

Address by H. E. Sheikh Hasina, Hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh
at the Inauguration Ceremony
of the Ninth Summit of the Global Forum for Migration and Development
(10 December 2016; BICC, Dhaka)

Excellencies,

Directors General of ILO and IOM, Chair of GMG

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to join all our friends and partners from 125 countries and over 30 UN Agencies, international organisations, global civil society and business at the Ninth GFMD Summit this morning.

2. A migrant is just not a labour. Each migrant has a unique story to tell. A migrant makes so much of sacrifice as he leaves his family and country. Migrants contribute their ideas, labour and resources in the development of the host societies. They also spend their best part of life for others. Often we ignore their human stories, their inalienable rights as human beings.

3 In the recent years, there has been an intense focus and advancement on migration issues. We recognize, migration connects communities, economies and societies. Migration is equally essential for peace, stability and growth. In a diverse and connected world, migration is inevitable and essential. Societies need to understand the benefits of diversity for harmony among all people, including the migrants.

4 The global development architecture, popularly known as Agenda 2030, recognizes migration as a key enabler of sustainable development. In order to realise these, we need to identify convergence of our interests, balance our needs, aspirations, security concerns and opportunities.

5 People move for so many purposes, just not for work. In a globalized world, people will continue to move in large numbers. Therefore the challenge is how we can facilitate safe, orderly and regular movement of people more. And, ensure that a person moves as a matter of free choice.

6 We also need to ensure that each migrant moves and works in dignity and safety. That their rights are protected - in all situations, regardless of their status as we all agreed in New York in last September. Migration is no longer about 'us' and 'them', it is about prosperity and well-being of all people, all States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7 Migration is a most complex human phenomenon. Migration and migrants are not to be feared or avoided. Rather we need to see how we can realise the transformative potential of migration by laying appropriate framework for governance of migration. This April, Bangladesh proposed a comprehensive Global Compact for Migration Governance at the UN. At the UN Summit on Migrants and Refugees this

September, I was happy to see that the world accepted our ideas of a Migration Compact. Now, we are working with States and civil society to push for a comprehensive Global Compact of Migrants and Refugees that should get adopted in 2018 at the UN.

8 As GFMD Summit gets into business, I would urge all to be ambitious, pragmatic and balanced in designing a new Compact. We need to secure a predictable and responsible international response to migrants and refugees to realize the promises of 'transformation' of the Agenda 2030.

9 It is time that the GFMD speaks candidly and boldly. I am happy that GFMD will focus on some of the challenging issues, like migrants in situations of crisis and conflicts, migration governance, diversity and harmony. I fondly remember Peter Sutherland who has been instrumental on the issue of migration governance. As GFMD moves to the global consultative process in 2017, we must pledge and act to lift the migrants from misery and agony.

10 I thank all our friends and partners for supporting the Bangladesh Chairmanship of GFMD.

I declare the Ninth GFMD Summit open.
