

Concluding Statement by the Hon Minister, Chair of the Colombo Process. 25th August 2016 at the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Colombo Process held at Galle Face Hotel

It is my pleasure to say few words at the concluding session of this important event of 5th Ministerial meeting of the Colombo Process

First of all I would like thank all member governments including our new member of Kingdom Of Cambodia for their support in making the meeting productive and successful.

During the todays meeting , we have adopted the Ministerial Declaration affirming the “road map” undertaken the our chairmanship since 2013 to strengthen the engagement between CP member countries and Countries of Destinations under the theme “International Labour Migration for Prosperity: Adding Value by working Together”.

The broader aims and objectives promoted under the Five thematic areas of the road map and today we have evaluated the tangible progress achieved to date collectively by the member states and engagement with destination country organizations.

We have convened four Senior Officials” meetings and 18 ambassadorial and expert meetings in Geneva , which served avenues for the Senior Officials of the CP member countries to engage in in-depth discussions on five thematic areas ,develop the CP Self-funding mechanism to enhance the predictability and regularity of CP meetings.

This process enhanced cooperation with other dialogue Forums, the ADD and Asia –EU Dialogue and to agree on concrete recommendations to realize the common objectives of the Colombo Process.

The establishment of the Technical Support Unit and the appointment of a Technical Expert to pursue the goals determined under the Colombo Process roadmap the development of an online repository and the redevelopment of the Colombo Process website to serve as a knowledge forum are adding value to the progress achieved during this chairing period to meet the challenges ahead in the current scenario in labour migration.

To optimize mutual benefits from temporary labor migration during the chairing period we strengthened the engagement with destination countries of the GCC through the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) meetings in 2014 and in 2016 ,in spirit of cooperation, this include support for the thematic programmes of the ADD including the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme for Migrant Workers and the ADD project on Skill Development , Documentation and Recognition.

We viewed the areas of partnerships to share labor market information and knowledge, to build our capacities to track labour market trends in matching labor demand with supply, to protect migrant workers at all stages of their migration process, and to develop a framework for managing temporary contractual mobility. Such partnerships are essential requisites in the creation of conditions that would allow the protection and development of temporary migrant workers and also derive economic and social benefits for both destination and origin counties.

This Fifth Ministerial Consultation marked a new beginning for the sustainability and the continuity of the Colombo Process approving and adopting the revised Colombo Process Operating Modalities including a

self-funding Mechanism to consolidate the structure of the CP and to ensure its sustainability .

The Declaration of the 5th Ministerial meeting will direct us to a better path to fulfill the vision, the goal and the means, which make the Colombo Process a responsive and relevant forum enhancing the visibility as a strong RCP to meet the future challenges in labour migration in CP member countries.

I firmly believe that recommended activities of the Thematic Area Working Groups pave the way to build collaborative and responsible partnership among all member states and also with the receiving countries for betterment of our migrant workers.

I am extremely grateful to the Director General IOM for his presence and for the technical, secretarial and financial support and assistance provided in organizing this meeting through the able team in Colombo Office and also with the regional office in Bangkok. I hope that the IOM's support will be essential in moving forward the important recommendations that had initiated from the meeting.

I also wish to place my sincere gratitude to CP members, ADD Secretariat , destination countries, International Organizations, Observer States and civil society organizations for their constructive engagement and participation at this Ministerial meeting.

Before I remain, I wish to thank the Geneva based expert group headed by H.E Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka Permanent Representative UN for facilitating ground work to make this event a success.

Thank you