



CONCEPT NOTE

Asia Pacific Pathways to Migrant Protection Mapping Regional Meeting on Report Dissemination

The full report is [available here](#)

Date and Time

Tuesday 5 July 2022 at **11.30am – 1.30pm** (Bangkok time) – Held **online** via Microsoft Teams

Background

The Asia Pacific region hosts and is home to a significant proportion of the world's international migrants. According to official data, in 2020 roughly one in three of the 282 million international migrants in the world originally came from the region and one in seven are living in the region. The countries of the Asia Pacific region are countries of origin, transit and destination for migrants; and at some level most are all three. The region is also the world's most populous (home to 60% of the global population) and among the most rapidly developing.

In this recent study on migrant protection pathways, the UN Human Rights Office has undertaken a non-exhaustive review of national practices for admission and stay in 17 selected Asia Pacific countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu) focused on those that host significant numbers of migrants and/or promote principled migration governance including through the Champion Countries initiative of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The study aims to provide a snapshot of this complex region, and to provide some examples from each sub-region in Asia and the Pacific (South-East Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific). The focus of the study is migration pathways that protect migrants' rights, including mechanisms of entry and stay (whether these originate before migrants arrive or after they enter a territory) that are designed to comply with human rights obligations and/or correspond to compassionate and humanitarian imperatives. Such pathways may engage the principle of non-refoulement, the right to private and family life and the derived obligation to maintain family unity, the right to protection from gender-based violence, the principle of the best interests of the child, the right to rehabilitation for torture victims, or the right to health.

The Global Compact for Migration recognizes the importance of mobility pathways, and specifically the need for pathways that are protection-sensitive. It undertakes to "adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life, and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability" (Objective 5).

Noting in particular the ways in which countries were able to adapt their regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, this new report from the UN Human Rights Office urges States to seize the opportunity to embed the practices and lessons learned in this period. It concludes with a set of seven recommendations to States and stakeholders on how to design, implement and monitor entry and stay pathways for migrants, with a focus on those who are in situations of vulnerability.



Objectives

The **objectives of this regional meeting** on the dissemination of UN Human Rights Asia Pacific pathways to migrant protection report are to:

- Ask the question: **‘what is a pathway, and what does it look like?’**
 - Pathways to migration are various options for individuals to migrate from one State to another for any number of reasons.
 - Protection pathways include discretionary humanitarian entry, temporary residence permits, regularization measures and family union mechanisms among others.
- Facilitate an open discussion about the **availability and adequacy of human rights and humanitarian migration pathways** in the Asia Pacific region, including those that respond to such issues as:
 - Principle of non-refoulement, the right to private and family life, family unity, gender-based violence, the principle of the best interests of the child, the right to rehabilitation for torture victims, right to health, right to education.
- **Examine the report’s seven recommendations** to States and stakeholders on how to design, implement and monitor entry and stay pathways for migrants, with a focus on those who are in situations of vulnerability and hear from **speakers on their experience** of pathways and how to improve and scale up such pathways in the region in line with the Global Compact for Migration.

Proposed Invitees

- Representatives from Member States including Champion Countries of the GCM
- Regional and national CSOs
- National Human Rights Institutions
- UN agencies
- Academics, media and other stakeholders

Agenda

TIME	AGENDA
11.15-11.30am	Entrance to Meeting <i>Attendees can enter meeting via Microsoft Teams before 11.30am start</i>
11.30-11.40am	Introduction to Meeting and Presentation – Pia Oberoi, OHCHR
11.40-12.20pm	Pathways in the Asia Pacific – Sub-regional Discussion of Opportunities and Challenges Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna – Director, Our Journey, Malaysia- Roshni Shanker – Executive Director, Migration and Asylum Project, India- Daniel Ghezlbash – Deputy Director, Kaldor Centre, Australia- Jeanie Kim – Attorney, Duroo Association for Public Interest Law, South Korea



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12.20-12.40pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Member State Representatives from Champion Countries –</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Paul Raymund Cortes – Assistant Secretary, Office of Migrant Workers’ Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines- Lynda Kurnia Wardhani – Minister Counselor, Directorate of Socio-Cultural Affairs, Indonesian MOFA
12.40-1.25pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Open Discussion: Migration Issues, Purpose of Report, Recommendations</p>
1.25-1.30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Event Wrap Up: Next Steps and Ways Forward</p>