

## PHILIPPINES

### 10<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD)

Berlin, Germany

28-30 June 2017

#### ROUNDTABLE 1.2

### **From Global Agenda to Implementation – National Action Plans for migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Good day. It is my pleasure to be speaking before this gathering of migration and development to advocates, policymakers, and colleagues.

Through the years, we witness how international migration continuously evolve in terms of its scope, complexity, and impact. More and more people are moving away from their countries of origin than ever before, and the magnitude of diaspora has become a challenge for policymakers. In the case of the Philippines, almost ten million Filipinos, representing about a tenth of the Philippine population, are based abroad for work or permanent settlement. For many years, these overseas Filipinos play a major part in the economic growth story of the Philippines and in uplifting the socioeconomic status of the families left behind through their cash and in-kind remittances. Notwithstanding, these gains are just a parcel of what migration can actually contribute to national development, given that overseas Filipinos (Ofs) present a vast human capital equipped with cultural, social, and intellectual and technological capacities which are yet to be tapped and harnessed.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and the inclusion of migration in the SDGs, creates a positive signal for countries to bring migration issues at the forefront of their national plans. Aware of the role of migrant in nation-building, the Philippines has continuously included the plights of our overseas Filipinos in the country's development plan, in fact, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 paid deliberate attention to ensure that migration-related issues are integrated in the different sectoral chapters of the mid-term plan. The plan focuses on *empowering our OFs so that they become more important actors in achieving inclusive and sustainable development*. To do this, three pillar strategies as follows will be implemented.

#### **Strategy 1: Protect the rights and improve the well-being of OFs here and abroad.**

The government shall ensure that the well-being and resiliency of OFs and their families is placed above all.

**Strategy 2: Strengthen engagement of OFs, families, and other stakeholders in governance.** The government shall steer a stronger participation from OFs and their

families in policy formulation, program development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

**Strategy 3: Facilitate participation of OFs in the country's development and their reintegration in the Philippine society.** The government will provide a conducive policy environment so that OFs, even those that are still based abroad, would wish to become more active participants in the development process by saving, investing, and engaging in entrepreneurial activities in the country.

Thank you very much. May we all have a productive discussion. Thank you.