



Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations
and
NGO Committee on Migration



Side Event to the United Nations 56th Commission for Social Development

The Future of the Rohingya

Monday, 5 February 2018, 1:15pm - 2:30pm

United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 7

SPEAKERS

H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Mr. Bilal Wilson

Senior Policy Expert, Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

Mr. Ashraf El Nour, Director

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office to the United Nations, New York

Ms. Li Fung, Human Rights Officer

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)

Mr. Ahmed Ullah

Rohingya refugee, Kitchener, Canada

Moderator:

Dr. Rashmi Jaipal

Representative to the United Nations, American Psychological Association;
Member of the NGO Committee on Migration

Co-sponsored by the Subcommittee on Countering Xenophobia and Fostering Social Inclusion:



Concept Note

The Future of the Rohingya

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The crisis of the Rohingya forcibly displaced from Myanmar has reached historic proportions and has been well documented. At issue is concern over gross human rights violations and the need for both immediate relief and long-term solutions.

The recent mass exodus from Rakhine State in Myanmar of over 650,000 Rohingya people into neighboring Bangladesh (Scalabrini 6 CMS 2017), 60% of them women and children, has created an untenable situation stretching the capacity of humanitarian actors. Altogether, at present there are over a million refugees and displaced people in Bangladesh and more in the neighboring countries of Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The conditions in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and elsewhere are dire, and the need for prompt action is urgent. Complicated by issues of citizenship, ethnic and religious division and growing security threats, the situation has escalated into a human tragedy of unprecedented scale.

Against this backdrop, since 23 November 2017, the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar have concluded a series of agreements to repatriate the Rohingya and others to Rakhine State over the next two years.

With the co-sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of the Bangladesh to the United Nations, the NGO Committee on Migration will hold a side-event featuring a panel on "The Future of the Rohingya" on Monday, 5 February 2018 at the United Nations, from 1:15-2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 7.

The panel will seek to understand the immense complexities of the situation and learn how and under what circumstances, from the perspective of the Bangladesh government, the Rohingya might be repatriated. It will also explore the issues at stake, and, listening to the voices of people most affected by the crisis, put forward some constructive suggestions, future goals, strategies and desirable outcomes for the return of the Rohingya to their country. Special attention will be paid to the role of human rights, dignity, and security in resolving a further deteriorating situation. The purpose is not to recapitulate the history of the Rohingya situation or to affix blame, but to foster understanding.
