

Global Forum on Migration and Development

Synopsis of Report of GFMD 2016 Chairmanship

By

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Thank you Chair.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning/Good afternoon.

Let me begin by thanking all the members of the Steering group and the Friends of the Forum for their support to Bangladesh. We are grateful for your participation in the 9th GFMD Summit held in Bangladesh, which has made the event successful. We also appreciate the countries that have made financial contribution to the 9th GFMD. Your participation and contribution are proof of your support to Bangladesh Chairmanship and your commitment to the process.

The Ninth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 10-12 December 2016. Bangladesh assumed its Chairmanship of the GFMD only a few months after world leaders had adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN General Assembly in New York and the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Together these agendas marked a landmark recognition of the immense benefits of migration for development. Indeed, they “recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development” and hold that international migration is of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Dhaka meeting brought together policy makers, UN agencies and civil society to discuss cooperation in global, social and labour market governance and issues such as gender, ethical recruitment, reducing migration costs, diversity and protection of migrants.

This year’s annual GFMD Forum Meeting had three broad strands under the overarching theme ***Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda. The three broad***

strands were – the economics of migration, the sociology of migration and the governance of migration, captured in six roundtable sessions.

A common thread of all the roundtables was the improvement of the governance of migration making it the primary focus of 9th GFMD. There is growing recognition that it is only through the formulation of/and adherence to common principles, institutions and processes that the international community will be able to manage migration to the benefit of all.

It is clear that for us the road map to governance will come in the form of the Compact on Migration. Our view of the Compact is based on the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to *cooperate internationally* to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons.

During the Chairmanship of Bangladesh, three (3) series of preparatory meetings were held of the GFMD Troika (comprised of GFMD 2014-2015 Chair Turkey, Chair-in-office Bangladesh and incoming GFMD 2017-2018 co-chairs Germany and Morocco), the GFMD Steering Group, and the Friends of the Forum. These meetings were held in Geneva on 4 February, 17 May and 20 October 2016, respectively.

On average, 120 to 160 delegates from around 85 Member States and 20 observers attended the meetings of the Friends of the Forum. The Steering Group meetings were attended by on average 25 Member States. Additionally, for the second and third preparatory meetings, participation of at least 40 capital-based experts from least-developed countries and other low-income countries was facilitated through the financial assistance extended by the GFMD Chair. The Summit in Dhaka was attended by around 125 countries.

Thematic workshops

In addition to the six Roundtables, during the Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship, three Thematic Workshops were organized. The three thematic workshops were Connectivity and migration; Migration for harmonious societies; Migration for peace, stability and growth.

The Chair extended financial assistance to capital-based experts, which allowed for the participation of 20-25 government experts from developing countries. On average, the thematic meetings were attended by 140 delegates from around 60 governments and 15 observers. Around 100 capital-based experts took part in these thematic workshops.

Bangladesh Chair also held two side events : GFMD – GMG side event in March in Bangkok and the GFMD-CMW side event in May 2016, in Geneva.

Against the backdrop of the New York Declaration that was adopted at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, A Dialogue on Global Migration Compact, was held in New York on 14 November 2016. The meeting highlighted the

need to improve the governance of international migration and considered the GFMD's possible role and contributions in the process of developing the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

GFMD Civil Society Days 2016, on the theme "Time for Action; Doing rights-based governance of migration and development in our communities and across borders" was held from 8 to 9 December. A separate report will be presented by the Civil society representative.

Under the Bangladesh Chairmanship of the GFMD, the private sector was invited for the first time, to participate as an independent GFMD stakeholder at the GFMD Forum Meeting. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration (WEF GACM) coordinate the work of the GFMD Business mechanism. Together they form the Business Advisory Group. A GFMD Business Secretariat is housed at the IOE.

The Ninth GFMD Summit meeting started with welcome addresses by the three Ministers of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, who greeted the delegates and guests, and set the tone for the ensuing debates. **H.E. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali**, Foreign Minister, **H.E. Nurul Islam**, Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and **H.E. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain**, Minister for Local Development, Rural Development and Cooperatives. The three Ministerial statements were followed by Two reports by the Chair of the Civil Society Days (CSDs), **Mr. Colin Rajah**, and the report on the GFMD Business Mechanism, presented by **Ms. Linda Kromjong**, Secretary General of IOE and Coordinator of the GFMD Business Mechanism.

Representing Mr. Peter Sutherland, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, **Mr. François Fouinat**, **Ms. Lakshmi Puri**, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and representing the Global Migration Group, International Labour Organization Director-General, **H.E. Guy Ryder**, **H.E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing**, IOM Director-General, **H.E. Wu Hongbo**, Under Secretary-General for UN DESA graced the opening session with their statements. The voice of the United Nations was echoed with the words of **H.E. António Guterres**, the UN Secretary-General-elect (UNSG-elect) who addressed the Summit via a video message. **H.E. Sheikh Hasina**, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, officially declared the opening of the Ninth GFMD Summit.

The 9th GFMD concluded with the Chair's Summary delivered on 12 December 2016. One major focus of the Chair's Summary captured the discussions on the Global Compact on Migration. The first ever GFMD dialogue dedicated on the compact was held at the UN in New York. While it is impossible to cover all the points raised, some broad lines of agreement are quite apparent.

A compact should aim for the following:

Protects the rights of all migrants, regardless of migratory status;

- Opens channels for the safe and regular movement of migrant workers at all skill levels to meet labour market needs;
- Maintains the integrity of national borders, addresses irregular migration and combats migrant smuggling and trafficking;
- Provides effective protection for migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Ensures inclusion of migrants in host societies, including through non-discrimination and access to health, education and the labour market;
- Enhances the development impacts of migration;

These policy objectives cover all the relevant dimensions of migration; the promotion of migration and development; addressing irregular migration; and responding to forced displacement and refugees.

A number of outcome options can be envisaged:

1. A legally binding convention or treaty regulating the conduct of states
2. A political declaration with guiding principles guiding the behavior by states
3. Concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and indicators of success as well as a robust monitoring framework
4. A combination of the three, possibly including 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 action with a follow-up mechanism where governments are ready to take action now.

As we prepare for the GCM, we should take care to ensure a comprehensive frame work; in fact, we should make sure that the global compact on refugees and the global compact on migration are mutually supportive and consistent.

Role of GFMD

The New York Declaration explicitly invites the GFMD to contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations leading to the GCM and the Chair will share its summary of the main recommendations from this Forum Meeting with those conducting the negotiations. The incoming co-chairs have expressed their willingness and readiness to continue engaging with these issues.

As a member of the Troika of the GFMD, Bangladesh will play its part in ensuring that the GFMD is used as a platform for pushing the boundaries of what is possible and generating consensus around ambitious outcomes for the GCM.

2030 Agenda

In response to the strong interest in the GFMD to play a strong role in the follow-up of the migration-aspects of the 2030 an ad hoc working group was formed to provide recommendations how the Forum could engage with this issue. The group identified three areas for which the GFMD could serve as a platform:

- Voluntary sharing of experiences, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the 2030 agenda;

- Building partnerships on migration related aspects of the 2030 agenda for voluntary action; and
- Keeping governments and other relevant stakeholders informed about developments on migration related aspects of the 2030 Agenda and providing inputs to the formal follow-up and review mechanisms of the UN.

The group established that for this to be effective, the roundtables themes need to be linked more closely to the commitments in the 2030 Agenda and have a standing agenda item dedicated to the follow-up on the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, given the rapidly changing context, there was a recommendation for the ad hoc working group to continue exploring how the GFMD can engage with the 2030 Agenda and to expand its mandate to also look at how the forum engages with the global compact on migration.

Future of the Forum

Member states met for the usual consultations about the Future of the Forum and were unanimous in their resolve to maintain the GFMD as a privileged platform for policy exchange. The Forum agreed that it should play an important role in the framing of the Global Compact on Migration.

The full report of the 9th GFMD is under process. The full report will be presented during the next preparatory meeting. Thank you.

