanna Yu, Programme Assistant, Migrant Forum Asia. A discussion with member States and other participants followed.

51. The panel discussed the main challenges that migrants faced with regards to protection, integration into society and their contribution to development, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrants, including women, faced ongoing challenges such as barriers to accessing basic services, particularly health services, lack of safe spaces to

retreat and long working hours without rest days as well as lack of information about where to address complaints. While integration of migrants was a major challenge, reintegration was often similarly challenging.

52. The COVID-19 pandemic had adversely affected development in the region. The pandemic had widened gaps in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact. There were numerous reports of stranded migrants who were left without adequate information.

53. The panel also shared actions Governments had taken to protect migrants and support their safe, dignified and voluntary return and sustainable reintegration. This included technical cooperation and capacity-building for improved border management and counter-trafficking as well as support to victims of trafficking and migrants stranded during the COVID-19 pandemic.

54. The panel also highlighted migrants' contributions to development, such as the importance of remittances to individual households as well as at macroeconomic levels. However, panellists also noted that remittances had dropped as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The contribution of women migrants to remittances was also emphasized, particularly because women often made greater sacrifices to be able to migrate and support families back home.

55. The panel stressed the importance of financial inclusion of migrants as well as the digitization of remittances to enhance migrants' ability to contribute to development. Examples of how financial inclusion of migrants could be enhanced through capacity-building, a national identification system, digitization, and enhanced investment opportunities were shared. Digitization of remittances could not only facilitate sending of remittances, including during shutdowns, and save remittance costs, for women migrant workers it could also enhance their personal safety.

56. The panel also shared examples of a whole-of-government approach to implementing the Global Compact which included cities and municipal authorities. Local governments had taken concrete actions to provide access to services for all, including migrants, and promoted social cohesion and community empowerment, which also included initiatives to highlight the positive contribution of migrants.

57. The panel further shared examples of mechanisms to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion. This included pre-departure, post-arrival and pre-employment training as well as orientation programmes upon return. Providing spaces for migrants to exercise their rights, such as the right to form and join trade unions, as well as the portability of social security was crucial. The importance of providing access to basic services for migrants and access to education for children of migrants was also stressed. Skill development and skill recognition were important to both migrants as well as employers.

58. The panel emphasized the importance of partnerships between governments at the national and local levels, United Nations organizations, trade unions, employers, civil society and others to support migrants' protection, integration and contribution to development.

59. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Cambodia; China; Indonesia; Japan; Thailand; Turkey; Turkmenistan; and Viet Nam.

60. A representative of the following stakeholder group made a statement: United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific.

61. Representatives reiterated their commitment to implementing the Global Compact and shared information about government actions to support migrants and their children in accessing basic services as well as to provide protection, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The importance of designing a labour migration policy in line with the objectives of the Global Compact was highlighted.

62. Representatives of countries of origin of migrants shared examples of protection for migrants, such as improving consular representation with enhanced services for

migrants or enhancing the portability of social security.

63. Representatives of countries of destination shared examples of facilitating civil registration and birth registration as well as providing education to migrant children, including stateless children, enhancing access to health services for migrants, including through digitization and easy to understand information, and facilitating visa arrangements and establishing immigration services centres.

64. Local government representatives shared examples of their contributions to support the integration of migrants and to empower them. Several cities had provided migrants with the right to vote at the local level, others provided vocational training and language courses to migrants. Local governments also required better data to be able to make informed decisions and design effective policies. The need to empower local governments in implementing the Global Compact was stressed.

65. The moderator emphasized that while migrants were heavily affected by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, they were also part of the solution and had to be included in the creation and implementation of policy responses.

Strengthening evidence-based policymaking, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23) (Agenda item 3 (d))

66. The meeting benefited from a panel discussion on the topic. The panel was moderated by Ms. Cynthia Veliko, Regional Representative, OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia. The panel comprised Mr. Syed Rashedul Hossen, Economic Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to ESCAP; Ms. Fathimath Himya, Secretary-General, Red Crescent, Maldives; Ms. Siriwan Romchatthong, Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Confederation of Employers; Ms. Jennifer Vallentine, Asia Manager, Mixed Migration Centre; and Mr. Takgon Lee, Attorney,

Dongcheon Foundation Republic of Korea.

67. The panel reviewed challenges in the implementation of the Global Compact in connection with accurate and timely information at all stages of the migration process, eliminating discrimination and shaping public perceptions of migrants and strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships for safe migration. The panel shared progress made so far, key challenges and gaps, good practices and lessons learned and pointers for the way forward.

68. The panel outlined actions that should be taken to uphold the human rights of all migrants and ensure international cooperation for better migration governance. Examples of pre-departure orientation and training of migrants were shared as well as reintegration policies that supported returning nationals through reorientation, skill training and financing, including facilitating digital remittances. The need for a predictable and transparent legal framework for migration was highlighted as crucial for all partners, including employers.

69. The panel emphasized the need to uphold basic minimum standards of human dignity and human rights that should be afforded to all migrants, irrespective of their status. Migrants should be protected from going missing or being separated from their families; all migrants, irrespective of their status should have effective access to essential services and humanitarian assistance; and the rights and needs of the most vulnerable, especially children, should be prioritized. Examples of humanitarian actions to support migrants in times of crisis were also shared, such as providing access to health care regardless of migration status, support centres, and coordinated food distribution during the COVID-19 crisis.

70. The panel pointed out that the vulnerabilities of migrants should be addressed by States through the fulfilment of their commitments in the Global Compact and implementation of policies and responses that centred the human rights of migrants. While migration laws and policies that did not respect migrants' rights could put people in vulnerable

situations, vulnerability, such as extreme poverty, violence or the adverse impacts of climate change, could also drive migration, leading to multiple drivers intersecting and compounding each other. Migrants often faced multiple and intersecting discriminations based on sex, age, ethnicity, religion, migration status and sexual orientation, as well as other factors.

71. The panel also stressed the contribution of employers in providing protection to migrant workers and skills mobility. There were good examples of employers' associations and the private sector playing an important role in promoting sustainable and responsible business practices, including fair recruitment.

72. The importance of coherent and positive messaging on the contribution of migrants to protect them from abuse and discrimination was also pointed out. Migrants at times were victims of negative stereotypes and used as scapegoats. Cooperation between national human rights institutions and civil society to monitor the media, including social media, was important to shape the public perception of migrants.

73. The panel also shared examples of international cooperation for better migration governance, such as an interministerial coordination mechanism or formal agreements between countries of origin and destination. Partnerships were also built with civil society organizations, the private sector and social partners, trade unions and employers' associations. Embedding the objectives of the Global Compact into development plans and implementing the Global Compact along with the 2030 Agenda was also stressed as crucial.

74. In emphasizing the importance of migration data for evidence-based policies, including data highlighting the vulnerabilities of migrants, the panel called for improved data on migrants and enhanced investments into data collection and qualitative research. The panel stated that migration policy and public discourse around international migration across the region should make use of research and its recommendations for informed policymaking.

75. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Indonesia; and Thailand.

76. Representatives of the following stakeholder groups made a statement: Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines; and Public Services Labour Independent Confederation.

77. Representatives of member States and stakeholders reiterated the importance of international cooperation and partnerships as key to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration.

78. Several representatives of member States and stakeholders stated that there was a persistent need for more timely, accurate and integrated data. A stakeholder representative expressed the view that the lack of data on migration was one of the factors behind limited policy evaluation. It was also highlighted that there was an urgent need to enhance national capacity on migration data, especially to integrate migration and the corresponding Sustainable Development Goal indicators into policies and programmes. Dissemination of relevant information should start at the community level with local governments and community-based migrant organizations. Stakeholder representatives stressed that social dialogue should be strengthened to ensure that all stakeholders were involved in the implementation of the Global Compact including the migrant workers themselves.

79. A stakeholder representative emphasized that the role of migrant workers at the front lines of response during the COVID-19 pandemic had to be highlighted. The role of comprehensive data collection and dissemination to highlight the contribution of migrants was emphasized. A call was made for comprehensive partnerships in countries of origin and destination between Governments, migrant organizations, lawyers and civil society to provide comprehensive information to migrants, including through the use of digital technologies.

IV. SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

80. Several statements from stakeholders were presented, based on stakeholder consultations held on 28 October 2020, 19 November 2020, 16 December 2020, 3 February 2021, and 2 and 4 March 2021.

81. Stakeholders emphasized that embracing, rather than resisting, the reality of migration benefited societies immeasurably, as did guaranteeing the rights of migrants, regardless of their status, and facilitating their equal participation in society, including through migrant workers being organized and given a voice.

82. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the vulnerability of migrants and amplified inequalities and structural obstacles to their full protection, including participation in society. They had been at an increased risk of being affected by poverty, stigmatization and violence. Migrants should be placed at the centre of policymaking and decision-making on migration governance at all levels. The COVID-19 pandemic had also demonstrated that nobody was safe until everyone was safe.

83. Significant gaps in the protection of migrants and their families across the region were noted, with children and women, especially domestic workers who had very few rights under the law, being particularly vulnerable to human rights violations or abuses.

84. Stakeholders called upon States to prioritize the creation of decent jobs, particularly in countries of origin, address other key drivers of migration and adhere to obligations under international law to ensure domestic legislation and procedures contained adequate safeguards to uphold the rights, safety and dignity of migrants, especially during crises.

85. Noting the leadership of Asia and the Pacific in implementing a wholeof-society and whole-of government approach to the implementation of the Global Compact, stakeholders further called on States to ensure evidencebased monitoring of its implementation. Moreover, they looked forward to the International Migration Review Forum in 2022, trusting that a wholeofsociety approach, including the participation of trade unions, civil society organizations, migrants and migrant-led organizations, national human rights institutions, and local authorities, and others would continue to be prioritized with regard to future stakeholder engagement.

Annex 1
Objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, by Conceptual Cluster

i. Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular (Cluster 1)

(2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

(5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

(6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

(12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

(18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

ii. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures (Cluster 2)

(4) Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

(8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

(9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

(10) Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

(11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

(13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

(21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

iii. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development (Cluster 3)

(14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

(15) Provide access to basic services for migrants

(16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

(19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

(20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

(22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

iv. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration (Cluster 4)

(1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

(3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

(7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

(17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

(23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Annex 2
Vision, Principles and Objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Vision:

Common Understanding
Shared Responsibilities
Unity of Purpose

Guiding Principles:

People-centered
International cooperation
National sovereignty
Rule of law and due process:
Sustainable development
Human rights
Gender-responsive
Child-sensitive
Whole-of-government approach
Whole-of-society approach

Cooperative Framework and Objectives For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration

(1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

(2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

(3) Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

(4) Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

(5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

(6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

(7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

(8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

(9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

(10) Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

(11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

(12) Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

(13) Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

(14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

(15) Provide access to basic services for migrants

(16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

(17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

(18) Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

(19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

(20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

(21) Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

(22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

(23) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

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The full report is available at:

https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-pacific-regional-review-implementation-global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular

A related video is available at:

https://youtu.be/bZ3jkTRzj4I