

Panel Discussion Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Adoption of Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers

Challenges for States and Promising Developments

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High Commissioner Zied Ra'ad Al Hussien, CMW Chairperson Carrion Mena, Mr. Hubert Rene Schillinger, Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen. Good afternoon.

Thank you for this honor and privilege to participate in this panel discussion to mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICMRW).

As a major country of origin, and as one of the first State Parties to this UN Convention, the PHIL reaffirms the distinct importance of this international human rights treaty in protecting the rights of every migrant worker and their families, ensuring equal treatment of migrant workers regardless of their immigration status, and recognizing their economic and social contribution to national and global development.

The specific context of this panel discussion on the challenges for the States and promising developments are the irregular migration flows in the Mediterranean, migrant workers in the Gulf, and undocumented children in the Americas. For this purpose, I will focus my presentation on our response to the migrants' rights in the Gulf.

Profile of Filipino Migrant Workers in the Gulf

I will not dwell so much time in elaborating on hardship that migrant workers encounter while working in the Gulf since I believe that has been fully discussed by William Gois of Migrant Forum Asia and Mustafa Qadri of Amnesty International in preceding panel discussion.

Allow me instead to present to you some of my government initiatives towards promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights of migrants, particularly of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), many of whom are working in the Gulf region.

Let me start by describing to you the profile of our migrant workers in the region.