

Inputs from the Colombo Process Thematic Area Working Group (TAWG) on Skills and qualification recognition process

For Global Compact for Migration

Thematic Session 6 “ Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures.

(12 – 13 October 2017 – Geneva)

1. Recognize that migration of skilled migrant workers can be beneficial to countries of origin and destination when done strategically by capitalizing on demographic dividends and with due consideration to domestic labour demands, and provided that this results in better labour market outcomes through improved job-matching.
2. Promote mutual recognition of skills and qualification frameworks between countries of origin and destination and explore possibilities of establishing a regional qualification framework as a mechanism to enable comparisons of qualification cross countries of origin and facilitates enhanced recognition of skills of migrant workers in the countries of destination.
3. Encourage conceptualizing and institutionalizing recognition of prior learning (RPL) for migrant workers for those leaving to work abroad and for those returning home which is particularly important given the vast level of informality that exists in many countries of origin and especially for marginalized groups.
4. Promote tools to assess prior learning of returning migrant workers and facilitate their reintegration into a job in which these skills can be further utilized and promote the use of skills passports to document the skills acquired which can be used in countries of destination and country of origin.
5. Promote incorporating soft skills with technical skills in the process of skilling migrant workers. Due attention shall be paid to soft skills, workplace practices, rights at work, protection issues, basic language and IT literacy etc., This could be delivered as part of a mandatory pre-departure

orientation and continued in destination. As skills training and recognition that leads to better labour market outcomes and efficiency will contribute to the SDG 10.7 as well as SDG 4.

6. Review existing or design a new set of indicators for measuring outputs and impact of the recognition system in relation to the expectations of workers, employers and the governments. An assessment procedure shall be integrated in to the regular quality assurance tool of the skills recognition system.
7. Recognize the importance of engaging employers and industry associations engagement in countries of destination and exploring non-traditional occupations for female and male workers
8. Recommend consideration of occupation-specific and gender specific realities and outcomes when designing skills training and recognition programs for migrant workers.
9. Encourage and support the development and strengthening of national skills qualification frameworks of member states.
10. Advocate for the creation of opportunities for skills upgrading of migrant workers on site in countries of destination in partnership with relevant stakeholders including employer.