

GFMD 2011 Thematic Meeting Concept Note

Cluster I: *Lowering the costs of migration for higher development gains*

**Organized and hosted by the Government of Bangladesh
in cooperation with the Swiss GFMD Chair and IOM**

**Dhaka, Bangladesh
03-04 October 2011**

The concept

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), established in Brussels in 2007, in follow-up to the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York in 2006, is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcomes-oriented dialogue. In its fifth year, the Swiss Chair-in-Office has selected as its flagship theme ***Taking action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation***.

In response to the Swiss GFMD Chair's call for Friends of the Forum to host thematic meetings under this flagship theme, the Government of Bangladesh agrees to organize and host, in cooperation with the Swiss Chair, a GFMD workshop on "*Lowering the costs of migration for higher development gains*". Bangladesh would be assisted in this by the International Organization for Migration. The workshop would engage policy makers from countries of origin and destination in the Asian and Gulf State regions, in particular member states of the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue. It will also engage governments from other affected regions - Africa, Latin America and Europe - and expert international organizations from the GMG (such as ILO) and civil society.

The proposed workshop is in line with: **(a)** the GFMD 2011 Cluster I theme of *Labour Mobility and Development*; **(b)** the GFMD 2011 flagship theme *Taking action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation*; **(c)** the GFMD 2011 format of action-oriented thematic meetings to explore practical applications of GFMD discussions at national, regional and inter-agency levels, and tap into the concrete experiences of migration practitioners on the ground.

The workshop will also build on the content and key outcomes of GFMD 2010 in Mexico on issues of labour mobility and protecting contract workers, and will contribute to achieving the 2011 work plan of the GFMD Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development.

As current Chair of the Colombo Process, Bangladesh anticipates that the workshop will be able to draw from the useful models and lessons offered by the work of the Colombo Process on bilateral and regional cooperation and migration partnerships to share responsibility for protecting and empowering migrants in temporary work situations abroad.

Proposed GFMD workshop

The proposed 2-day workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh, will be organized and hosted by the Government of Bangladesh, and co-chaired by Bangladesh and the Swiss GFMD chair.

Venue and Timing:

The workshop will take place in Dhaka on 03-04 October 2011.

Participants:

Some 40-50 participants, including the Chairs and Members States of the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue; the Government of Switzerland (Chair of GFMD 2011); governments from other regions

(Africa, Europe, Latin America), international organizations (GMG); Civil Society; and the private sector (manpower agencies; employers).

Proposed agenda:

The workshop will address the following issues in a mixed format of Common Space, roundtable plenaries and break-out sessions. It will address a few key questions around the following issues:

- a) Information for the migrants, employers, recruiters;
- b) Validation and protection of overseas work contracts;
- c) Regulation of labour recruiters;
- d) Low cost loans options for migrants;
- e) Social protection packages for temporary contract workers;
- f) Social impacts of overseas contract work on families and communities in the country of origin.

Objectives of the Workshop

This workshop seeks to :

- *share good practices* on the above issues with a view to lowering the costs of labour mobility;
- collect examples and/or models of cooperation among countries of origin and destination on the key issues listed above, that could serve other GFMD members as good practices;
- *develop a (regional) model* for cooperation in lowering the costs of migration.

Proposed workshop program (to be finalized with the Chair and IOM)

Evening Prior to the Workshop

- Registration

Day 1

- Registration (Cont'd)
- Opening (1 hour)
- Common Space (multi stakeholder panel with governments, international experts, civil society) (2.5 hrs)
- Lunch
- A Multi Stakeholder plenary panel on the latest developments, thinking and practice in current and potential strategies to lower the costs of labour mobility for migrants. Panelists will comprise: Bangladesh; Canada (tbc); UAE; academic expert; Manpower agency. This would prepare the way for break-out sessions the following day.
- Reception

Day 2

- Brief plenary session to take stock of the outcomes of the first day and orient participants for the break-out sessions (45 minutes).
- 3 Break-out sessions to share concrete good practices on the 6 issues of the workshop agenda.
- Co-Chairs' Summary : Policy Directions and Concrete Actions.
- Late lunch

Concrete Outcomes

- *Report of Consultation* (Summary of Key Outcomes to be submitted to the GFMD Chair)
- Gender sensitive *checklist* for labour laws recognizing domestic work and for employment contracts for domestic workers
- *Strategies* that expand implementation of good practices on social protection for domestic workers.

Total proposed Budget: CHF120,000

- To cover travel and accommodation of participants, admin support, interpreting, background documentation; expert fee, reception, reception etc.
- Venue, facilities and local resources to be covered by the Government of Bangladesh.

A final, complete budget will be shared with the Swiss GFMD Chair asap, to facilitate early transfer and commencement of tasks.

15 July 2011