



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Statement of

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

**at the High-Level Segment of the
112th Session of the International Organization for
Migration Council (IOM) and the
Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the IOM
29 November - 02 December 2021**

IOM Director General Mr. Antonio Vitorino,

Excellencies,

I congratulate the International Organization of Migration (IOM) on its 70th Anniversary.

As we mark this important milestone, migrants all over the world continue to face unprecedented challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized migrants' livelihood, health and safety. This crisis has also heightened peoples' insecurity, leading to policies and views harmful to migrants.

The Philippines has over 10 million nationals working in various parts of the world. They contribute to the socio-economic development of both their motherland and host countries.

It is therefore our collective duty to promote and protect their rights in all stages of the migration cycle. For the Philippines, it is a fundamental pillar of our foreign policy.

As a donor and beneficiary of the COVAX Facility, we support solidarity efforts to make diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines more accessible to everyone, including migrants, regardless of their status.

As economies re-open, we need to restore predictable cross-border travel to accelerate recovery and growth. This will require concerted intergovernmental action.

We thus call for the recognition of national vaccination certificates, such as the Philippines' VaxCert, that are compliant with the guidance of the World Health Organization.

Excellencies, the IOM can certainly contribute to ensuring that migrants are not left behind as the world recovers.

Filipino migrant workers, particularly those in the healthcare sector, have played an important role in pandemic control efforts in many OECD countries. Yet they continue to experience discrimination.

We need urgent and more effective social integration measures to counter xenophobia, especially anti-Asian sentiments.

We have to make migration work for everyone. Not only does it make economic sense, it is also the right thing to do from a human rights perspective.

The Philippines is thankful for the opportunity to serve as IOM Council President during this historic year.

Rest assured that we will continue to advance the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

We will work closely with partners to strengthen the governance infrastructure for migration in the post-pandemic world. And we will do our part to ensure a productive International Migration Review Forum next year.

Thank you. END