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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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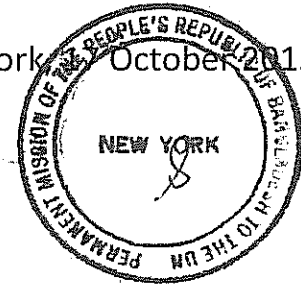
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The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations and has the honor to forward herewith the oral summary of the Round table 4, presented by His Excellency Mr. Shahidul Haque, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh at the closing plenary of the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on 04 October, 2013.

The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 04 October 2013



Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
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**ORAL SUMMARY OF ROUND TABLE 4: “INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL  
LABOUR MOBILITY AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT”**

**Presented by His Excellency Mr. Shahidul Haque,  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
*at the closing plenary of  
High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development  
4 Oct 2013, General Assembly Hall (NLB), United Nations***

Mr. Vice President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me have the privilege to present the outcome of the deliberations, on behalf of the distinguished Co-Chair, His Excellency Mr. Konstantin O. Romanodanovskiy, Head of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation, and the participants. I am here to share with you the discussions that have been held in Roundtable-4: “International and Regional Labour Mobility and its Impact on Development”.

Before I share the main points, let me give my overall impression, the co-chairs’ impression about the atmosphere of the dialogue. The countries shared their experiences, both origin and destination, in an extremely positive note and in a very constructive manner with a spirit of addressing some of the difficulties in labour mobility. We see a convergence in terms of interests, concerns and how to maximize impacts of labour mobility on development.

We were asked to look at three things: First, look at the overall labour mobility practices in the region and globally and then identify obstacles of mobility and, at the end, what needs to be done to enhance labour mobility and developmental impacts.

While countries were making the presentation, they focused on three areas: policies, both in the origin and destination, legislations, and administration to implement policies and legislation.

Let me now share some highlights of the discussion.

First, there was a sense in the presentations that everyone was willing to make migration safe, orderly and humane, based on labour market demands, indeed, which is very crucial. And some of the delegates suggested that if there was labour mobility, against the labour market demands, that's likely to end up in a difficult situation.

Second, the rights of migrant workers and migrants were at the center of labour mobility, both in the origin and destination countries. Countries also felt that rights of migrant workers is the center of our undertaking in terms of development .It is extremely encouraging to see that everyone in the room was concerned about migrant rather than the issue of mobility and the movement, economic gain nevertheless was also important. The trade unions and CSO representatives emphasized on the importance of upholding the rights of migrant workers in their presentation.

There is also a feeling that if we can manage migration in a positive and constructive manner it will at the end help development and help sustainable development. But, some countries identified the risk that often associated with unsafe migration – migrants undertaking unsafe journey - which needs to be stopped. Irregular migration and human trafficking was also quite comprehensively discussed in the Round Table, not only by the destination countries' presentation but also by the origin countries' presentations. Responsibility of the migrants also came up. Some countries raised a valid question about responsibilities of the migrants along with the rights.

There was also a call to reduce the cost of migration. When we are talking about reducing the cost of migration, it was interesting to note that it was not only talking about remittance cost. Yes, that is extremely important and we know that if 5% of cost of remitting money could be reduced, it will add upto USD 60 billion dollars upwards to USD 400 billion. But that was not the only discussion we had in that room. Cost of recruitment was discussed as well. In our discussions, we also saw very strong voice from civil society, business sector about ethical recruitment. There is also another component that came out is social cost of migration – the deprivation and cost for the families left behind. How we can best ensure that families who were left behind are taken care of as well.

There was also a very interesting presentation by Professor Lant Pritchett, Professor of the Practice of International Development at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where very interestingly he showed couple of figures and we all know that there are a number of models that currently exist where it suggest that there would be enormous gain in terms of facilitating labour mobility. And, he said, I quote "given huge gaps existing in the labour productivity and wage differentials allow a modest labour mobility can yield a substantive higher return and this can be the greatest intervention in terms of development." So, he is suggesting a new international agenda for development cooperation, which, I think, has not been explored much.

Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of ILO emphasized in his presentation the need to have a non-binding, right-based, multilateral framework to manage labour migration.

Lastly, there has been a consensus to work together to build an alliances: to build corridors, build partnerships, at bilateral, regional and global levels to ensure that labour mobility becomes and remains an integral component of sustainable development ,and migration gets its due position in Post 2015 Development Agenda.

There is also interesting discussion as to how the world will look like in 2030. Would it be the same? And if it is not, how the labour will move in the world in 2030? How other factors will move? The world in 2030 would be radically different because of technological changes, demography and economy. In that world, like other factors of economy, labour will also go through changes in their mobility pattern. Question is: will people still be remained at home or will now be mobile, contributing to foreign economy (ies)?

At the end, we should remember that we are talking about people, we are talking about migrants, and we are talking about the planet earth.