

**Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

**Item 3. (c) Supporting migrants' protection, integration and contribution to development (addressing objectives 14–16, 19, 20 and 22)**

5 February 2025

Thank you Mr. Chair/ Madam Chair,

The contributions of migrants around the Asia Pacific region to the development of their host countries and to their countries of origin are immense, and increasingly recognized, rightly so. However, migrants' rights, and the rights of the families and communities they leave behind when they migrate, these rights are theirs independently of visa status, age, type of contract or nationality. Yet too often, migrants face barriers that prevent them from enjoying the full range of their human rights: their right to not be discriminated against and to be treated equally, their right to adequate housing, to healthcare, their right to access legal services, to access justice if they have been victims of abuse.

OHCHR wishes to highlight one right that deserves particular attention: migrants' right to family life. In the Asia Pacific region, millions of people migrate under Temporary Labor Migration Programs, leaving behind partners, children, elderly parents. These programs typically do not allow migrants to be accompanied by their family members, even if they are temporary only in name and legal status: often, people work under temporary contracts for years and are separated from their family for extended periods of time. Low wages and limited leave often make it impossible for them to make regular trips home, which are key to preserving family links. This comes at a particularly high cost for the children of migrants under such programs who are deprived of their own right to family unity, a right protected under international law.

When a migrant is dismissed from her work and deported back to her country because she is pregnant, this is a violation of her right to family life too, her right to form a family. Restrictions to migrants' right to family life also take the form of dismissals and deportations of migrants who become pregnant while on temporary labor migration programs.

The GCM is grounded in international human rights law and the commitment to uphold the human rights of all migrants, regardless of status. To fulfill this promise is to recognize and treat all migrants as rights-holders and enable them to make contributions not only to the



countries to which they have migrated, but also to uphold their responsibilities to their own families and communities.

Thank you.