

Statement by H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, PR of India

Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

In an era marked by rapid technological changes and demographic shifts, global migration and mobility has emerged as a crucial enabler for achieving sustainable growth and development.

2. With around 18 million Indians living abroad, India has a large and diverse diaspora, spread across the globe, which includes accomplished entrepreneurs, businesspersons, professionals, academics, students and workers. Indian diaspora have been making significant contribution to the development of the host countries as well as India. We have accorded a high priority to promoting the welfare and interests of our diaspora. And we have undertaken several initiatives for facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration.

3. We have signed bilateral agreements on mobility with key destination countries to improve the mobility governance framework. The Labour Manpower Agreements and Migration Mobility Partnership Agreements, signed with 12 countries so far, have helped in providing regular pathways for migration of Indian professionals and workers. And, negotiations are underway to conclude such agreements with more countries.

4. We have also taken steps to ensure implementation of fair and transparent recruitment policies and procedures to reduce the vulnerabilities of the migrants. Our e-Migrate portal has completely digitised the recruitment ecosystem and brought about end-to-end transparency in migration.

5. We have taken another initiative for “Strengthening data-informed and migrant-centred migration management frameworks in India” in collaboration with IOM India and the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), which aims at

strengthening India's gender disaggregated migration data collection and management mechanisms and promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.

6. India's commitment to ensure the welfare of its diaspora is also reflected in the initiatives to create Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) and the Non-Resident Indian Insurance Scheme. Further, we have set up a portal, called MADAD, which serves as the online Consular Grievances Management System to provide the Indians living abroad a platform for seeking assistance from Indian Mission abroad.

7. In order to ensure rehabilitation of Indian immigrants, who returned to India during Covid pandemic, the Government has launched the Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support initiative to enable them to find suitable jobs.

8. We have also laid emphasis on skilling to open employment opportunities for migrants. Our endeavour is to ensure that Indian workers migrate with enhanced skill sets. To date, more than 120,000 potential migrants have been imparted pre-departure orientation training.

9. In view of the changes taking place in global migration landscape, IOM needs to reorient its focus to prioritise facilitation of legal, regular, organized and orderly migration. In this regard, we have recently made two proposals, outlined in a Concept Note submitted to IOM. While one is on enhancing social security portability of migrants, the other is on identifying the gaps in global supply and demand of skills. In our view, these two steps would contribute in achieving the core objective of IOM of facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. India would like IOM to also focus on protection of migrants. We have supported reform in IOM, as part of our call for reformed multilateralism. We hope that the recent budget reforms will be followed by reforms in IOM's structures, priorities and management, including enhancing its global presence through national and regional offices and diversifying its human resources.

Thank You.

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