

**High-level meeting of the Plenary of the General  
Assembly on addressing Large Movements of  
Refugees and Migrants**

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**Statement  
by  
HE Sheikh Hasina  
Prime Minister  
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh**

**UNHQ, New York  
Monday  
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**Excellencies,  
UN Secretary General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I commend Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for convening the first-ever Summit on Refugees and Migrants.

We must seize this historic opportunity and deliberate on a robust, ambitious and action-oriented blueprint to deal with population movements. This needs to be done within a broader development context.

**Excellencies,**

Migration is a public good. Migration must be appreciated as a reality and freedom enhancer.

In a connected world, goods, services and all factors of production need to move unhindered. Spread and speed of knowledge and technology make it even more compelling across economies and societies.

Let me underline a few aspects of migration governance.

*First*, Mutual trust and respect, shared responsibility and inclusiveness are critical to address migration comprehensively. We must have general agreement on these universal principles.

*Second*, we pledged to “*leave no one behind*”. Migrants’ rights have to be secured, in all situations, “irrespective of their status”. For harmony across our diverse societies, protection and promotion of the rights of migrants and refugees are equally essential.

*Third*, migration and mobility need to be placed in a new, positive narrative. Bangladesh has, therefore, proposed a Global Compact on Migration addressing some of the long-standing gaps in migration governance. The Compact must build on the 2030 Agenda, and capture elements and modalities that are ambitious and enforceable, yet balanced and flexible.

*Fourth*, promotion of tolerance and understanding is crucial for accommodating migrants and refugees. We must all rise above a solely identity-based discourse.

*Fifth*, climate change and resultant displacement of millions of people is a reality. The Compact will have to take into account the protection need of millions of climate-displaced people. The World Humanitarian Summit adopted the Partnership for Protection and Development. The global Compact should build on such innovative initiatives.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Promoting safe, orderly, regular and responsible movement of people is about securing individuals' dignity and well-being. Bangladesh, as the current Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), will be happy to contribute to the development of the Compact.

**Thank you all.**