

Documentation Template

Workshop Number	20
Title	Access and Portability of Social Protection for Migrant Workers
Organizers	Public Services International, Women and Global Migration Working Group, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation, Global Migration Policy Associates
Moderator	Genevieve Gencianos
Speakers	Dr. Nicola Piper, University of Sydney/GMPA/Consultant Jillian Roque, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK/Philippines) Sari Koivuniemi, The Union of Health and Social Care Professionals (Tehy/Finland)
Workshop Time/Location	1:00 - 3:00 pm, 2 nd Floor Conference Room
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VISION

What is our vision on this issue? What is the ideal? What are we trying to achieve?

- We want a rights-based approach to social protection for all migrant workers. The right to social security of migrant workers should be recognized and countries of origin and destination must share the responsibility in ensuring that this right is implemented.
- We want equal treatment on social security between national workers of countries of destination and migrant workers. Migrant workers should have access to social protection and states must work together to ensure portability of social security rights.

ANALYSIS

What is the current analysis on this issue? What more thinking needs to be done?

Given the growing number of migrant workers, the trend towards temporary/circular migration, increasing precariousness of jobs everywhere, and failure of states to address underdevelopment (particularly of countries of origin) and its underlying structural causes, there is an urgent need to ensure access and portability of social protection for migrant workers. Migrant workers, particularly women and undocumented workers, are often excluded from the coverage of social protection schemes due to nationality or residency restrictions. Even in cases where migrant workers are entitled to some form of social security in their country of employment, they are most likely to lose their accumulated benefits when they return back their origin countries due to non-portability of benefits. Thus, many migrant workers pay into the social security system of their country of employment and yet get nothing in the end. Other critical issues

are the lack of coordination on social security for migrant workers between origin and destination countries and the lack of awareness/information on the right to social security among migrant workers.

Further analysis of social protection for migrant workers is seriously needed particularly on how to ensure portability of benefits.

STRATEGY

What action can we take collectively to bring about our vision? What campaigns or next steps are needed to take action?

- Conduct further research / mapping of social protection schemes and practices in order to better inform and guide the development and implementation of states in ensuring access and portability of social protection for migrants workers
- Hold national and cross-border campaigns to pressure states to ratify and implement UN and ILO Conventions related to migrant's rights and social protection.
- To campaign for governments to invest in quality public services particularly health and education
- Push for bilateral/multilateral agreements that would ensure ethical recruitment of migrant workers
- Monitor implementation of bilateral/multilateral agreements on social security
- For trade unions to explore and promote portable union membership
- For trade unions and civil society to engage in joint campaigns (at the national, regional and global levels) to promote social protection for all migrant workers
- To campaign for countries to undertake unilateral measures to ensure social protection for migrant workers

RECOMMENDATIONS

Please provide 3 to 5 recommendations that your group would like to see reflected in the final PGA declaration. Please specify who these recommendations are directed to (e.g., States? Institutions? Civil society? Social movements?)

- For states to ratify and implement UN and ILO Conventions related to social protection for migrant workers such as ILO Convention No. 102 on Social Security (Minimum Standards), Convention No. 118 on Equality of Treatment (Social Security), and Convention No. 157 on Maintenance of Social Security Rights
- For states to adopt a rights-based approach to social protection for migrant workers and ensure that both countries of origin and destination recognize their shared responsibility in ensuring access to and portability of social protection for migrant workers
- For states to develop and implement bilateral or multilateral agreements / mechanisms to strengthen coordination of social security systems and services for migrant workers and involve trade unions and civil society throughout the process
- For states to invest in quality public services in order to address the social costs of labor migration and enhance social protection for migrant workers
- For civil society and social movements to deepen analysis, strengthen partnerships, and engage in joint actions and cross-border campaigns around social protection for all migrant workers (including undocumented workers)