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The sheer magnitude of international migration is particularly evident in the Asia-Pacific region, which hosts over 60 million

migrants and is the origin of over 95 million migrants globally.

The diverse types and patterns of migration in the Asia-Pacific region are (a) South-South labour migration. This is made up of men and women, who move to take up low-skilled occupations. The jobs these migrants take up in countries of destination differ, but common occupations include those in construction for men, and domestic work for women; (b) Refugees are the second-largest group of migrants in the Asia-Pacific. The region has three of the top five refugee-hosting countries in the world – Turkey, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Generally, migrants from South, South-West and South-East Asia tend to move within their respective subregions as well as

stimulate greater employment of Malaysian workers in higher-added-value jobs; and in the Russian Federation migrants have helped to offset the overall decline in the working-age population, filling jobs that would otherwise be left vacant.

International migration also plays a central role in supporting development in countries of origin. Remittance flows from migrant workers to their countries of origin in Asia and the Pacific are some of the largest and most important flows in the

world today. The three countries which receive the largest volumes of remittances globally – India, China and the Philippines – are from the Asia-Pacific region, and together

However, of major concern is the prevalence of irregular low-skilled labour migration in Asia and the Pacific, which prevents migrants from accessing their basic human rights, making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. These conditions inhibit the benefits that migrants can deliver to their host countries and

countries of origin.

Hence safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration is a priority for sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region

Countries of the region have already recognized this, and are taking steps to ensure positive migration outcomes. This can be seen through examples such as the individual policy initiatives and reforms undertaken to improve migrant access to social protection; the many bilateral agreements signed

existing multilateral schemes, ranging from bilateral agreements to regional consultative processes on migration. The global compact could also draw upon opportunities offered through regional economic cooperation and integration schemes. A liberalized approach to migration, with a focus on ~~skilled migrants in areas of particular demand, can play a role~~

~~as part of an overall package of measures to help countries~~

maintain economic growth during demographic transformation. ESCAP will continue to provide analytical research and offer a regional platform for discussion to feed into the development of a Global Compact that will reflect Asia and the Pacific interests, while keeping the rights of migrants at its core.

Thank you once again, your Excellencies the co-chairs.