



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**Colombo Process 6th Ministerial Consultation
16 November, 2018, Kathmandu**

**Statement by Ambassador Mazhar Javed
Head of Pakistan Delegation**

**Honourable Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security,
H.E. Gokarna Bista
Honourable Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, allow me, to express my sincere gratitude to the Government for steering the Colombo Process and for generous hospitality.

Excellencies,

Our deliberations, commitments and expression of solidarity with migrant workers are very timely. I hope that our collective political will would pave the way for promoting the interests of contractual labourers.

Colombo Process has come a long way and contributed significantly in global dialogue and international cooperation on migration. Migration related issues cannot be addressed in isolation or by any single State. It calls for collective efforts and international approaches.

Excellencies,

Migration is a source of progress and prosperity in today's world. These positive impacts can be optimized by improving migration governance and fostering cooperation at international, regional, sub regional and national levels.

Colombo Process can rightly leverage the potential of migration for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Chairman,

Being a country of origin, transit and destination, Pakistan has vast experience and realization of the issues of migrants.

Around 7.6 million Pakistanis are contributing to the economies of destination countries, from Far East, East Asia, Gulf Countries, Europe and America. They have supported their motherland in a big way, particularly through their remittances. Pakistani doctors, engineers, software developers, electricians, craftsmen and other blue collar workers have earned respect and recognition in their destination countries. They are an asset.

Excellencies,

At home, cognizant of the multidimensional character of migration, our Government is working with whole-of-government approach. We are developing effective migration policies and implement them through legislative and administrative actions.

Our Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development have evolved elaborate mechanisms to facilitate migrating labourers. With the assistance of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, necessary capacity building of aspiring migrants is undertaken.

Our Ministry of Finance and financial institutions are encouraging and facilitating transfer of remittances.

Our Missions abroad have made significant contribution in the areas of protection and consular assistance to our diaspora through their dedication and commitment.

Mr. Chairman,

The agreement on Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is a milestone in the international cooperation on migration. It has raised our expectations.

We will be looking forward to the fulfillment of its Objectives for facilitating labour mobility and decent work, optimizing education opportunities, upholding the right to family life, and responding to the needs of migrants.

We shall continue our endeavours to find solutions that facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers, and promote demand driven skills development to optimize the employability of migrants in formal labour markets in countries of destination and in countries of origin upon return, as well as to ensure decent work in labour migration.

We shall also be looking forward the review of existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, and to protect all

migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse. It is important to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination.

The Colombo Process members have to work together and continue our efforts with international community to promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances by further developing existing policies and regulatory environments with a view to enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families.

Mr. Chairman,

All migrants have 'right to life' and human dignity. Preservation of their lives is our collective responsibility. Migrants, regardless of their migration status, are entitled to the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled across all stages of the migration cycle.

We have to foster inclusive and cohesive societies by empowering migrants to become active members of society. History has, time and again, shown that integrated migrants are better positioned to contribute to prosperity of their host countries and enrich them economically, culturally and socially.

Mr. Chairman,

The role of Regional Consultative Processes is very critical in the migration debate. It is these foras, where substantive discussions are taking place.

While the Colombo Process Member States can rightly take pride of their contributions in the GCM, the real and daunting task waits ahead. We have to muster up our energies, collective wisdom and commonalities of objectives in the Follow-up Process of the GCM. We must demonstrate our will and make meaningful recommendations in the Review Process.

Pakistan will be an active member of the Colombo Process and a steady partner in the follow up of GCM with the constructive spirit and positive engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

We, the representatives of a large number of migrant workers, have huge responsibility to deliver. Together, we can offer hope for collectively addressing the challenges associated with migration of our people.

Thank you.