

Recommendations from the regional consultations on labour mobility,
rights and recruitment

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Action theme 1: Migrant labour and mobility

Recommendations on Labor Mobility, rights and recruitment

commitments are translated into national legislation and policies that will uphold dignity and afford protection to all workers, including migrant workers.

These laws and policies should ensure decent and working conditions for migrants and their families including but not limited to equal pay, health benefits, social security that may be enjoyed beyond their migration tenure, integration and options for citizenship in destination countries, effective return and reintegration in origin countries for those who will return, ensuring access to justice and legal redress, both in origin and destination countries. As workers, they should be allowed to join trade unions and associations of workers, and not be subjected to forced labor or slavery-like conditions, to any form of binding arrangements or tied-visas, to unequal treatment and discrimination on the basis of their "otherness".

Of course, it is imperative that even prior to their departure, migrants are well informed of their rights and entitlements in the origin and destination countries and even in transit countries. Countries of origin have pre-departure information programs, but do not make these really effective in "terms of being country-specific, skills-or job specific, gender-sensitive and one that touches as well on the migrants' legal rights including migration costs and information on proper migration processes. We all stand to benefit if these information campaigns are done on a regular basis not prior to departure but so in the countries of destination.

Finally, one or two recommendations regard to regulation of the private recruitment agencies.

As labor migration continues unabated, it has become a multi-billion dollar industry and has invited a lot of interest for private sector participation including from unscrupulous entities and elements that prey on migrants who are desperate for jobs abroad. In this situation of vulnerability, it is not that States put in place effective mechanisms to regulate the participation of private recruiters in terms of licensing, recruiting, collection of fees, monitoring of its activities, reporting, and imposition of sanctions and penalties. We also urge interstate cooperation in this regard.

While private sector participation could not help somehow, we will continue to encourage government-to-government arrangements instead for the recruitment and deployment of migrant workers. But these bilateral or multilateral arrangements should put premium to rights of workers and must be aligned with international standards.

Another recommendation is for member States to ratify ILO C181 or the Private Employment Agencies Convention. Is it not but a step forward to ratify this convention?