

29 February 2016

Dear GFMD Friends of the Forum,

As Bangladesh has assumed the Chairmanship of the Ninth Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), in keeping with the agreed Work Programme, we have initiated the process of holding the Thematic Workshops and the RoundTables.

2. As the universal, State-led, voluntary process on global migration and development, the GFMD process has been building up on creating desired narrative and consensus on optimally seizing the opportunities and addressing the challenges related to migration *vis-à-vis* sustainable development. The deliberations peak at the GFMD Summit (*Dhaka, 10-12 December 2016*) - aiming to secure convergence on a range of contemporary key issues and questions.

3. With endorsement from wider GFMD membership, Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship is holding a one-day **Thematic Workshop on Connectivity, Migration and Business** in Bangkok on **29 March 2016**. I have the pleasure to enclose the *draft Concept Note* and the **tentative Programme** for your kind reference.

4. By now, evidences and analytics attest that rapidly growing connects in myriad of forms is impacting the lives, livelihoods of people and the societies significantly. It is also acknowledged that societies gain as 'connectivity' is approached in its logical wider menu. This is particularly borne by scores of connectivity initiatives in the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin American region - at various levels, following diverse modalities and forms. While many of the connectivity initiatives primarily based on development of physical or resource connectivity or, augment trade, their key objective remains to optimize wellbeing of peoples under the given initiatives/frameworks. It is now increasingly acknowledged that while countries and economies get connected faster and deeper, governments and business need to facilitate mobility of people in various forms in a globalised world. In our regions, among others, both the Regional Commissions and the regional multilateral development banks have brought out enough of analyses and evidence to that score. Bangladesh has thus decided to hold a first-ever candid conversation on various aspects and issues concerning connectivity *vis-à-vis* mobility and migration. As business can facilitate and contribute to both connectivity and people's mobility, it would be necessary to interface with them as well within an evolving discourse.

5 I would thus be most pleased if an appropriate representative from your esteemed Government/Organisation joins the Thematic Workshop and shares your perspectives. We expect the

debate to draw stakeholders/actors from diverse regions – the governments, civil society and global business. The GFMD Chair would count on active engagement of expert(s) to contribute and enrich our discussions – which would also feed into the GFMD RoundTables.

Sincerely,



Amb. Md. Shahidul Haque
Foreign Secretary – Bangladesh
&
GFMD Chair-in-Office