



## Concept Note

GFMD 2012

International Migrant Domestic Care Workers at the Interface of Migration and Development: Action to Expand Global Practice in the Asian Region

15-16 October 2012

Manila, Philippines

### Background

The Philippine Government, with the support and cooperation of the Mauritian Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), is hosting a preparatory GFMD workshop entitled International Migrant Domestic Care Workers at the Interface of Migration and Development: Action to expand Global Practice in the Asian Region on 15-16 October 2012 in Manila. The workshop aims to (1) advance the discussion on migrant domestic care workers' rights with a specific focus on human rights instruments and international labor standards, particularly the Migrant Workers Committees' General Comment on Migrant Domestic Workers and CEDAW General Recommendation No. 26 on Women Migrant Workers, as well as ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (ILO C189); and, to (2) contribute to the dialogue for Roundtable 3.3 on Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers: Enhancing their Human Development Potential of the GFMD 2012 Summit.

UN Women has been supporting, in partnership with IOM, Migration Policy Network, and various GFMD governments (Ghana, Jamaica), the organization of thematic GFMD discussions on domestic workers at the interface of migration and development since 2010. This meeting builds on the discussions and commitments of Asian and other key governments in previous GFMD meetings, and their ongoing work on the issue in the region.

This workshop will further build on the work of GFMD 2010 and 2011. It will also be an opportunity to keep track and take forward the GFMD 2011 checklist as an aide to developing legal and social protection for domestic workers.



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The proposed two-day international meeting will gather key government experts from countries of migrant origin and destination in the Asian region, as well as from international organizations and CSOs. It aims to: (1) discuss the normative and economic case to promote and protect the rights of migrant domestic workers. This will include discussions on international standards promoting and protecting the rights of migrant domestic workers, such as ILO C189, CEDAW and its General Recommendation No. 26 on Women Migrant Workers, and the Migrant Workers Committees' General Comment on Migrant Domestic Workers. The social and economic contribution of domestic workers to families, communities and countries at large will likewise be discussed. The meeting also aims to (2) share good practices in implementing legal and social protection for migrant domestic workers, including providing updates on the status of ratification and implementation of ILO C189 and other standards; (3) inform the deliberations and outcomes of GFMD Roundtable 3.3 in Mauritius on the protection of the rights of migrant domestic workers; and, (4) discuss strategies to advance legal and social protection for migrant domestic workers in line with the fore-mentioned standards and the GFMD checklist.

### **Expected Outputs**

The expected outputs of the workshop include:

- A better understanding of labor and human rights standards to protect migrant domestic workers
- An analysis of good practices on legal and social protection for domestic workers that can be replicated, including new strategies undertaken or intended for the ratification and implementation of ILO C189
- Clear strategies that can be undertaken by governments to protect migrant domestic workers in partnership with CSOs and in line with ILO C189, CEDAW and the GFMD checklist

### **Target Participants**

The workshop is intended for senior government officials in charge of crafting and implementing national policy on the protection of the rights of migrant domestic care workers, notably GFMD focal persons. The workshop will also be open to other stakeholders such as international organizations, civil society, and other partners.



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Around fifty participants are estimated to attend, including ten participant/observers from the Philippines and the secretariat, with the following breakdown:

- 11 Colombo Process countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong SAR/China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand)
- 6 other ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore)
- 8 receiving countries from Asia (Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan, Israel)
- 3 receiving countries outside Asia (Canada, Italy, Spain)
- 5 international organizations (GFMD, IOM, ILO, UNDP, UN Women)
- Regional CSOs may be invited on a self-funding basis

Uruguay, the first country to have ratified ILO Convention 189; Turkey, as co-chair of the Philippines in Roundtable 3.3; and Mauritius, as GFMD Chair for 2012, are likewise invited.