



Agenda item 10: Panel Discussion – Development and Migration: Understanding Immigrations role in managing foreign workers and exploitation

Recommendations

Members are to note managing foreign workers best practices and identify immigration processes and systems that can be improved to avoid exploitation of foreign workers.

Purpose

This session intends to discuss the role immigration plays through its management of migration systems and processes to support governments development objectives.

Background

2. The potential impacts of migration on development are complex and multidimensional, and require a multidimension response from policy makers and practitioners as the impacts of migration can be both positive and negative, offering opportunities or constraints to economic, social and human development. The effects will vary depending on the country context, its economic and social trends as well as the scale and characteristics of migration and behavior of individual migrants.

3. The growing pace of economic globalization has created more migrant workers than ever before. Unemployment and increasing poverty have prompted many workers in developing countries to seek work elsewhere. It is estimated that 73 per cent of migrants are workers. In industrialized countries, demand for labour, especially unskilled labour, has increased. As a result, millions of workers and their families travel to countries other than their own to find work.

4. Migrant workers contribute to the economies of their host countries, and the remittances they send home help to boost the economies of their countries of origin. Yet, migrant workers are vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking. Skilled migrant workers are less vulnerable to exploitation, but their departure deprives some developing countries of the valuable labour needed for their own economies.

5. Panellists will be discussing experiences and findings around the management of increasing foreign workers and exploitation in the Pacific and more importantly the increasing number of pacific Islanders traveling abroad for labour mobility schemes and other employment opportunities. How do we strike a balance in the movement of people through our visa structures?