



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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15th Coordination Meeting on International Migration
16-17 February 2017, UNHQs

16 February 2017

Afternoon Session (1500-1800 hrs.)

Panel Title: Towards the 2018 Migration Conference: Next Steps

Discussion on “**Recommendations from the 2016 Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)**”

presented by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh

Distinguished Moderators,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

Good afternoon.

Last couple of years were indeed very eventful for migration experts. Inclusion of human mobility issues, particularly migration, in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and thereafter in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, created a positive momentum in favor of this issue across the UN discourse. In the backdrop of the large scale humanitarian crisis across the Mediterranean, United Nations had called for a High-Level Meeting to address large movements of Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, which pave the way for “migration” to establish itself as one of the important agenda of the day in UN. The positive momentum reached its crescendo when member states committed themselves in the New York Declaration to developing a Global Compact on Safe-Orderly and Regular Migration and adopting it through an inter-governmental conference to be held in 2018.

Subsequently, the 9th GFMD Summit was hosted by Bangladesh during 10-12 December 2016 in Dhaka. The timing of the Summit, taking place just after the 19 September Summit and immediately prior to the commencement of discussion on the modality resolution for the Global Migration Compact, was quite important. It came up

with innovative ideas and hypotheses to shape the future discussion on the Compact Migration.

For the Summit, Bangladesh Chair conceptualized a theme “Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda” for GFMD’s yearlong activities with particular focus on strengthening migration governance. The summit was preceded by two independent segments- one for the civil society and private sector representatives and the other for the business mechanism. 745 delegates registered themselves for the event which includes representations from 124 member states including more than 20 Ministers from different countries. The major recommendations are illustrated in its chair’s summary. I would like to shed lights on some of the major take aways.

The Business Mechanism:

For the first time, GFMD had a separate segment for its Business Mechanism. The report of this segment came out with following 5 recommendations;

- (a) Creation of a “robust & flexible” Labor Migration Administrative Structure to promote innovation and development while filling the skill gaps.
- (b) Application and enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment laws;
- (c) Development of circular migration schemes coupled with effective remittance transfer mechanisms;
- (d) Corporate initiatives to help the refugees including reduction of barriers in refugee employments, integration and travel; and
- (e) Business engagement in advocacy for fair and open migration policy.

The segment for the Civil Society:

The theme for the 2-days event was “Time for Action: Doing rights-based governance of migration in our communities and across borders.” The consensus was reached on some major elements, such as (i) protection of migrant workers; (ii) protection of migrants on the move; (iii) social inclusion, (iv) inclusive development, (iv) global governance and the global compact on migration and (v) the SDGs.

The report reaffirmed that real engagement and partnerships, only can enable us to reach a compact that can bring real meaning and changes to the lives of migrants.

Outcomes of the Round-Tables:

There were six inter-active round-tables;

- 1.1. **Reducing Migration Cost:** this round-table particularly emphasized on reducing the high social and economic costs imposed on low-skilled migrants. Countries of origins and destinations would need stronger cooperation specially in worker's recruitment, promoting legal and safe channels of migration and measuring the existing push and pull factors.
- 1.2. **Connectivity and Migration:** People to people as well as infra-structural connectivity are integral consequences of human mobility. Emphasize has been given on utilization of modern technologies for providing essential services to the migrants and also on development of migration-related business enterprises.
- 2.1. **Migration, Diversity and Harmonious Society:** this round-table calls for ensuring social cohesions and harmony in the midst of ever-increasing social diversity. Cross Cultural dialogues and respect for core human rights treaties are pivotal in combatting xenophobia and alleviating any form of discriminations towards the migrants.
- 2.2. **Protection of Migrants in all situations:** This is recognized as a legal obligation grounded in numerous international instruments. The round-table highlighted the application challenges in implementation of the right-based policies.
- 3.1. **Migration in Situation of Crises:** Migrants placed in crises situation should have access to safety and protect themselves from any type of exploitation and abuses. This round-table underscored the need for dissemination and implementation of the MICIC guidelines.
- 3.2. **Principles, Institutions and Processes for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:** The notion of migration governance received great deal of attention in this round-table's discussion. Growing recognition for formulation of and adherence to common principles, institution and processes was visualized for better management of migration.

The Global Compact on Migration:

A common thread of all these round-tables was to improve the governance in migration, which was also the primary focus of Bangladesh Chair. The focus was even bigger, to pursue a comprehensive framework for the global governance of human mobility.

The Chair's Summary captured the aims of the proposed compact clearly, stating that the compact will; (i) protect the rights of all migrants, regardless of migratory status; (ii) open channels for safe and regular movements of migrants workers at all skill levels to meet labor market needs; (iii) maintain the integrity of national borders, address irregular migration and combat human smuggling and trafficking; (iv) provides effective protection to those migrants placed in vulnerable situations; (v) ensure inclusion of migrants in the host societies through non-discrimination and access to health, education and employment; and (v) enhance the development impacts of migration.

A number of outcome options was also envisaged; namely (i) a legally binding convention or treaty to regulate the conduct of the states; (ii) a political declaration with guiding principles specially to guide the behavior of the state parties; (iii) concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and indicators of success as well as a robust monitoring framework; (iv) a combination of the above three, a truly hybrid document – a framework agreement with legally binding elements on issues ripe for this, political commitments on areas where there is a consensus of a more general nature; and commitments to concrete actions with a follow-up mechanism where governments are currently ready to take actions.

The chair's summary also suggested that though developed through separate and distinct processes, both the compacts (for refugees and migrants) should be mutually supportive and consistent.

The summary also penciled the role of GFMD in following up the migration related goals and targets of SDGs by stating that this forum could be a suitable platform through;

- (a) Voluntary sharing of experiences, progresses and evidence on migration aspect of 2030 agenda;
- (b) Building partnership for aforesaid voluntary actions;
- (c) Keeping governments and other stake-holders informed about the developments on migration related aspects of 2030 agenda and providing inputs to the formal follow-up and review mechanisms of the United Nations.

The summary stressed the need for transforming GFMD into a catalyst for multi-stakeholder action to deliver on the 2030 Agenda commitments. Finally, it recommended the ad hoc working group to continue exploring how the GFMD can

better engage with the 2030 agenda and expand its mandate for constructively contribute in the process of developing the global compact for migration.

The summary was concluded by saying that member states consider GFMD as a privileged platform for policy exchange and during the summit unanimously agreed that the forum should keep on playing its important role in the framing of the global compact for migration.

In conclusion, I would like to bring to your kind notice the importance that Peter Sutherland's latest report has attached on the enhanced role and more concrete contribution of GFMD in the lead up to the Global Compact on Migration. The invaluable expertise that GFMD has accumulated over the years can make a real difference in shaping the Global Compact. As the immediate past GFMD Chair and also on behalf of current Chair Germany and next Chair Morocco, we seek out support in our endeavour.