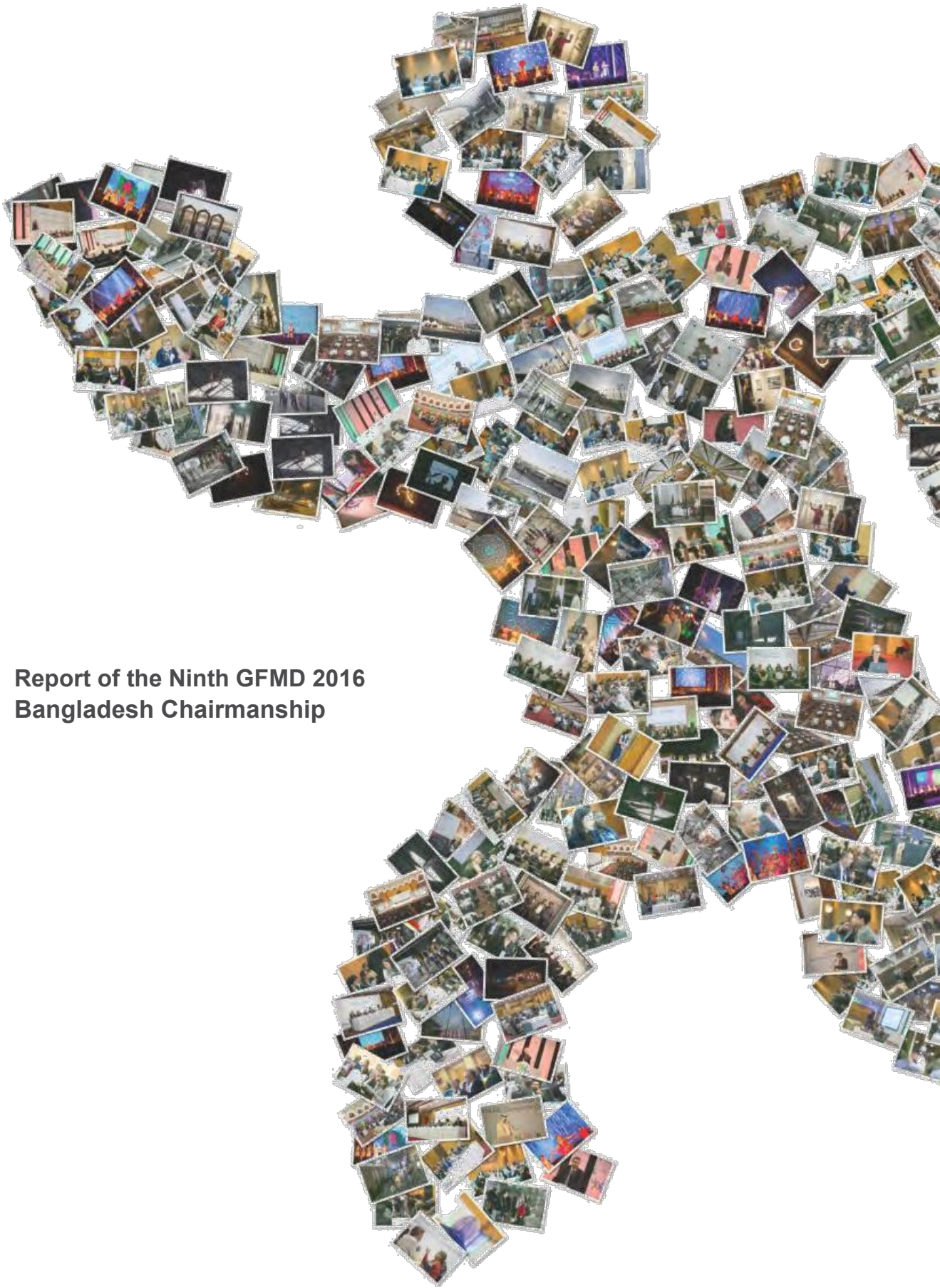




Report of the Ninth GFMD 2016 Bangladesh Chairmanship



**Report of the Ninth GFMD 2016
Bangladesh Chairmanship**





**Migration that works for
Sustainable Development of All:
Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda**



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“Each migrant has a unique story to tell... Migrants contribute their ideas, labour and resources in the development of the host societies... Migration connects communities, economies and societies... We need to identify convergence of our interests, balance our needs, aspirations, security concerns and opportunities... We need to see how we can realize the transformative potential of migration by laying appropriate framework for governance of migration... We need to secure a predictable and responsible international response to migration and refugees to realize the promises of 'transformation' of the Agenda 2030...”

~ H.E. Sheikh Hasina

Honourable Prime Minister Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh





Foreword

Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P.
Foreign Minister, Bangladesh

Migration remains as one of the means for individuals to seek opportunities for better livelihood options, overcome poverty, and escape conflicts. From historical times, migration has provided an individual a scope to adapt to economic and environmental challenges and strive for a more prosperous future for themselves and their family members. Migration therefore, is not only a trajectory of mere mobility, but, essentially about people, their well-being, their rights and fundamental freedoms.

The UN High-level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development, held in 2013 set a significant milestone in the follow-up of Rio+20 and in the discussions surrounding migration and development. The Outcome of the HLD further highlighted the importance of migration related aspects in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Bangladesh has been in the forefront of discussions on international migration. Starting with co-hosting the Global Leadership Meeting (GLM) on Population Dynamics (Dhaka, 12-13 March 2013), and the following Global Experts Meeting on Migration and Post-2015 Development Agenda held on 29 April 2014, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the country took lead in the Open Working Group negotiations of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 to include migration in the SDGs.

Bangladesh took up the chairmanship of GFMD to continue its efforts in the same vain – to promote and integrate, in the process of development, a range of migration specific issues, ideas and elements. The objective was to carry forward a comprehensive discussion on international migration reflecting its full potentiality in economy and society, while providing scope for responding to remaining challenges through promoting migration governance.



Bangladesh during its Chairmanship organized three thematic meetings, three preparatory meetings and four Troika meetings. The Friends of the Forum meetings in the preparatory stage were attended, on average by 120 to 160 delegates from around 85 Member States and 20 Observers. The Steering Group meetings were attended by 25 Member States on average. As we encouraged greater participation from LDCs, we facilitated participation of at least 40 capital-based experts from least-developed countries and other low-income countries for the second and third preparatory meetings, through the financial assistance extended.

The GFMD Summit held in Bangladesh witnessed enthusiastic presence of 623 participants from 124 countries. In addition, 355 civil society members, 32 observers and 27 members from the private sector also attended the meeting. I express my appreciation for those countries and participants that graced the GFMD Summit in Bangladesh.





Foreword

Md. Shahidul Haque

Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh and GFMD 2016 Chair

International migration has become a prominent attribute on the canvas of global economy and politics. In particular, in last two years - mobility has featured in key areas of global discourse on development, disaster and conflict. 2015 witnessed landmark actions in the international arena on migration – both thematically and institutionally. Inclusion of migration in 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda stood out as a milestone for the migration community around the world. Simultaneously, migration has featured in as important aspect in Addis Ababa Action Agenda and in Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Bangladesh took Chairmanship of the 9th GFMD at a time right after the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Hence, we focused on the implementation with a SDGs plus motivation. While looking at a more comprehensive picture of migration – including forced migration and the plethora of challenges being faced in recent time, we envisaged a response in the global governance of international mobility.

Our aim as Chair in the Ninth GFMD, was to articulate a transformative narrative to implement various elements and constituents in concrete terms with a view to realize the full potential of migration in societies, communities and economies, while exploring responses to various challenges. It was realized that such discourses required exploring impacts on migration in a comprehensive way – across all sectors. Hence, the focus areas of the theme proposed by Bangladesh evolved around economic, social and governance aspects. The primary objective was the improvement of the governance of international migration.

With the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UN Members committed to strengthen global governance of migration¹, guided by the commitment made in the Agenda 2030 to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, while respecting human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. The recognition of migration as an enabler of development has now been aptly established following the adoption of the universal and transformative Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).

1. A/RES/71/1, paragraph 49



Bangladesh considers civil society to be an important stakeholder in the discourse on migration. Hence, as per practice, we recognized the ICMC to steer the Civil Society components during and preparatory stages of the Ninth GFMD. As Chair, we closely coordinated with the civil society in ensuring that the government and civil society events complements and strengthen mutually further.

Apart from the contribution of the civil society in the GFMD, it has been recognized in the recent times, that Business community constitutes an important stakeholder in the discourse of migration as well. The issues related to 'business and migration' therefore, deserved further nurturing given the increasing needs. In that context, Bangladesh followed up the discussions that had been started by Turkey (as 8th GFMD Chair) and Switzerland. Bangladesh included an agenda to hold GFMD Business Mechanism Meeting as part of 9th GFMD Summit in consultation with the Business community represented by IOE and the WEF.

Our preparation and organization of the 9th GFMD Summit could not be successful without the support and assistance of GFMD members, observers, ICMC and the Business community. I therefore, express my gratitude for the countries for their participation in the Summit. I appreciate the contribution of the various delegates that have enriched the discussions in the context of 9th GFMD throughout 2016. I take this opportunity also to convey the Chair's appreciation to the contributors for financial assistances offered to the GFMD.





Foreword

Gregory Maniatis

*Senior Adviser to the United Nations
Special Representative of the Secretary-
General on Migration and Development*

Peter Sutherland, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration, would have savored writing this foreword, given the great respect he has for Bangladesh as a leader of the global migration debate, and his deep admiration for Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, the Chair of the 2016 GFMD. However, Peter fell ill last September and is unable to continue his uniquely distinguished, pioneering career in public service.

When Bangladesh offered to host the Forum, it had no idea how momentous the year 2016 would be. It unexpectedly found itself thrust into a role far more critical than GFMD Chair: As a defining actor in the year that the United Nations held the first-ever leaders summit on the topic of refugees and migrants.

The Summit was the product of a years-long failure by the international community to develop a comprehensive plan for the Syrian refugee crisis and the resulting human catastrophe in the Mediterranean, where thousands drown every year. Instead of a collective approach to prevent death and bring dignity to vulnerable souls, some states turned inward, trying to stem the human flows through restrictive unilateral actions. This heightened the tragedy.

Much of the rest of the world stood by, leading Peter to coin the hauntingly memorable phrase that, when it comes to a refugee crisis, “proximity does not define responsibility”. He was the champion of convening the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, which offered the international community a chance to redress earlier failures. He knew that migration is about much more than the movement of people: our response to it is a measure of our humanity, of our tolerance, and of the health of our communities. He saw the Summit as a crucial test for the international community as it tried to address one of the great challenges of the 21st century.

The Bangladesh Chair seized the opportunity created by Peter’s advocacy of the summit. It oriented the work of the Forum towards helping shape an outcome that would be remembered by history. When world leaders convened in New York City on September 19, 2016, they did not merely pay lip service to the issues before them. Instead, they committed to negotiating two new agreements by 2018: A Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact on Migration.

The Global Compact on Migration was an idea advanced by the Bangladesh Chair. Dhaka saw the Summit as a chance not only to address mobility crises, but to sketch a new horizon for



how human movement could take place in the 21st century. The hallmarks of this vision would be a system that makes cross-border movements safer and more secure, that prevents the exploitation of migrants, and that empowers them to contribute to the development of both their host and their home countries. An ambitious compact would clearly define the rights and responsibilities of all those involved in international migration.

The commitment to the Compact was included in the New York Declaration, the outcome document adopted by heads of state last September. Now starts the grueling work of designing and negotiating the actual agreement.

Peter had ideas about what a compact could achieve—ideas informed by his 11 years of service to the United Nations. Before falling ill, he had effectively completed his Report to the Secretary-General that summarized his arguments for why greater international cooperation on migration is essential both to protect the rights of migrants and to safeguard the sovereignty of states. The Report, issued this winter, includes 16 practical, viable recommendations. Peter is a visionary who can turn as eloquent a phrase as anyone; but he is also a tireless worker who knows that cooperation is not a product of rhetoric, but of well-designed plans that attract a critical mass of commitments from key stakeholders.

His Report includes operational recommendations to manage crisis-related movements and protect migrants at risk; build opportunities for labour and skills mobility; ensure orderly migration, including return; fostering migrants' inclusion and development benefits; and strengthen migration governance capacities. Peter's wish is for these recommendations to continue to inspire stakeholders as they design the Global Compacts, and as they implement policies and programmes that realize the commitments made in the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The GFMD is well placed to contribute to all of these goals as well.

Peter could not travel to Dhaka for the Forum last December. He would have been proud of the seriousness of the deliberations and of the gracious hospitality of the hosts. But I also have no doubt that he would have lit up the main hall with a fiery, humane call to action. He couldn't make that speech, but we can nonetheless hear his voice imploring and cajoling us. He will not rest until we do as much as we can to help the world's most vulnerable, and neither should we.



Executive Summary



Bangladesh assumed the Chairmanship of the 9th Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) in January 2016, a few months after the momentous adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development at the UN General Assembly in New York. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was re-enforced by the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by the world leaders at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. These two agendas universally recognized the immense role that migration plays in sustainable development. They “recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development” in the countries of origin, transit and destination.

1. http://iom.org.bd/iom_ftp/Global_Expert_Meeting/Documents_of_Global_Expert_Meeting/Final%20Recommendations.pdf



Bangladesh framed its GFMD Chairmanship on the outcomes of these two landmark documents adopted by UN Member State leader. The Chair organized three preparatory meetings over the course of a year to finalize the background papers for six Roundtable meetings. These preparatory meetings were supported by discussions under three thematic workshops. The final Summit of the 9th GFMD was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 10 to 12 December 2016. The report has been divided into 5 parts: 1. Introduction, outlining the background of Bangladesh’s Chairmanship; 2. The Preparatory Process; 3. The GFMD and Key Partners in Migration and Development – A multi-stakeholder approach to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration; 4. The Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting; and 5. Closing Reflections and the Way Forward.

1. Introduction

Since 2012, Bangladesh had been at the forefront of advocating for the inclusion of migration in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In 2013 it hosted the Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, which generated the Dhaka Declaration, and in 2014 it hosted the Global Experts Meeting on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. These two meetings strongly recommended that migration should be included in the Agenda 2030. Bangladesh then assumed the GFMD Chairmanship, immediately after the adoption of the Agenda 2030, and determined that it would focus its efforts on the development of an international framework for facilitating orderly, safe, and regular migration and mobility of People.

This was inspired by recent events around the world that have drawn attention to the importance of governing international migration. It has been perceived that ungoverned migration is threatening geopolitical stability, burdening border controls, and creating chaos around the world. In other words, the world is starting to notice that without effective and responsible governance of migration, the potential benefits of migration will never be realized. Hence, Bangladesh chose to concentrate on international migration governance as its main thematic focus during its GFMD Chairmanship.

2. Preparatory Process

The international focus on migration issues following the conclusion of the Agenda 2030 as well as other key outcome documents such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework have paved the way for Bangladesh to focus on migration with a particular interest in sustainable development for all. In its concept paper, “Migration that works for Sustainable Development of All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda”, the Bangladesh Chair highlighted the positive impact that policies, principles, processes and institutions can have on international migration while at the same time highlighting the challenges that people and institutions face in terms of implementing those guidelines into a governance framework for migration.

The Ninth GFMD was structured around three sub-themes, spread over six Roundtables, each of which explored governance aspects of migration and development related to the



economics, sociology and governance as set out below:

Economics of migration and development

Roundtable 1.1. Lowering the costs of migration

Roundtable 1.2. Connectivity and migration (people to people contact)

Sociology of migration and development

Roundtable 2.1. Migration, diversity and harmonious societies Roundtable

2.2. Protection of the human rights of migrants in all situations

Governance of migration and development

Roundtable 3.1. Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards

Roundtable 3.2. Principles, processes and institutions for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration

While all the Roundtables were designed to address governance challenges related to various aspects of migration, the third set of Roundtables focused explicitly on governance. In addition to the six Roundtables, three thematic workshops organized by Bangladesh Chair focused on connectivity and migration; migration for harmonious societies; and migration for peace, stability and growth.

During the Bangladesh Chairmanship, three preparatory meetings were held. GFMD members finalized a Concept Paper and discussed the key policy and strategic concerns for the GFMD during Steering Group meetings, and Friends of the Forum meetings. The Chair presented its findings in a report entitled “International Migration Governance” which emphasized the need to forge a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, Regular and Responsible Migration that puts migrants at the centre of the migration discourse. The Compact should also recognize the inherent links between migration and sustainable development, address irregular migration, and respond to displacement and migration crises.

The Bangladesh Chair also organized three thematic meetings, in Bangkok, Geneva and New York, respectively. Various migration and development policies and practices were shared during these thematic meetings.

Against the backdrop of the New York Declaration that was adopted at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, the Chair organized the first ever GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration at the UN in New York. The Dialogue focused on the need to improve the governance of international migration and GFMD’s contributions in the development of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). The Dialogue also recommended that the GCM (i) facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration; (ii) reduce incidence and impacts of forced and irregular migration; and (iii) respond to the mobility impacts of natural and human-made disasters. The GCM should focus on executing commitments that are supported by a robust follow-up mechanism, or a framework agreement with legally binding elements. GFMD must also play an important role in the GCM process to facilitate the creation of a platform that includes both technical experts and political leaders.



3. GFMD and Key Partners in Migration and Development – A multi-stakeholder approach to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration

Throughout the year, the GFMD Chair cooperated and coordinated with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration and the Global Migration Group (GMG) to enhance collaboration between GFMD and these two entities. The three entities held two meetings on 26 February 2016 and on 20 July 2016 respectively. These meetings stressed how events that transpired in 2016 have shaped the global migration debate by placing the issue of migration governance firmly on the GFMD agenda. The Bangladesh GFMD Chair sought to build trust among stakeholders to discuss this and other sensitive issues related to migration.

During 2016, the Chair set out to create an inclusive platform for dialogue on migration issues that took into consideration all stakeholders. The Chair engaged with the Civil Society Coordinating Office, an organization responsible for GFMD's civil society activities since 2011 and worked closely with an International Steering Committee (ISC) of 32 civil society organizations and networks active worldwide in migration, migrant rights and development. This was all done under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).

GFMD's Bangladesh Chair also created the GFMD Business Mechanism last year, after it was first proposed in Istanbul in 2015. The Business Mechanism has deepened the public-private dialogue on migration. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration (WEF GACM) coordinated the work of the GFMD Business Mechanism. Together, these institutions form the Business Advisory Group. The Business Mechanism conducted a migration survey which formed the basis for the Business Mechanism position paper. The paper, entitled 'The Business Case for Migration', addresses the role that the private sector should play in promoting a coherent and comprehensive migration strategy for the Global Compact on Migration. The paper highlights six key policy issues: (1) the global need for workforce mobility; (2) the matching of skills to labour market needs; (3) fair recruitment and decent work opportunities; (4) integration and social welfare of migrants; (5) the role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development; and (6) engagement in public discourse to promote positive perceptions of migrants. The conclusions of the Business Meeting called for the strengthening of the public-private partnership on migration issues, beyond the GFMD.

4. Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting – A Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development of All

The Ninth GFMD Summit meeting started on 10 December with welcome addresses by three Ministers from the People's Republic of Bangladesh: H.E. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P., Foreign Minister, H.E. Nurul Islam BSc, Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and H.E. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, M.P., Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. The three stressed the Bangladesh Chair's timely theme: "Migration that works for Sustainable Development of all: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda". Civil Society Days and the GFMD Business Mechanism presented their own reports



following the ministerial welcome addresses. Mr. François Fouinat, the Senior Adviser, to Mr. Peter Sutherland, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, reaffirmed the invaluable achievements of the GFMD over the last 10 years on Mr. Sutherland's behalf. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women representing the Global Migration Group, H.E. Guy Ryder, the International Labour Organization Director-General, H.E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing, IOM Director-General and H.E. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary-General for UN DESA were also present. Ambassador Swing noted that massive population movements can create opportunities by creating a flow of remittances back to countries of origin. H.E. António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General-elect (UNSG-elect) addressed the Summit via a video message. He recognized that migration is indeed a solution, not a problem, but more needs to be done to ensure it is well managed and humane.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, officially declared the opening of the Ninth GFMD Summit. In her speech, the Prime Minister welcomed the agreement of the world leaders on September 19 and the idea of a Migration Compact as proposed by Bangladesh.

The overarching theme and sub-themes of the GFMD Common Space were decided jointly by the GFMD Chair and the civil society coordinating office ICMC. The high level introductory plenary session was moderated by Mr. Gervais Appave, Senior Adviser to the GFMD 2016 Chair. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque, GFMD 2016 Chair, emphasized the continuity of human mobility and the positive contribution that migration can make to societies and individuals. He then shared his views on the Global Compact on Migration as well as the role that Bangladesh had played in including the concept of a Global Compact in the New York Declaration. He explained that Bangladesh would like to see an international instrument to govern international migration so that migration can be made safe, more regular and more responsible. Ambassador Haque expressed hope that the Compact could also serve to reduce tensions that sometimes exist between migrants and host communities in society. It should be a tool for advocacy of migrant workers' rights. He shared different possibilities for what the Compact might be. A Keynote Speech was given by Mr. Justin MacDermott, Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration. In his address, Mr. MacDermott pointed out that SRSG Sutherland has been a champion of international cooperation on migration since his appointment 11 years ago. Mr. MacDermott added that Mr. Sutherland had plans to release a Report on this issue shortly. Mr. MacDermott gave an overview of the recommendations featured in the Report.

The Special Session on the Future of the Forum was co-chaired by Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque and Mr. François Fouinat, Senior Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration, on behalf of SRSG Sutherland. The Special Session, as per practice, was attended by the Heads of Delegations.

The meeting approved the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Agenda 2030 and the Working Group on Communications and endorsed the recommendations made by the two groups. The meeting also agreed to extend the duration of the two Working Groups while expanding the mandate of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Agenda 2030 for the elaboration of GFMD inputs for the Global Compact on Migration. The Co-Chairs of the 10th GFMD, Mr. Tarik Sissou, Head of Division of



Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, Morocco, and Ms. Ilse Hahn, Head of Division, Policy Issues and Displacement, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development presented their proposals.

5. Closing Remarks and the Way Forward – Towards a Global Migration Compact

The closing plenary session presented the findings and recommendations of three Roundtable cluster on the economics, sociology and governance of migration and development. The presentations were followed by a report on the Special Session on the Platform for Partnerships by H.E. Devrim Öztürk, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Bangladesh and concluding remarks and Report on the Future of the Forum (FoF) by Mr. François Fouinat, Senior Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration.

The incoming GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs, Mr. Markus Ederer, State Secretary, Federal Foreign Office of Germany and Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs delivered their statements. H. E. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, gave a closing address. The Forum concluded with the final agreement that the GFMD should continue to play an important role in framing the discourse and creation of a Global Compact on Migration.

H.E. Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque presented the Chair's Summary during the Closing Session. In his summary, the Chair highlighted discussions across five broad areas, (i) the roundtable outcomes; (ii) the Global Compact on Migration; (iii) the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development; (iv) the GFMD Business Mechanism; and (v) the Future of the Forum. He mentioned that the primary focus of the Bangladesh Chair, the improvement of the governance of migration, was a common thread in all the Roundtables.

He added that there are policy objectives that can be conceived as broadly agreed, which cover all the relevant dimensions of migration - the promotion of migration and development; addressing irregular migration; and responding to forced displacement and refugees. He proposed a number of possible areas to focus policy initiatives, which included the creation of:

1. A legally binding convention or treaty regulating the conduct of states with respect to migration;
2. A political declaration with guiding principles on legitimate state behaviour with respect to migration;
3. Concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and success indicators as well as a robust monitoring mechanism; or
4. A combination of all three aforementioned initiatives that includes a framework agreement with legally binding elements, political commitments on areas where there's already consensus; and commitments to concrete action with a follow-up mechanism where governments are ready to take action now.

The Ambassador called for ensuring a comprehensive framework for the Global Compact on Migration, which will be supportive and consistent with the Global Compact on Refugees. He mentioned that Bangladesh, as a member of the Troika of the GFMD, will play its part in generating consensus around ambitious outcomes for the GCM.



1 INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh assumed its Chairmanship of the GFMD only a few months after world leaders had adopted the Agenda 2030 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.

Bangladesh had been at the forefront of advocating for the inclusion of migration in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development since 2012. In 2013, it hosted the Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, which generated the Dhaka Declaration², and in 2014 it hosted the Global Experts Meeting on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda³, both of which provided strong recommendations for the inclusion of migration in the Agenda 2030.

The benefits from migration accrue in multiple ways: by matching labour demand with supply across nations; by transferring of knowledge and ideas through transnational networks; through trade and investments that follow in the footsteps of the migrants and the diaspora that makes up their networks. The benefits of migration are most visible in the hundreds of billions of dollars sent home by the migrants to their family members each year to pay for health care, education, housing and other needs.

But migration is not all positive. For countless of migrants, the migratory experience is one of exploitation and human rights abuses. Indeed, the Agenda 2030 identifies migrants, refugees and displaced persons among the most vulnerable populations. The Agenda further recognizes that migration is a multi-dimensional reality and that forced displacement of people can threaten to reverse development progress made.

Furthermore, the potential of migration can easily be squandered if the right conditions are not in place – if migration is not governed responsibly. In view of this, many of the potential benefits of migration have been left unrealized. Many of the commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda aim to address these conditions – inter alia reducing the costs of recruitment and remittances; promoting access to education for migrant and refugee children, the

2. <https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/Dhaka-Declaration.pdf>

3. http://iom.org.bd/iom_ftp/Global_Expert_Meeting/Documents_of_Global_Expert_Meeting/Final%20Recommendations.pdf



recognition of skills and qualifications across borders as well as access to and portability of earned benefits; and improving financial access, services and inclusion.

This takes international cooperation. This is why, when world leaders adopted the Agenda 2030, it included a commitment 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”. This is also why the Paris Agreement calls on the parties to respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, including of migrants, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction spells out the importance of transboundary cooperation on displacement.

Sadly, the recent crises related to migration in places like the Mediterranean, the Andaman Sea and Central American corridor testify to the shortcomings that have plagued global cooperation on migration. The same could be said of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and other parts of the world. Across the globe, almost 7,500 migrants died trying to reach their destinations in 2016⁴. A shocking 5,079 of these men, women and children perished in the Mediterranean alone⁵. In the Andaman Sea, thousands of migrants were stranded on boats without a port of disembarkation, while traffickers kept preying on their victims by holding them hostage for ransom.

Looking back at the promise to cooperate internationally, it is hard to fathom the distance between the ideals espoused at the United Nations in 2015 – of ensuring full respect for their human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status – and the harsh realities many migrants and refugees continue to face.

For far too long, the international community has been struggling with a sub-optimal governance of migration. Rather than being able to rely on institutions and legal frameworks for international cooperation, States have often resorted to unilateral approaches to manage

4. <http://missingmigrants.iom.int>

5. <http://missingmigrants.iom.int/mediterranean>



migration. A set of universally agreed principles to deal with all aspects of migration and mobility is missing. Migration remains fragmented and scattered across the UN system, inhibiting its ability to provide effective and coherent support to its Member States, migrants and the societies that host them.

The shortcomings of the approaches, systems and institutions are evident in the ongoing and recurring crises related to migration. The failure of States to effectively govern migration ultimately benefits illegitimate actors – ranging from unscrupulous recruiters and smugglers to traffickers and other forms of organized crime. Meanwhile, States, migrants and host communities have lost out. Lives are lost; benefits of migration are left unrealized; and societies are put under strain.

In fact, ungoverned migration is threatening geopolitical stability, burdening border controls, and creating chaos around the world. The current mechanisms for governing migration have clearly failed to meet existing needs. In response to this dire situation, Bangladesh set as the core objective of its Chairmanship to improve international governance of migration. This objective was guided by a conviction that the world needs more effective principles, processes and institutions for migration and ultimately a new, comprehensive global-governance framework to address all issues relating to human mobility.

This proved to be a very timely focus. In December 2015, the United Nations Secretary-General called for a UN Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants. The meeting was subsequently scheduled for 19 September 2016 by the General Assembly. In line with the objectives of its Chairmanship, Bangladesh made an appeal for this Summit to include a commitment to develop a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. When heads of states and governments as well as other high level representatives of governments adopted the New York Declaration at the Summit, it included commitments comprehensively to address these large movements through the development of two Global Compacts – one on refugees and one on migrants. Meanwhile, through the signing of an agreement between the United Nations and IOM, the latter also became related member of the United Nations system, thus taking an important step towards more effective global institutions on migration.



2 PREPARATORY PROCESS

2.1 Thematic narration of Bangladesh focus

As set out above, migration had just been included in the Agenda 2030 as well as other key outcome documents such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework when Bangladesh assumed its Chairmanship. This laid the ground for a focus on migration that works for sustainable development for all. Yet in its concept paper, the Bangladesh Chair highlighted on the one hand the governance challenges pertaining to migration and on the other that migration and its outcomes are to a great extent affected by the policies, principles, processes and institutions in place to govern this phenomenon. Put simply, these can affect the numbers and legal status of those that cross international borders, as well as whether the potential benefits are realized and the challenges addressed (including the vulnerability which migrants are exposed to in the process).

2.2.1 Thematic Priorities of Bangladesh Chairmanship (conceptual framework)

Improving governance of migration was thus the primary focus of the Chairmanship. The Ninth GFMD was structured around the three sub-themes, spread over six Roundtables, each of which explored governance aspects of migration and development related to the economics, sociology and governance respectively as set out below:

Economics of migration and development

Roundtable 1.1. Lowering the costs of migration

Roundtable 1.2. Connectivity and migration (people to people contact)

Sociology of migration and development

Roundtable 2.1. Migration, diversity and harmonious societies Roundtable

2.2. Protection of the human rights of migrants in all situations

Governance of migration and development

Roundtable 3.1. Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards

Roundtable 3.2. Principles, institutions and processes for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration



Economics of migration and development

The Roundtables on the economics of migration and development established that the international community has acknowledged the contribution of migration to economic development over recent years. It then explored two sets of issues: first, lowering the costs of migration, in particular recruitment and remittance costs; second, the role of migration in promoting connectivity, business and people's interaction.

Roundtable 1.1. Lowering the costs of migration

Migration holds great potential for development. Yet, many migrants face exorbitant financial costs in the migration process e.g. high recruitment and remittance costs, official and administrative fees for documents, consular services and clearances, bank fees and charges, payments to other agents and intermediaries, insurance costs, and sometimes, payment of bribes. In addition, migrants face social costs that are hard to quantify – primarily associated with family separation. Such costs disproportionately affect labour/poor migrants from low-income countries, thus furthering inequality. In the context of recruitment, in particular, high upfront costs, exclude potential migrants from seeking employment abroad and expose migrants to debt-bondage and other abusive practices. Lowering the financial costs of migration would thus potentially expand capabilities of potential migrants, increase the disposable incomes of low-income workers and reduce inequality. Since women migrant workers tend to be paid less, and remit a higher proportion of their incomes, this would also serve to effectively reduce gender disparities.

Roundtable 1.2. Connectivity and migration (people to people contact)

We live in a hyper-connected world. Across regions, countries have been witnessing numerous connectivity initiatives emerging in many forms. In some cases, it is about collaboration in development of physical connectivity (multimodal transport, energy, etc.). In most cases, it is about connecting and creating bridges: towards developing understanding among and within societies; nurturing ideas and knowledge; promoting culture and related heritage; advancing peoples' interaction among and within sub-region(s); propagation of science-technology-innovation.

Irrespective of the thrust or modalities of connectivity, strengthened connectivity enhances economic gains, as it facilitates business and other forms of economic engagements. Recognizing that the global economy requires greater mobility of skills and people, this Roundtable set out to explore how migration can contribute to connectivity and how connectivity in turn can contribute to migration.

Sociology of migration and development

The second set of Roundtables explored the sociology of migration and development. It established that by bringing new ideas, norms and cultures, migration transforms societies; not only the lives of people on the move, but also those who are left behind and the societies to which migrants come.



Against this background, migration was described as a highly political issue. For example, the transformations that follow in the footsteps of migration may have implications for social inclusion and social exclusion. Too often migrants – representatives of “the other” – are perceived or portrayed as the source of negative changes to people’s lives while overlooking the benefits migrants bring, especially in view of the on-going displacement crises.

This year’s Roundtables on the sociology of migration and development, therefore focused on two particular sets of issues; first, how societies are dealing with growing diversity and the promotion of harmonious societies in response to migration; second, how countries are protecting the human rights of migrants, especially through ensuring access to services.

Roundtable 2.1. Migration, diversity and harmonious societies

Recognizing that the global living environments – the cities in particular – are moving towards greater, not lesser diversity, with countries becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious in future, this Roundtable addressed some of the challenges that the transformation entails. Different values can clash. Members of host societies can experience anxiety about national identities, fear of losing jobs to foreigners, xenophobia and racism. Discrimination can be widespread taking many forms, including as experienced by migrant women and girls who may be particularly impacted by discrimination due to gender stereo-types in host societies and among migrant communities. Violent extremism can result on both sides of the spectrum and be exercised towards minority groups as well as towards the dominant members of host societies. The challenge that was identified for policy makers, in particular at the local level, but also for the GFMD, is how to perceive positive outcomes from that increasing diversity.

Roundtable 2.2 Protection of the human rights of migrants in all situations

This Roundtable established that the international legal framework recognizes that all migrants, irrespective of status, enjoy human and labour rights, without discrimination, except for few exceptions relating to political participation and freedom of movement. The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families articulates many of these rights. However, its ratification and translation into policy has been limited. It was further established that the Agenda 2030 is an inclusive universal framework, which recognizes migrants – including refugees and internally displaced people – as vulnerable groups. It promotes international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of their migration status. It further commits governments to “protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment” and focuses on non-discrimination of migrants e.g. in terms of accessing health, education, social and legal services.

Nonetheless, it highlighted some of the vulnerabilities that migrants are exposed to (inter alia limited access to protection, opportunities and services in receiving countries e.g. work conditions, health services, and education) and established that migrants are particularly



vulnerable when in an irregular situation. Migrant women may be disproportionately vulnerable to abuse based on economic, gender, ethnic and immigration status, and may face the risk of gender-based violence. Against this background the Roundtable highlighted the need for greater inclusion of migrants through improving access to justice, information, safe and fair working conditions and training, health and social services on a non-discriminatory basis. It also highlighted the disjuncture between the demand for affordable labour in receiving countries and the limited availability of safe and legal channels to meet his demand.

Governance of migration and development

While all the Roundtables were designed to address governance challenges, by including guiding questions on how existing regional and international institutions could be better geared towards collaboration on the issue at hand (i.e. reducing costs, enhancing connectivity, promoting harmonious societies and the rights of all migrants), the third set of Roundtables focused explicitly on governance. It set out by establishing that governance is needed for interconnected issues that cannot be dealt with effectively by any one state or group of states alone. It sought to answer how protection can be enhanced for migrants in situations of crisis; and how existing institutions and processes governing migration could be enhanced to improve the effectiveness of generating collective action on migration for safe, orderly and regular migration (i.e. the commitment in the Agenda 2030).

Roundtable 3.1. Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards

This Roundtable recognized that many people who are not recognized as refugees, and are thus not covered by the legal regime afforded to refugees, are compelled to leave their place of residence in search of safety, dignity, respect for their rights, and the prospect of a secure livelihood. It established that such movements typically involve significant vulnerabilities for individuals and affected communities and generate acute and longer-term migration management challenges. Examples include, inter alia, climate change induced disasters, massive human rights violations, generalized violence, severe destitution and food insecurity. The discussions explored the protection gaps that exist for these groups of people with a focus on those who cross an international border. In so doing, the Roundtable recognized and suggested to build on regional, intergovernmental and civil society processes such as OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems and the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees; the Nansen Initiative and the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative (MICIC). It sought to build on earlier recommendations and whilst its stakeholders engaged with other on-going processes, notably the UN Summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. Particular attention was encouraged to identifying good practices in terms of legal pathways and alternative avenues for protection to forcefully displaced persons who are not refugees (i.e. beyond what is already provided through existing human rights instruments or who could benefit from a more effective or generous application of existing instruments). In doing so, attention to the specific vulnerabilities of women and children was particularly encouraged.



Roundtable 3.2. Principles, processes and institutions for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration

This Roundtable took as its point of departure the commitment in the Agenda 2030 to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration and established that it was an ambitious commitment. It did so by recognizing the plethora of drivers and actors that shape contemporary mobility and the challenge involved in strengthening institutions and processes that could facilitate this process. It sought to identify current limitations; what the major issues would be that should be covered in a comprehensive migration policy framework; and how international principles, processes and institutions could be strengthened to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible mobility. It also looked at how Member States can share responsibility for migration, enhance regional mobility, as well create more effective partnerships among stakeholders.

Thematic workshops

In addition to the six Roundtables, during the Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship, three Thematic Workshops were organized to focus the dialogue on some aspects of contemporary migration. The three thematic workshops were Connectivity and migration; Migration for harmonious societies; Migration for peace, stability and growth (see section 2.4 for details).



Thematic Projects

Noting that the Agenda 2030 sets out an ambitious agenda for human development through identifying concrete challenges and commitments in relation to migration, the Bangladesh Chair also sought to encourage participating states and other stakeholders to use government teams or the Platform for Partnerships to design pilot projects or initiatives for delivering on these commitments. Examples of concrete commitments in the Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, that could benefit from multi-stakeholder problem solving initiatives identified by the Chair included the following:

- a) Promoting access to and portability of earned benefits (AAAA 111)[link to RT 2.2];
- b) Enhancing the recognition of foreign qualifications, education and skills (AAAA 111) [link to RT 1.2];
- c) Lowering the costs of recruitment for migrants and combatting unscrupulous recruiters (AAAA 111) [link to RT 1.1];
- d) Implementing effective social communication strategies on the contribution of migrants, in order to combat xenophobia, facilitate social integration and protect migrants human rights (AAAA 111) [link to RT 2.1];
- e) Strengthening regional, national and sub-national institutions to end human trafficking and exploitation of persons, in particular women and children (AAAA 112, SDG target 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2) [link to RT 2.2];
- f) Ensuring that adequate and affordable financial services are available to migrant men and women as well as their families in destination and origin countries (AAAA 40, SDG targets 1.4, 2.3, 5.a, 8.3, and 8.10) [link to RT 1.1];
- g) Reducing the transaction costs of remittances (AAAA 40, SDG target 10.c) [link to RT 1.1];
- h) Address obstacles to the flow of remittances, including bank's cash withdrawal services, and to non bank-remittance service providers, accessing payment system infrastructure (AAAA 40) [link to RT 1.1];
- i) Promoting competitive and transparent market conditions for remittances (AAAA 40) [link to RT 1.1];
- j) Promote financial literacy and inclusion (AAAA 40, Agenda 2030 27) [link to RT 1.1];
- k) Promote new technologies for remittances, financial services, literacy and inclusion as well as improve data collection (AAAA 40) [link to RT 1.1];
- l) Expand the number of scholarships available to developing countries for enrolment in higher education in developed countries and other developing countries (SDG target 4b) [link to RT 1.2];

None of these initiatives have been launched within the government teams or through the Platform for Partnerships. Nevertheless, following the recommendation in Istanbul, an Ad-hoc Working Group on SDGs was set up. This Ad-hoc Working Group produced a report recommending ways for the GFMD to strengthen its role as (i) a platform for voluntary sharing



of experiences, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the Agenda 2030; (ii) facilitate voluntary action by building partnerships on migration-related aspects of the Agenda 2030; and (iii) inform Member States, Observers and relevant organizations on migration-related aspects of the Agenda 2030 and provide inputs to the formal follow-up and review mechanisms of the United Nations. This report and its recommendations were adopted at the Future of the Forum session at the GFMD Forum Meeting in Dhaka.

2.2 Meetings of the Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum

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 Group⁶, and the Friends of the Forum⁷. These meetings were held in Geneva on 4 February, 17 May and 20 October 2016, respectively.

The Troika meetings were held ahead of the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meetings. The previous Chair (Turkey) and the incoming Co-Chairs (Germany and Morocco) supported the Bangladesh Chair-in-Office in determining the agenda of the preparatory meetings and anticipating emerging issues for the GFMD. The Steering Group meetings discussed the key policy and strategic concerns of the GFMD, while the Friends of the Forum meetings provided updates to Member States and GFMD Observers on the implementation of the Chair's work plan and thematic agenda, the progress of Roundtable preparations and Ad-hoc Working Groups (on communication and the Agenda 2030), the civil society process, the GFMD business mechanism, GFMD budget and financial position, and the GFMD Platform for Partnerships.

The first preparatory meetings of February 2016 focused on the main elements of the draft concept note and work plan of GFMD 2016 under the overarching theme, "Migration that works for Sustainable Development of All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda." The three main Roundtable topics – economics, sociology and governance of migration and development – were introduced. The Chair invited all Member States and GFMD Observers to submit their comments on the concept paper. The meetings also paid attention to the follow-up of the Eighth GFMD (most notably the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Agenda 2030, the Ad-hoc Working Group on Communications and the GFMD Business Mechanism) and presented the budget of the Bangladesh Chairmanship.

Ahead of the second preparatory meetings in May 2016, the Chair circulated the final concept paper for the GFMD 2016 Chairmanship, which took into account, to the extent possible, the feedback and inputs received from Member States, international organisations and civil society.

6. *Composition of GFMD 2016 Steering Group members: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.*

7. *The Friends of the Forum include all Member States and Observers of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, as well as other international organizations, international foundations and regional processes that are observers of the GFMD (see <https://www.gfmd.org/observers>).*



During the meetings, the final concept paper was received by delegates as balanced, timely and relevant. In the interest of time, draft background notes for each Roundtable session were prepared by the GFMD Chair's Taskforce. There were also discussions on the status of Roundtable preparations, the updated composition of Roundtable teams, follow-up of the Eighth GFMD, the budget situation and updates on the civil society process. The meetings concluded with a presentation by the Chair on "International Migration Governance", in which emphasis was put on the need to forge a Global Compact for the governance of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration that keeps migrants at the centre of the discussion and recognizes the inherent links of migration and sustainable development, addresses irregular migration, and responds to displacement and migration crises.

The third preparatory meetings in October 2016 highlighted the final preparations for the Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting to be held on 10 to 12 December in Dhaka. Particular stress was given to the respective reports of the Ad-Hoc Working group on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Communications, as well as to the outcomes of the pilot GFMD Business Mechanism. Both Ad-hoc WG reports suggested some concrete short- and longer-term action points for the GFMD, which would be endorsed during the Dhaka Summit. The SRSG and GMG Chair were also invited to deliver their remarks on the outcomes of the 19 September High Level Summit. At the same meeting, the incoming Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco presented their Chairmanship vision and objectives. Additionally, the Troika and SG meetings favourably considered several requests to become GFMD observers – by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) and the Partners in Population and Development (PPD).

On average, 120 to 160 delegates (among whom at least 35 were capital-based) 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.



2.3 Government-led Roundtable Preparations

In order to facilitate the incorporation of the thematic Roundtable discussions into the work programme of the Bangladesh Chair, all Member States were invited by the Chair to join the GFMD 2016 Government Roundtable Teams and to share their thematic expertise and experiences in preparation of the Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting.

These government-led Roundtable meetings were held back-to-back with the meetings of the Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum (and hence also took place in February, May and October 2016). Following the model introduced by the GFMD 2013-2014 Chair Sweden, the Bangladesh Chair organized six Roundtables under three (3) Roundtable themes, in accordance with the Terms of Reference for Government-led RT teams adopted in 2015-2016.

65 governments⁸ representing all regions of the world and 23 international and civil society organizations voluntarily joined as members of the Roundtable government teams, each co-chaired by 2-3 governments. These co-chairs led the preparatory meetings of the RT Government teams in February, May and October as well as the drafting process of the background papers.

In the preparatory process of the Roundtables and the preparation of the background papers, the RT co-chairs were assisted by technical experts from governments and international organizations. The Support Unit assisted the Roundtable meetings by note-taking, preparing the transcripts of the meetings, and facilitating communication around the Roundtables.

2.4 Thematic Meetings

The Bangladesh Chair followed the model of organizing thematic meetings, as introduced by the GFMD 2011 Chair of Switzerland. These thematic meetings were viewed as a constructive approach to complement the preparation of the thematic Roundtables. The objective was to focus the debates and provide more time and targeted discussions on thematic areas related to the Roundtable topics, and to bring the outcomes of thematic meetings to the GFMD Summit Roundtables.

The Bangladesh Chair organized three (3) thematic meetings, in March, May and July 2016 in Bangkok, Geneva and New York, respectively. In order to expand the outreach and for connecting the GFMD process to various international, UN and regional processes, the Chair decided to hold the three thematic meetings in three different venues. The GFMD Support Unit provided substantive, administrative and logistical support for the organization of the thematic meetings. The Chair extended financial assistance to capital-based experts, which allowed for the participation of 20-25 government experts from developing countries (either as panellists or to make interventions from the floor on national experiences on the topic discussed). While the May thematic meeting was held back-to-back with the preparatory meetings of the Troika, the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, the thematic

8. See Annex E for overview of RT teams composition.



meetings of March and July were held on separate occasions. 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, thanks to limited funding support extended by the GFMD Chair.

Various migration and development policies and practices were shared during these thematic meetings and subsequently uploaded to the Policy and Practice Database⁹ of the Platform for Partnerships.

The summary reports of these thematic meetings were distributed to all Friends of the Forum and posted on the GFMD web portal.

2.4.1 Thematic Meeting 1: “Migration – Connectivity – Business”

The objective of the first GFMD 2016 thematic workshop on “Migration - Connectivity - Business” was to explore the nexus between connectivity, migration and business and harness its economic, social and political potential for migrants, businesses, communities and countries while maintaining a people-centred approach.

Connectivity can lend potentially transformative effects to migration and global business and also bring regions, economies and societies closer. There are four drivers of connectivity: (1) multimodal transport serving as the basic form of connectivity; (2) trade, both in terms of distribution network and value chain e.g. sub-national/national/global/regional supply chains connecting economies and growth centers; (3) energy exchange (in respect of production-distribution); and (4) information and communication technologies (ICTs).

It is important to link connectivity in respect of social, cultural, economic and political dimensions for migrants, particularly in the contemporary context where discourse across many countries and contexts is increasingly under stress. A positive narrative on migration – drawing on the Agenda 2030 - urgently needs to be developed to illustrate the contributions of migrants to the development of origin and host countries.

The growth and application of ICTs impacts human mobility in so many ways. Over the past three decades, IT has demonstrated its potential as a catalyst tool for positive change in societies; and it should therefore also be a part of the solution to further strengthen ties between peoples, provide protection for migrants and secure peace and stability.

States have the primary responsibility to establish an enabling environment for safe migration and decent work for migrant workers, including adequate and enforced regulation of migrant worker contracts to ensure safety and decent work terms and conditions. Governments’ approach towards migration should be comprehensive and integrated; and should be based inter alia on the principles of shared responsibility between origin and destination countries.

9. Refer to <http://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd> for the M&D Policy and Practice Database.





Multilateral frameworks on migration need to be enhanced. Specific areas of policy interventions were suggested e.g. portability of benefits, open and transparent dialogue to reduce xenophobia, recognition of diversity and pluralism, integration of migrant workers in global value chains, study on investment patterns of temporary migrants, etc.

Public-private partnerships, inter alia with the involvement of civil society, trade unions, employers and the UN system, would be crucial in global migration. The private sector is a crucial determinant in the labour migration process.

Business and migration connectivity will only be a reality if it is supported by policy harmonization and a balance between the rights of migrant workers and economic gains of trade and business.

As global businesses continue to recognize and thrive on the value of sourcing people from diverse backgrounds, capabilities and skills, a new business model with an effective framework on the triple link of “migration-business-connectivity” is needed to achieve sustainable development. Integrating migrants’ rights into this triple link, however, is still the subject of further discussion.

2.4.2 Thematic Meeting 2: “Migration for Harmonious Societies”

This thematic workshop was co-convened by the governments of Zambia and Australia. The objective of the workshop was to explore ways forward to foster a response to the challenge of achieving harmony amid diversity and to reflect on what makes a society hold together and provide it with a strong sense of common identity and purpose amidst diversity.

We live today in a world of diversity, marked by continuous movements of people who bring along different cultures, beliefs and perspectives. The key to upholding diversity rests in appropriate management of migration, in order to ensure integration and well-being of migrant population, harmonious co-existence between local and migrant communities, mutual learning and development.



In order to capitalize on the enormous opportunities and economic progress that diversity could bring, the debate has to move away from its current harmful narrative to a more historically accurate one that demonstrates the positive aspects of migration. We must guard against misleading language, images and metaphors (e.g. the image of refugees and migrants as water, as in “waves of refugees” or “flow of migrants”) that populate public discourse/sphere. These racist and xenophobic expressions tend to dehumanize migrants and create a sense of fear among the public, thus fostering an environment favourable for restrictive immigration policies.

Policy approaches must be rooted in a human rights perspective that considers three key elements: first, all migrants should benefit from the same rights as nationals, regardless of their legal status; second, relying on facts (and not on myths), and crucially ensuring comprehensive, evidence-based and migrant-centred policy-making; third, urgent need for political courage and strong leadership to move away from the current emotional debate around migrants and migration, and to construct new perspectives based on respect, compassion and empathy.



In the work world, existing instruments and legal framework for the protection of migrant workers are grounded on the core values of diversity, equality and non-discrimination. Mutual benefits could be gained for both employers and workers from having harmonious workplaces and adequate labour protection laws and to avoid resentment and a “race to the bottom,” approach when work relationships sour.

Multi-stakeholder involvement remains crucial for increasing community participation in fostering a sense of belonging among migrants and building social cohesion amidst growing cultural diversity. As integration happens mostly at the local level, local authorities and city administrations play a key role in enhancing social cohesion.

To enable a harmonious society, policy-makers must consider such elements as political, economic and cultural inclusiveness; acknowledgment of the reality that we live in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious world; an open dialogue on security and religion; and recognition of the existence of multiple identities and democratic values.



2.4.3 Thematic Meeting 3: “Migration for Peace, Stability and Growth”

The objective of this workshop was to explore, inter alia, the links between migration, peace, stability and growth; to unpack the nature of conflicts i.e. human-made or, natural and their cause and effect vis-à-vis migration and mobility; and to examine existing migration governance mechanisms.

The Agenda 2030 suggested fostering positive effects of migration on development. In order for the global community to achieve the SDGs, especially aiming 'to leave no one behind', including all migrants, among others, through lowering remittance transfer costs, improving migrants' working conditions and comprehensively facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Harnessing the overall development impacts of migration can effectively deliver on realizing the SDGs.

In order for the international community to ensure that migration contributes to global peace, security and growth, a comprehensive framework has to be developed addressing all aspects of migration, including the areas identified as problematic e.g. irregular movement, violations of rights and matters relating to security. Above all, the cooperative framework for international migration governance must work with, rather than against, the realities of globalization.

The international community ought to ensure that the 19 September Summit and the “Global Compact” it would endorse, do not become an exercise merely re-stating or, re-negotiating the hard-won progress made to date. Instead, the process must be geared towards making further advancement on operationalizing existing obligations and establishing the institutional setting and frameworks for making migration a positive phenomenon.

The Global Compact must promote migration and development by facilitating mobility of migrants, ensuring their inclusion in destination countries and allowing them to keep what they earn. It would need to address irregular migration by enhancing the orderliness of migration and combatting smuggling and trafficking of human beings. This also means ensuring the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and full protection of the human rights of migrants as well as their right to return to their countries of origin. It should address the displacement and the crisis dimensions of migration, including mixed migration flows. It needs to manage the long-term drivers and impacts of migration while responding to short-term crises. It must manage new flows of migrants in combination with the integration of former migrants.

The UN has to be the place to work towards articulating a more positive vision i.e. to apprise how Member States can cooperate in effective governance of migration and harness benefits that reach individual migrants, their families and to the countries of origin and destination. Up until the present, GFMD has fostered many of these discussions and built necessary trust among the States for undermining multiple sensitivities regarding the governance of Migration.

Over the years, discussions in GFMD influenced the global debate on migration and development and improved national and regional policy making. But the time has come for the next steps to improve global cooperation and coordination on human mobility based on principles and values.





GFMD should continue to serve as the platform for dialogue - not only for implementation of the SDGs, but also in the process of developing a Global Compact on Migration.

Migration governance must be a shared responsibility: first within nations, between governments - non-government institutions - civil society - international organizations; and, beyond that, between nations and regions. However, the differentiated capabilities of Member States must be considered in the sharing of such responsibility. An appeal was made to highlight the need for international cooperation and burden-sharing, especially as it is crucial for the countries hosting large refugees and other displaced population.

The other important aspect was to break through the “silos” existing in the UN system as well as at the national level i.e. between development and humanitarian agencies. It is imperative for all the concerned actors to work jointly to make sure that forced displacement is prevented as well as vulnerable people are able to move out of their own free will.

At the national and local levels, a multi-stakeholder approach and partnership would be vital. In achieving the targets for decent work and social protection, for instance, trade unions have an important role to play. Local authorities are likewise crucial stakeholders in promoting migration for development and harmonious societies.

The private sector also has an important role to play in global actions to foster global dialogue on migration, human mobility and development. In this context, the inclusion of the GFMD Business Mechanism was cited as an important step to filling a long-standing gap in the Global Forum debates on migration and development.



2.5 GFMD Side Events

2.5.1 GFMD-GMG Side Event on Migrants

This side event was organized in a joint effort by GFMD and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). It was a panel discussion on the rights and welfare of migrants, challenges faced by women and children in the context of international migration, labour exploitation, and the importance of the international normative human rights framework, in particular the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Migration must place the migrant, as an individual, at the centre of the debate. Any discussion on migration, in particular in the context of development, must not overlook the rights, wellbeing, safety and dignity of migrants. There is a need to foster a safer and more transparent system of international mobility that protects migrants' rights and serves shared economic interests of migrants and their host communities.

The number of ratifications to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) remains low despite its fundamental importance. The current migration crisis across the globe highlights the fundamental importance of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as a robust and agreed legal framework for the rights of all migrant workers and their family members in countries of origin, transit and destination. There is a protection gap that can be filled by ratifying and implementing the Convention.

Ratification of the Convention can only be achieved by engaging with governments in a focused manner. In order to undertake this type of activity, it would be necessary to have dedicated resources to provide the requisite support and follow-up to increase ratifications.

Children are not being provided with adequate protection and there has been insufficient attention paid to durable solutions and supporting host communities. The needs of children on the move are universal and consist of three pillars: protection, integration and durable solutions. In addition, the reasons why people and children move must be addressed.

Regarding migrants stranded in distress and crisis, many of the actions being taken by governments are “crisis-minded” and lack attention to the complex interplay of factors that lead to these situations. Evidence has shown us time and again that if a proper framework is in place for migrants' rights in ordinary times; they have a far greater capacity to protect themselves in times of crisis when they are especially vulnerable.

Current responses are mostly short term, locally focused solutions to emergency situations. What we need is harmonized protection standards and transnational case management for implementing and monitoring durable quality solutions for children on the move.



2.5.2 Dialogue on Global Migration Compact

Against the backdrop of the New York Declaration that was adopted at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, this side event reflected on the opportunities generated by the Declaration and Member States' commitment to negotiate a Global Compact. 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).

The global community should aim for a Global Compact that is ambitious, beneficial, yet deliverable and balanced. The GCM should be about: (i) facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration; (ii) reducing incidence and impacts of forced and irregular migration; and (iii) responding to the mobility impacts of natural and human-made disasters. Its key objectives should be to make it easier for migrants to move, to reduce the incidence and impacts of irregular migration, to enhance socio-economic development of migration, to ensure that migrants' human rights are protected, to address crisis related movements, to promote migrant integration and social inclusion, and to improve the governance of migration.

With regard to the social aspects of the GCM, the approach to migration needs to be more dynamic: not merely considering it as a person moving, but rather looking at it as mobility where people and skills move back and forth between places, with connections and loyalties to different parts of the world.

Regarding the economic aspects of the GCM, the GCM has a fair chance in addressing income gaps, creating incomes and opportunities in poor countries on the one hand; and fragility, conflict and violence on the other.

The GCM should be about putting commitments into action that are rooted in existing human rights and labour rights instruments. In order to promote an ambitious outcome, the GCM should build on what has already been achieved and should avoid reinventing the wheel. Existing international human rights instruments must be implemented by translating them into national laws.

The GCM should be operational in nature; the commitments made must be supported by a robust follow-up mechanism, or should take a hybrid form that combines a framework agreement with legally binding elements.

The GCM must also build upon existing forums and initiatives by leveraging its broad pool of technical experts and political leaders to make a meaningful contribution to the GCM process.



3 GFMD AND KEY PARTNERS IN MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT – A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH TO PROMOTING SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

3.1 GFMD - SRSG - GMG

Throughout the year, the GFMD Chair cooperated and coordinated with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration and the Global Migration Group (GMG). In order to enhance the collaboration between GFMD and these two entities, two meetings between the SRSG, the GFMD Troika and the GMG Troika were held on 26 February 2016 and on 20 July 2016. Both of these meetings stressed the significance of 2016 for the global migration debate and the importance of working closely together to deliver ambitious outcomes from various processes, in particular the 19 September Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

The focus of the GFMD Chairmanship contributed to and benefited greatly from the SRSG's work on strengthening international cooperation and the engagement of the United Nations on migration issues. This SRSG work will contribute to the creation of a Global Compact on Migration, which Member States have committed to negotiate by 2018. The key aspects of the report were presented at the GFMD Forum Meeting in Dhaka.

The report's introduction makes the case for why migration is an essential and positive aspect of human development, which is bound to intensify in the decades ahead. Yet, it acknowledges that there are and will continue to be losers as well as winners from this phenomenon, and that in many countries current attitudes towards migration are hostile. Critically, States will have a much better chance of reasserting control over people's movements if they work together, rather than against each other. Safe and legal migration is greatly preferable to migration forced underground. This is true from the point of view of migrants, but also from that of the societies involved—and indeed from that of humanity as a whole. Clandestinity pushes people to take extreme risks, and renders them vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation and even slavery, while putting downward pressure on wages and working conditions for all.

The second part of the report presents an agenda for action, resting on three pillars: a compact between States and migrants, a compact among States, and a compact between States and stakeholders. Together, these compacts seek to ensure that migrants, especially the most vulnerable among them, are protected; that they have the opportunity to legally fill jobs where there is a genuine need for workers; and that they can become full, law-abiding and productive members of the societies they have joined. Greater predictability among States would mean that migration is handled safely when there is a crisis; that frameworks exist to favour and support regular migration geared towards responding to labour and skills



shortages; that migration is orderly, so that migrants who do not have a legal right to remain in a country return (or are returned) to, and are accepted by, their country of origin; and that migration is managed responsibly, in the sense that States abide by their commitments, and that those lacking the resources are supported through transparent collective funding.

The third part of the report contains recommendations to deliver on this agenda. They are organized under five priorities: managing crisis-related movements and protecting migrants at risk; building opportunities for labour and skills mobility; ensuring orderly migration, including return; fostering migrants' inclusion and development benefits; and strengthening migration governance capacities.

The conclusion contends that clearer leadership structures are needed within the UN to forge a system that can i) anticipate and react quickly to movements in a crisis; ii) deliver political messages with a consistent voice; iii) assist member states to deliver the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals, and monitor their success in doing so; iv) formulate common standards for the handling of migration, and develop these into “soft” international law; and v) where Member States are ready, negotiate binding treaties on specific migration issues. It further contends that functioning international cooperation on migration depends on restoring an atmosphere of trust, which at present is alarmingly absent in many aspects of international relations. There needs to be greater trust both among governments and between governments and their constituents. Such trust can, and must, be rebuilt incrementally, by working from the bottom up and, at the international level, through “mini-multilateralism”—wherein small groups of interested States work together to develop and implement new ideas, which can then be debated, and when possible adopted, in more formal settings.

By placing the issue of governance of migration firmly on the agenda of the GFMD, the Bangladesh Chair sought to build trust among stakeholders to discuss this and other sensitive issues.

The adoption of the landmark New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016 was preceded by extensive GFMD-SRSG-GMG engagement, including through a series of multi-stakeholder meetings organized by the GMG in collaboration with the GFMD and the SRSG. The New York Declaration envisages a role for both the GFMD and GMG to contribute towards the negotiation process for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and for these contributions to be coordinated by the SRSG for International Migration.¹⁰ Subsequent to the New York Declaration, the GMG added an agenda item on GMG-GFMD cooperation to its working-level meetings and extended an invitation to the SRSG's office to attend these meetings.

In its efforts to mainstream gender throughout its programme and activities, the GFMD Chair benefitted greatly from the focus of the GMG Chair 2016, UN Women, which had as its theme, Strengthening the GMG's gender responsive engagement with migration and development. The GMG's work in this context was centred around elevating the focus on women in the migration debate; increasing coordination with relevant stakeholders, including the GFMD;

10. A/RES/71/1, annex II, paragraph 13



and strengthening the role of the GMG members and their partners, in particular the GFMD, in supporting the implementation and monitoring of the migration-related targets and indicators of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. GMG Members identified 22 migration-related targets and indicators and collected expressions of interest from GMG Members to lead/contribute to a follow-up and review of each of those targets in collaboration with the GFMD and other partners. This dovetailed with the overarching theme of the Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship, which is to assert that migration is a transformative phenomenon pivotal to sustainable development for all, and focused on promoting voluntary initiatives and action by governments and other stakeholders on commitments in the Agenda 2030.

Specific inputs from the GMG to the GFMD process included:

- Inputs into the preparatory process for the Ninth GFMD Summit held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 10-12 December 2016, including through assistance in the drafting and finalization of the GFMD background papers by GMG members.
- Coordinated joint GMG statements drawing on the GMG agencies' expertise and underscoring GMG-GFMD partnership at the following GFMD events:
 - o GFMD Thematic Workshop on Migration, Connectivity and Business (29 March 2016);
 - o GFMD Thematic Workshop on Migration for Harmonious Societies (18 May 2016);
 - o GFMD Thematic Workshop on Migration for Peace, Stability and Growth (19 July 2016);
 - o GFMD Friends of the Forum Meeting (20 October 2016);
 - o Ninth GFMD Summit (10 December 2016).



3.2 GFMD and Civil Society

During 2016, the Chair set out to create an inclusive platform for dialogue on migration issues that was taken into consideration all stakeholders. The Chair engaged with the Civil Society Coordinating Office, an organization responsible for all of GFMD's civil society activities since 2011 and worked closely with an International Steering Committee (ISC) of 32 civil society organizations and networks active worldwide in migration, migrant rights and development. This was all done under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).

Furthermore, in response to a request from the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA), the GFMD Chair invited the PGA to address the Friends of the Forum meeting in Geneva in October 2016. The PGA is an independent space that brings together migrant associations, migrant rights organizations, trade unions, faith groups, academia and other civil society from around the world to share information, dialogue, strengthen analyses and develop joint actions and campaigns on current and emerging issues related to migration. It has been arranging meetings on the side-lines/back to back with the GFMD and the formally recognized GFMD Civil Society Days (CSD) since 2008.

This meeting was seen as very valuable for the civil society as it gave the PGA an opportunity to introduce itself to governments attending the Friends of the Forum meeting. As such, the PGA gained recognition as a contributor to GFMD, thereby paving the way for the PGA to be connected with the incoming Co-Chair of the GFMD. Moreover, the Chair extended an



invitation to the PGA participants in the CSD to the opening, closing and common space of the GFMD.

This year marked a momentous occasion for civil society participation. The government of Bangladesh took this bold step in recognition of the important role of civil society in shaping migration discourses and policies and for putting emphasis on a rights-based approach to managing migration as well as in recognition of the shortfalls of current mechanisms of governing migration and addressing the needs of migrants. This inclusive approach towards civil society was positively received by most stakeholders and the leadership of CSD and PGA expressed gratitude for the constructive approach during the 2016 Chairmanship.

3.2.1 GFMD Civil Society Days 2016, “Time for Action; Doing rights-based governance of migration and development in our communities and across borders”

The Civil Society Days (CSDs) of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), entitled “Time for Action: Doing rights-based governance of migration and development in our communities and across borders”, took place on 8 and 9 of December. More than 200 representatives of civil society from over 50 countries, as well as representatives from governments and international organizations, gathered in Bangladesh for the CSDs to deliberate on action needed for inclusion, protection and empowerment of migrants, and the governance of migration. The GFMD 2016 Civil Society Days programme was built around the acknowledgment that today’s principal challenge is not to discover principles, rights and practices but to implement them. With themes, format and session actors chosen by civil society itself, the programme presented a mix of plenary, break-out and special sessions that were aimed to take forward civil society’s “5-year 8-point Plan of Action,” as also happened in Sweden and Turkey’s GFMD Chairmanship in 2014 and 2015 respectively. As a starting point, participants looked at progress that has been made on implementing recommendations from the GFMD 2015. In virtually every session this year, the Civil Society Days programme and participants paid particular attention to the unanimous commitment that 193 UN Member States at the Summit in September made to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration beginning in early 2017.

On 10 December, the CSDs participants – leaders of civil society, migrant and diaspora groups, trade unions, and academia – joined ministers and senior government officials, together with representatives of international organizations and the private sector, for a day of “Common Space”, followed by two days of government deliberations on 11-12 December. During the Opening Ceremony of the Government Days, the 2016 Chair of the CSDs, long-term community-leader Mr. Colin Rajah of the People’s Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights, presented civil society’s Call for Action¹¹ with key recommendations from the CSDs. “We have looked at people-centered, needs-first, rights-based policies in migration and human development”, Mr. Rajah said, and how these “can be implemented in work civil society itself does, as well as together with governments, international organizations and increasingly the private sector”. The statement addressed issues such as:

11. <http://made.civ.im/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=5312&qid=194856>



- the protection and empowerment of migrant workers, and their labour rights;
- the needs and human rights of migrants who are on the move, and in transit;
- social inclusion and addressing structural inequalities including the role of local authorities;
- development investments by diaspora of all “skill” levels; and funding and finding ways to implement and monitor the migration-related targets on the UN Agenda 2030; and
- women and children in migration as advocates for rights and agents for change.

With the unprecedented UN High-level Summit last September, and the resulting New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants that launched the development of a Global Compact for “safe, orderly and regular” migration by 2018, much energy was also put, throughout the CSDs, into considering the development of this Compact. In particular, over and over, civil society participants emphasized that this Global Compact needs to have “practical effects on the ground, improving the lives, opportunities, and respect for the human rights of all Migrants.” Mr. Rajah and his Co-Chair of the GFMD CSDs 2016, Ms. Sicel’mpilo Shange-Buthane of Amnesty International South Africa, said it best when calling the Summit and the Compact the start of a “paradigm shift for all of us”. Civil society called for an inclusive multi-stakeholder process, building from the local level up. “Only with real engagement and partnership, rooted firmly in the principles of rights and justice”, Mr. Rajah said “can we reach a Compact that can bring real meaning, and change, to migrants’ lives”.

Recognizing that the two-year process to develop the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration would be getting underway in early 2017, the 2016 GFMD CSD provided 10 recommendations targeted at this process. These recommendations draw on the report in the Common Space, as well as the reports by the civil society rapporteurs of the working and special sessions, and those of special trackers and rapporteurs on the SDGs, on women and on children:

1. **On recruitment and employment:** To accelerate, concretize and implement reforms in migrant labour recruitment and employment policies and practices, in order to protect and empower migrant workers at every stage of the labour cycle;
2. **On crises, in transit and at borders:** To organize, and where possible, consolidate existing rights, frameworks, practical tools and partnerships to much more consistently implement needs-first, human-rights-based and human-development-driven protection and solutions for migrants of all kinds and in all crises, in transit, and at borders. Rights must be the starting point, foundation and connecting logic of the new Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;
3. **On forced migration:** To ensure human-development-driven, immediate emergency responses and long-term sustainable solutions for forced migrants;
4. **On xenophobia and social inclusion:** To change policies as not just perceptions in order to combat xenophobia and ensure the social inclusion of migrants and diaspora in societies;
5. **On migrant action for development:** To actively recognize and facilitate diaspora and migrant leadership for development more through job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy advocacy;



6. **On the UN Agenda 2030:** To implement and monitor migration-related aspects of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, including development of the new Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (taking forward 10.7 of the SDGs, among others) and with constructive engagement of the GFMD;
7. **On children:** To protect and also to empower children in all migration contexts (including within the GFMD and other processes that treat policy and practice), and to address their specific vulnerabilities and needs in order that their development and human rights are respected;
8. **On women:** To promote and protect the human rights and human development of women in all migration contexts, fully respecting women as agents of change and advocates for their rights;
9. **On governance:** To ensure that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a multilateral, rights-based framework that, rather than simply re-state existing rights or principles, that mechanically focuses more on tools, cooperation and systems that implement those rights and principles. As in the SDGs, the Compact should consider a structure of clear goals, targets and indicators on a graduated timeline that fosters policy coherence, real achievement and genuine accountability;
10. **On Return:** To build and strengthen civil society focus and expression of red-lines on return, nationally and trans-nationally and towards the two new Global Compacts.



The 2016 GFMD Civil Society Days gathered 342 participants, a small increase over 2015. 241 were civil society delegates. 200 of these delegates were leaders, practitioners and advocates, chosen from a pool of over 800 applications and with the help of the ISC and civil society networks active in migration and development. Another 41 civil society participants also joined from the People's Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights, which had convened in Dhaka just before the GFMD Civil Society Days. About half of the participants were migrants or diaspora members themselves. Working at grassroots, national, regional and international levels across every region of the world, delegates represented a diversity of human rights and development NGOs, migrant and diaspora associations, faith-based and workers organizations, academics and the private sector. More than one out of three led or made presentations in plenary, working and special sessions of the programme. 101 representatives of government, international organizations, media and other guests and observers also participated.



3.2.2 People's Global Action, "Mobilized and On the Move: Migrants Changing the World!"

Over 350 people from 32 countries convened in Dhaka for the 11th People's Global Action Forum on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA) held on 5-7 December 2016. Guided by its theme "Mobilized and On the Move: Migrants Changing the World!", the PGA focused on 6 key thematic issues: Borders & Detention, Climate & Migration, Global Governance on Migration, Labour Migration & Recruitment Reform, Mixed Migration, and Xenophobia & Racism.

The Chair of the GFMD and his representative addressed the PGA in the closing ceremony and opening ceremonies respectively. As part of the preparatory process for the PGA, the Chair of the GFMD also participated as Keynote Speaker in a number of national consultations organized by the Bangladesh Civil Society Coordination Committee, the local organizing committee of the PGA.

The PGA recommendations this year focused on the 6 key thematic issues of the programme. The recommendations on labour migration and recruitment focused on reducing the cost of migration – calling for zero recruitment fees for migrant workers and employer pays model; recognizing the need to address issues in line with contract substitution and visa trading; calling on governments to provide access to redress for migrant workers; and promoting fair and ethical recruitment.

On global governance, the PGA has called on the use of existing human rights and labour standards frameworks for migration governance; for States to implement global frameworks through national law and work with civil society to ensure that laws are reinforced and put into practice for protecting and promoting the rights of migrants; and genuine interest in bridging migration and development means States should move away from a migration policy framework rooted in deterrence.

Further, as racism is not only an inter-personal issue but also a legacy of colonialism and broader relations of inequality, State migration deterrence frameworks result in criminalization of migration and scapegoating of migrants and feeds into xenophobia and racism. A UN campaign on racism should build from local and regional realities and address fundamental structural patterns of discrimination.

On Borders and Detention, the PGA emphasized that States should end immigration detention including their children and their families; it also suggested that States should apply alternatives to detention, including open door shelters and community based programmes.

For the sub-theme Mixed Migration, the PGA recommendation focused on the protection of the rights and dignity of the people in large movements regardless of their status in all stages of their journey; It suggested that governments should prioritize protecting and rescuing if they are at risk and that States should implement the protections in the OHCHR guidelines on the rights of migrants at borders.

There was a strong call for the nexus of climate change and migration to be addressed in the GFMD. Fundamental human rights—including rights to labour, social protection, to stay and



to return—should be respected whether or not people cross international borders or are internally displaced. Peasant agro-ecology should also be one of the solutions to mitigating climate change, as well as creating resilience.

In addition to the thematic recommendations, the PGA has shown the importance of migrants as stakeholders and their direct participation at national and intergovernmental policy spaces. Migrants need their human rights protected, but they also need to be recognized and respected. This is especially true of women migrants, who are often discussed in terms of vulnerability only. The vulnerabilities of women in the migration process are rooted in the policies that close borders and prevent social inclusion. Women are, and must be recognized as agents of change.



3.3 GFMD and Global Business

The GFMD Business Mechanism was launched in 2015 and endorsed at the 2015 GFMD Summit in Istanbul. It brings the voice of the business community to the Forum and aims to enhance public-private dialogue and deepen the engagement of international companies in the development of migration policy. There is clearly a mutual interest between governments, the private sector, and civil society, to promote more transparent, effective and humane migration policies, taking into account labour market needs. 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.

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 IOE and the WEF GACM were tasked with coordinating the work and the participation of business in the GFMD Summit in Dhaka. The Business Mechanism brings its expertise to the shared goals of the UN system, governments, and civil society in creating transparent, effective, and humane migration policies which support business and development in creating job opportunities and economic prosperity.



During 2016, the Business Mechanism met twice, in April in Geneva and in July in New York, and conducted a survey of migration and mobility professionals from over 210 companies and business federations worldwide. Both meetings, as well as the results of the survey, served as a basis for the Business Mechanism position paper, which was presented at a business meeting during the GFMD Summit in Dhaka that was attended by around 150 participants. The paper, entitled 'The Business Case for Migration', addresses the role that the private sector should play in promoting a coherent and comprehensive migration strategy for the Global Compact on Migration. The paper highlights six key policy issues: (1) the global



need for workforce mobility; (2) the matching of skills to labour market needs; (3) fair recruitment and decent work opportunities; (4) integration and social welfare of migrants; (5) the role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development; and (6) engagement in public discourse to promote positive perceptions of migrants.

The conclusions of the business meeting called for the strengthening of the public-private partnership on migration issues, beyond the GFMD. It called on governments to adopt clear, transparent, and coherent migration policies that allow for the movement of skills and economic growth. It also called on all stakeholders to develop a positive narrative on the impact of international migration. The speakers on the panel represented governments, private companies, and business associations, as well as civil society. They highlighted the need for international skills mobility and for fair and ethical recruitment practices. Programmes for matching skills to labour market needs were also presented.

The participation of the private sector as an independent stakeholder received strong political support from many governments at the Summit. The Business Mechanism was endorsed as a permanent feature of the GFMD at the Future of the Forum Session and will therefore continue its effort to bring a strong and united business voice to future GFMD Summits.

Takeaways from the business meeting

I. The global need for workforce mobility and the matching of skills to labour market needs

Governments, private companies and civil society agreed on the importance of workforce mobility to ensure development, as well as economic growth. Employers highlighted the global mismatch of workers' skills with the needs of the labour market, in both high-skilled and low-skilled occupations. This is caused in part by demographic realities and an inadequate alignment of educational programming and skills training with the needs of business. By meeting labour market needs, migrants increase productivity and raise consumption, thereby generating additional jobs, and benefiting society at large. The mobility of talent across borders is a small but important part of maximising global economic opportunities.

Employers encouraged policymakers to recognize labour market needs and modern business practices in the revision and reorganization of immigration systems. A balanced migration system should include a robust and flexible framework for labour migration, including a range of categories to spur innovation, fill skills gaps and promote development. Policymakers should also adapt to the evolving workplace.

Concrete examples were provided by employers facing challenges hiring migrant workers or with difficulties securing visas/work permits. A programme to match migrants' skills to labour market needs, as well as a global study on international mobility, were presented. These initiatives will be further developed in 2017.

II. Fair recruitment and decent work opportunities

Most of the panellists addressed the importance of fair and ethical recruitment practices to promote human rights, reduce abuses and avoid the negative consequences of migration.



Employers of skilled and unskilled workers alike recognized that they must ensure that employees they recruit are not the victims of trafficking, and are adequately informed of their rights and obligations. They recalled that there must be, however, shared responsibility between the private sector and government. Governments should enforce existing laws and facilitate employer portability to prevent exploitative labour recruitment, protect foreign and domestic workers, and ensure that labour migration systems function effectively.

Companies called on governments to work with stakeholders to identify regulatory gaps that enable exploitative recruitment practices. Where gaps exist, governments and stakeholders should partner to reach a consensus on standards for fair and ethical recruitment that effectively combat exploitation, promote the development of ethical recruitment agencies, and target bad actors.

III. Role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development

The business position paper addresses circular migration and development from the perspective of migrant entrepreneurs and investors, with special attention paid to remittance policies. In addition to competition for migrants who can help close skills gaps, there is ongoing worldwide competition for capital and ideas from migrants who can make contributions in a unique way. A prime example is in the technology sector, where many of the top global companies are run by migrants.

Employers recommend that migration systems include robust categories for foreign entrepreneurs and innovators to foster development in both the home and host economies. The business community as a whole has been limited in its ability to directly impact the factors that influence remittance costs and access to technology and services. This exposes a need for a collaborative framework that is inclusive of business with civil society and government to highlight market barriers to innovative, technology-based remittances, to reduce the perception of migrant risk among bankers and regulators and to leverage remittances framework for migrant investment and benefits portability.

IV. Role of the Business Mechanism beyond the GFMD

The governments' representatives on the panel welcomed the creation of the Business Mechanism in 2015 under the Turkish Chairmanship. The business network created for the GFMD could serve other international dialogues on migration, and particularly the Global Compact on Migration to be adopted in 2018 by United Nations member states. The Business Mechanism stands ready to collaborate with member states in this regard and agrees that the recommendations of the position paper could feed into the preparation for the Global Compact on Migration.

Switzerland, as the main donor to the Business Mechanism, called on other states, as well as on private companies, to share the financial burden. A multi-stakeholder and multi-governmental funding scheme would further strengthen the credibility of the platform. Provided with a larger budget, the Business Mechanism could enhance its visibility across the globe and could also envisage an extension of its scope to other relevant international dialogues.



4 NINTH GFMD SUMMIT MEETING – A TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL

4.1 Opening Ceremony

The Ninth GFMD Summit meeting¹² started on 10 December with welcome addresses by three Ministers from the People’s Republic of Bangladesh: H.E. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P., Foreign Minister, H.E. Nurul Islam BSc, Minister for Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment and H.E. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, M.P., Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. The three stressed the Chair’s timely theme: “Migration that works for Sustainable Development of all: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda”. They underlined the enabling role and positive impact of migration and migrants for economic, political and social development, citing in particular the impact of overseas migrants’ workers for the development of Bangladesh. However, they also recognized that many challenges still lie ahead; given the current system under strain, they highlighted the need for better governance of international migration. In this context, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact on Migration provide the basis for the achievement of the common goal of leaving no one behind and realizing the full potentials of migration. The Ministers emphasized that hosting the GFMD Summit is a testament to the strong political will and leadership of Bangladesh in this regard.

Two reports followed the ministerial welcome addresses. The first report was presented by the Chair of the Civil Society Days (CSDs), **Mr. Colin Rajah**¹³, who summarized the main discussions that had taken place during the CSDs from 8 to 10 December. The second report was on the GFMD Business Mechanism, presented by **Ms. Linda Kromjong**, Secretary General of IOE and Coordinator of the GFMD Business Mechanism¹⁴.

Representing Mr. Peter Sutherland, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, **Mr. François Fouinat**, SRSG’s Senior Adviser reaffirmed GFMD’s invaluable achievements over the last 10 years¹⁵. The Forum, thanks to its

12. *Speeches from the opening ceremony are available at : <https://www.gfmd.org/docs/bangladesh-2016> and a video of the whole session is available here: <https://www.gfmd.org/videos/ninth-gfmd-summit-meeting-opening-ceremony>*

13. *A more detailed summary on the Civil Society Days can be found in the section 3.2 of the report. The full report by Mr. Colin Rajah is also available at : https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/report_on_civil_society_by_2016_chair_of_civil_society_days_mr_colin_rajah.pdf*

14. *A more detailed summary on the GFMD Business Mechanism can be found in the section 3.3 of the report. The speech by Ms. Linda Kromjong is also available at : <https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd-opening-ceremony-10.12.2016-linda-kromjong-statement.pdf>*

15. *The remarks by Mr. François Fouinat are available at: https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/remarks_by_mr_francois_fouinat_senior_adviser_of_the_srsg.pdf*



informality and its specificities, resulted in engaging exchanges and a fruitful dialogue on migratory issue that's still ongoing. He recalled and applauded the extraordinary role and support extended by Mr. Peter Sutherland to the GFMD process. He recognized the opportunities offered by the New York Declaration and gave the assurance of continued efforts by the GFMD and the SRSG in supporting the negotiation and the development of a Global Compact on migration.

In her speech, **Ms. Lakshmi Puri**¹⁶, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and representative of the Global Migration Group recapped the key moments of 2016, with regards to migration and inclusion in the broader global development agenda. She highlighted the benefits of promoting safe, orderly and regular migration and advocated gender equality and women's empowerment in the migration cycle. Those elements should be prioritized. To achieve the Global Compact, Ms Puri said that inclusiveness and vigilance were essential -- inclusiveness through the participation and engagement of all stakeholders in the process, and vigilance against growing anti-immigrant sentiment.

The International Labour Organization Director-General, **H.E. Guy Ryder**¹⁷ shared some cross-cutting perspectives on labour migration and mobility. Observing the paradox in which we live in when touching upon migration, DG Ryder explained that there are big obstacles standing in the way of regular migration even though there are strong arguments in favour of migration. On the topic of governance, he mentioned the necessity to adopt a compact that will have clear and measurable targets. He expressed appreciation for the role that Bangladesh took in working towards creating clear and measurable goals during its Chairmanship. DG Ryder also highlighted three main points related to labour migration which he believed should be included and discussed in the consultation process of the Global Compact: that access to decent and dynamic work opportunities may help reduce forced migration; that a new cohesive framework is desired and that increased international cooperation is necessary, not only to reduce the costs of migration, but more importantly to extend and ensure protection and access to work for migrants.

In his speech, **H.E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing**¹⁸, IOM Director-General, highlighted three different worlds in which we are living: The first is a world where one billion people are currently on the move, 65 million of whom have been forcibly displaced. Ambassador Swing said such massive movements could be an opportunity for some countries if it leads to sizeable remittances. The second world is characterized by disarray, a world where conflicts, demographic and social instability, climate change and technological developments continue to push individuals across borders. The third world is a world of shared responsibility in which the different multilateral mechanisms, and particularly the GFMD will be building a management and governance structure of migration. To conclude, IOM DG Swing referred to the necessary, inevitable and desirable aspects of migration.

16. The remarks by Ms. Lakshmi Puri are available at: https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/remarks_by_gmg_chair_ninth_gfmd_summit_inauguration.pdf

17. The remarks by H.E. Guy Ryder are available at: https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/ilo_dg_speech_gfmd_dhaka_dec.10.pdf

18. The remarks by H.E. William Lacy Swing are available at: https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/2016-12-10_dg_tps_gfmd_opening_ceremony_dhaka_as_delivered.pdf



H.E. Wu Hongbo¹⁹, Under-Secretary-General for UN DESA, started his speech by praising the constructive contribution of the Government of Bangladesh in the prevailing debate of migration and development. H.E. Hongbo cited the advancement of education, healthcare and economic growth in his country, partly due to remittances. H.E. Hongbo saluted the the commitment made by world leaders during the 19th September Summit to share responsibility for migration and develop refugee and a migration compacts. The experiences and the involvement of Member States and governments, is crucial in that regard. Before concluding his remarks, H.E. Hongbo invited the governments to take part in the 'Together' campaign that specifically tackles negative perceptions and attitudes towards refugees and migrants.

The United Nations' views on migration were echoed by **H.E. António Guterres**, the UN Secretary-General-elect (UNSG-elect) via a video message. The UNSG-elect regretted the current negative and unreasonable discourse on migration. The UNSG-elect recognized that migration is indeed a solution rather than a problem, but it has to be all at once well managed and humane. In order to guarantee cohesion in increasingly diverse societies, the UNSG-elect called for important investment by all stakeholders.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh²⁰, officially declared the opening of the Ninth GFMD Summit. In her speech, the Prime Minister spoke about the often forgotten human and unique stories that every migrant faces and endures. The Prime Minister explained that migration should be seen as an essential force for peace, stability and growth and therefore the challenge lies in the facilitation of a safe, orderly and regular migration. In order to achieve this, an appropriate governance framework will be necessary. In that respect the Prime Minister rejoiced that world leaders had agreed in September 19 to to back the Migration Compact first proposed by Bangladesh. H.E. Sheikh Hasina urged all stakeholders to design an ambitious, and responsible Compact. She then invited the GFMD delegates to engage frankly and firmly in discussions about migration, with the ultimate goal of upholding the dignity of migrants.

4.2 GFMD 2016 Common Space

The GFMD Common Space²¹ is the principal venue for interaction between Governments, the civil society the private sector, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders at the GFMD Summit meeting. It brings stakeholders from all sectors that have concerns about migration and development to discuss issues of mutual interest. The overarching theme and sub-themes were decided jointly by the GFMD Chair and the civil society coordinating office ICMC (already mentioned earlier). The Common Space bridges the programme of the Civil Society Days (CSDs) and the programme of the Government Meeting. As in the past, the Common Space was held immediately after the opening ceremony of the GFMD Summit.

19. The speech by H.E. Wu Hongbo is available at: https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/speech_of_usg_wu_hongbo.pdf

20. The Inaugural Address by H.E. Sheikh Hasina is available at: https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/inaugural_address_he_prime_minister_sheikh_hasina.pdf

21. See Annex D for the GFMD 2016 Common Space programme.





COMMON SENSE Time to Act - Compact for Governance



It began with a high level introductory plenary session moderated by Mr. Gervais Appave, Senior Adviser to the GFMD 2016 Chair. Before introducing the speakers, Mr. Appave stressed the importance of the coming two years for developing and defining the Global Compact on Migration.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque, GFMD 2016 Chair, started off by establishing that migration is not likely to slow down. Instead, he said we need to understand that mobility will continue and that for most parts of the world, this is for the betterment of society and for individuals. He then shared his views on the Global Compact on Migration as well as the role that Bangladesh had played in getting this Compact into the New York Declaration. He explained that Bangladesh would like to see an international instrument to





govern international migration, so as to make it safer, more regular and more responsible. Ultimately, the instrument should be a comprehensive contract that regulates the state of affairs in the field of migration and mobility. The process leading to the adoption of the Compact should offer a broader and deeper understanding of migration and migration-related matters. Ambassador Haque expressed a hope that the Compact could also serve to reduce tensions that sometimes exist between migrants and non-migrants in society. It should be a tool for advocacy on the rights of migrant workers. He shared different options for what the Compact might be. First it could be a convention, a binding instrument on all states, similar to the 1951 Convention. The second option he presented would be something similar to the Sustainable Development Goals, with migration goals, indicators of success and a commitment to implement this with a robust follow-up process. The third option he



mentioned would be something similar to the Agreement on Climate Change, which combines elements that are binding with elements of a more political or guiding nature, along with a monitoring framework for follow-up. Ambassador Haque acknowledged that the negotiations would not be easy, but also highlighted that the stakes are high, as Member States have seen people walking across borders without passports, without authorization and are realizing that the current instruments – remnants of the post-World War II-era – have proven ineffective in stopping and dealing with such movements. To facilitate the negotiations, he called UN agencies to put aside any turf-fights, for the interest of making progress and suggested a period of free and informal consultations to explore and expand the minimum that could be agreeable to all prior to starting the formal negotiations.

These welcoming remarks were followed by an intervention from Ms. Begum Shamsun Nahar, Secretary, Ministry for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment of Bangladesh. She emphasized the involvement of the private sector in labour migration discussions; the importance of identifying how harmonious societies function, including the need to shift the migration discourse from the security of migrants to how best to enhance their mobility for the betterment of society; as well as the need for well managed migration policies. Ms. Nahar stressed the urgency of mitigating the miseries of migrants and promoting the positive development benefits that they can provide for humanity. Key to this multi-dimensional issue, she said, was a comprehensive approach that maximizes migration's contribution to development; facilitates legal migration; reduces barriers to employment and the costs of remittances; addresses irregular migration; as well as protects migrants' safety, especially in times of crisis. She maintained that this has to be done while respecting existing laws and regulations. She also touched on the importance that Bangladesh attaches to the interface between migration and climate change as well as to bilateral cooperation to improve opportunities for decent working conditions for migrant workers.

Subsequent to these remarks, a Keynote Speech was given by Mr. Justin MacDermott, Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration. Mr. MacDermott began his address by explaining that Mr. Sutherland, the SRSG for International Migration, would have treasured the opportunity to share his ideas at the GFMD Forum Meeting had he been able to travel to Dhaka. Mr. MacDermott pointed out that Mr. Sutherland had pursued improved international cooperation on migration since his appointment 11 years ago and would be releasing a Report on this issue shortly, which he hoped could serve as a roadmap for further cooperation. Mr. MacDermott gave an overview of the recommendations featured in a Report. In what he termed "a moment of peril and of potential", Mr. MacDermott explained that the Report outlines the progress that has been made over the last 11 years in the area of migration, but also took note of the serious backsliding on states' commitments to international norms and a surge in unilateralism that has fanned mistrust. The crisis on the Mediterranean, and its repercussions were highlighted as particularly troublesome in this regard. The Global Compact should therefore be recognized as a unique opportunity to lay the ground rules for international cooperation on migration. It should identify common goals for migration management and establish a global framework which includes shared principles, understandings and standards to guide migration agreements in key areas. The report identifies three relationships that shape the migration processes. The obligations and responsibilities of states vis-à-vis migrants, vis-à-vis each other and vis-à-vis other



stakeholders. It provides recommendations across five key policy priority areas:

- 1) Improving the protection of migrants and coordination in crises movements, with recommendations to define who needs what kinds of protection, particularly with regard to among children; to strengthen capacities to assist migrants through the establishment of networks of assistance centres and increased consular cooperation among governments; and to establish legal pathways for people to move out of crisis in a safe and orderly way;
- 2) Creating opportunities for labour and skills mobility, with recommendations to increase access to finance for migrants and advancing recruitment regulation using incentives and promoting consolidation in the recruitment industry to reduce the recruitment fees for migrants; and to establish a multi-partner platform on skills mobility and labour mobility, which would establish strategies for skills development and cooperation, and measures for labour and skills matching, support negotiation and implementation of labour migration agreements, promote protection and portability of earned benefits. Over time, it was suggested this platform could develop into a negotiating platform on labour migration agreements based on minimum standards;
- 3) Enhancing orderliness through return and reintegration, with recommendations to start a dialogue to develop principles governing international cooperation on return and re-integration;
- 4) Promoting inclusion and the development impacts of migration, with recommendations to strengthen protection of fundamental rights and access to basic services for all migrants regardless of migratory status; to facilitate portability of earned social benefits; to improve remittance markets and financial inclusion; and to develop an alternative internationally recognized proof of identification for migrants; and
- 5) Strengthening governance capacities, with recommendations for the UN system to take measures to perform better in terms of anticipating and reacting to movements in times of crisis, speaking with one voice to deliver political messages, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs when it comes to migration, supporting the development of soft law in the area of migration and through formulation of common standards and working towards the conclusion of new, issue-specific treaties and specific agreements, e.g. like the domestic workers' convention. Additional points raised for effective governance include improving data and monitoring of the SDGs using big data and developing a rights monitoring database, as well as enhancing financial and technical support to enable countries to deliver on their commitments including by developing and establishing a financing facility to this effect. He also mentioned the need to support cities by empowering them and including them in policy deliberation. Greater coherence and transparency at the national level through policy coordination bodies and engaging our parliaments.

This presentation was followed by a panel of high-level speakers. H.E. Saqr Ghobash, Minister, Human Resources and Emiratisation, United Arab Emirates spoke first. He gave a regional perspective from West and South Asia and suggested it was uniquely placed to contribute to and shape the Global Compact on Migration. He suggested we can inform and enrich the outcomes of the broader global migration debate by discussing relevant global



issues at a regional level and on regional platform, as was done in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue. Issues of particular concern that he raised were i) protection of migrants, calling in particular for national and regional solutions; ii) migrant empowerment, including pre-departure and post-arrival efforts aimed at enabling migrants to make informed decisions, as well as skills development and recognition efforts to facilitate return and reintegration; and iii) addressing the drivers of migration, including poverty, conflict and climate change.

The second speaker H.E. M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, India, opened his address by recalling the millions of Bangladeshis that had to flee Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War. He stressed that a key reason for gathering in the GFMD was to ensure that future generations do not face such fate. He went on to stress that migration should not be confused with refugees and that separate policies, frameworks and procedures are needed for the two groups. H.E. Akbar further emphasized that the vast majority of migrants are economic migrants and only a small proportion are refugees. He suggested that migration is a natural outcome of an inter-connected world and pointed to the economic benefits of migration while citing figures suggesting that 35% of migrants are highly skilled and that migrants contribute approximately 9.4% of global GDP, amounting to USD 6.7 trillion annually. He maintained that migrants contribute to new business formation, innovation and job creation and act as a catalyst for growth for destination countries in particular. With this in mind H.E. Akbar suggested that we need to develop a more comprehensive vision for addressing this economic dimension of migration and that the GFMD could be an important platform for deliberations towards the global compact on migration. Furthermore this should be synchronized with the Agenda 2030. Towards this aim, he suggested a nine-point protocol that: 1) places migrants at the core; 2) eliminates barriers to economic migration; 3) provides opportunities for safe, orderly, regular, open and legal migration; 4) recognizes job skills; 5) creates a gender sensitive approach; 6) provides for migrants in vulnerable situations; 7) protects the human rights of migrants; 8) addresses irregular migration, including trafficking and smuggling of human beings, and which facilitates their return; and 9) responses to disasters and crises.

The third speaker, Dr. Dipu Moni, M.P., Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, regretted that there had been no progress in the mobility of human capital through the negotiation of services within or outside the WTO. She further expressed concern over the securitization of migration, which had made migrants targets in debates. As host countries are struggling with finding the right balance between assimilation and multiculturalism and how to adopt appropriate integration policies, societies are torn between inclusiveness and extreme nationalism. In order to overcome tendencies of segregation, Dr. Moni suggested political parties have a responsibility to create effective messaging on the need for a pluralist transformation of our societies. People should rise above race-centric constructs found within societies and states. She further stressed the responsibility of mainstream and social media to combat discrimination against minorities and migrants. ICT could also be used to promote and protect the interests of migrants, including through online initiatives against discrimination, and services that can solve language and cultural barriers. In closing, Dr. Moni stressed that governance systems must internalize the needs of vulnerable people in an irregular situation.



The fourth speaker, Ms. Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, United States of America opened by highlighting challenges over the past years, including the unprecedented movements of refugees, vulnerable migrants and internally displaced persons; the dangerous journeys many are embarking on in desperation; and the demands placed on nations assisting those in need. She also expressed her shock at the backlash against refugees and migrants in many countries and underscored the collective desire to improve the lives and opportunities of these groups through the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants as well as the Leader's Summit on Refugees hosted by U.S. President Obama. Ms. Richard insisted that we have to seize the opportunity that the Global Compact on Migration offers to enhance the protection of migrants and recognize their contributions to development. Questions she raised, for the Global Compact to address, included how to manage migration and development in the future; how to facilitate migration that benefits countries of origin and destination; and how to support development that will allow citizens to prosper at home or better contribute to and take advantage of opportunities abroad. Ms. Richard suggested that the Global Compact should be built on the existing body of international law and policies that already exist rather than generating new legally binding frameworks or conventions. It should focus on practical efforts that give life to target 10.7 of the SDGs and build on the links between migration and the full range of development goals and thus generate opportunities and improve the lives of migrants. This could be done by developing realistic goals and implementing action plans that will support the Global Compact. She listed the following areas that would need to see progress: ensuring decent work for migrants in destination countries and in countries from which they come; improving labour hiring practices and ensuring labour laws are enforced; promotion of educational life skills; promoting the human rights of migrants; promoting a strong civil society; and improving humanitarian response mechanisms, such as the MICIC guidelines. She stressed that the United States would like to see a significant role for IOM in supporting the development of the Global Compact and that it should be an inclusive process involving other international and multilateral organizations, the private sector, civil society, migrants and the diaspora.

The fifth speaker, Ms. Karen AbuZayd, Former Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants underlined the ability of Member States and the United Nations to come together on migration as evidenced in the Summit for Refugees and Migrants and the New York Declaration. Member States had then stressed that they wanted something to be implemented. She emphasized that the rights of refugees and migrants had been stressed in the New York Declaration and highlighted that this is why we are gathered at the GFMD: to facilitate action that will produce those rights. Ms. AbuZayd stressed that the need to work together, as no one entity, individual or state can address the needs of refugees and migrants on their own. She underlined the importance of improving the narrative on refugees and migrants, by highlighting the benefits that migration brings. Ms. AbuZayd also spoke to the role of the GFMD, suggesting that it could bring information and knowledge as well as guide and inspire us in the process. She spoke of the different actors that needed to be involved, from global to local actors, including big and small countries, leaders, citizens, academics, civil society and the private sector.

The sixth speaker, Mr. Ignacio Packer, Secretary General, Terre des Hommes International stressed that it was time for action – action that isn't business as usual, but action that



involves change. He proceeded to list necessary changes with respect to: commitments that uphold rights; governments' response to the challenge through stories told; social inclusion for harmonious societies. Ultimately this change should be real in the daily life of individuals including migrants. Mr. Packer emphasized the role and readiness of civil society to act, even beyond civil society's 8-point-5 year agenda from the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration. In terms of civil society, he stressed the urgency that it ascribes to the matter; their readiness to be key actors in the implementation required and the value of inclusion, of working together with civil society. In closing, Mr. Packer spoke of including migrants in the discussion and of the fact that the universality of children's rights and needs should bridge the Compact on Refugees and the Compact on Migrants. He stressed that we cannot discriminate between children based on their migratory status.

The seventh and final speaker, Ms. Linda Kromjong, Secretary General, International Organisation for Employers (IOE), Coordinator of GFMD Business Mechanism spoke of how this mechanism works to engage and coordinate business input to the GFMD. She stressed the interest of responsible business to do the right thing, including in relation to basic human rights and migration, to avoid child or forced labour and to promote fair recruitment as the IOE does together with IOM through the IRIS initiative. Ms. Kromjong pointed out that while business might be a new actor in the GFMD setting, it is not a new actor in for example human rights. It participates in human rights fora and has developed guiding principles based on human rights. She maintained that business wants to see a Global Compact that includes principles that are good for business and for societies. She explained that business need policies that allow them to hire the talent they need, when they need it and where they need it. From that perspective, she explained she wants regulation that enables business to do business, and does not result in more red tape. Ms. Kromjong closed by reiterating that she was looking forward to working over the coming years, to engage business with governments and civil society on migration.

Three simultaneous breakout sessions then followed, focusing on the issues of cooperation in Global governance, in social governance and in labour market governance.

4.2.1 Breakout session 1: Cooperation in Global Governance – Towards an ambitious Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: achieving Summit commitments and Agenda 2030 target 10.7

Breakout session 1, which focused on an achieving an ambitious Global Compact, was moderated by Ms. Kathleen Newland, Senior Fellow and co-founder, Migration Policy Institute. Mr. Ben Lewis, advocacy coordinator of the International Detention Coalition, was the rapporteur for the session.

The session opened by asking how the Global Compact could to become more ambitious. This entailed answering "what" we would like to see in the Global Compact, what are our ambitions for the Compact and "how", do we put in place the cooperation needed to move towards the GC?

On the "what", the conversation started with an assertion that for the Global Compact to be



ambitious, it needs to be centred on the benefits of migration as well as the human rights of all migrants, irrespective of status. It needs to focus on real impacts on the lives of migrants and refugees themselves.

It was suggested that in order to be ambitious, the Global Compact would need to tackle some thorny or tricky issues. It should push for regularization of irregular migration – both in terms of regularizing irregular migrants that are already in host countries and in terms of expanding regular pathways. In the absence of this, precarious and irregular movements will continue. Related to this there was a call for ending the criminalization of irregular entry and stay, including practices such as detention, in particular the detention of children and families in the context of irregular movement. Instead, policymakers and the Global Compact should focus on how to promote human mobility in a safe, orderly and regular way. The issues of return, deportation, and readmission were also raised. A question raised was how to carry out readmission in a way that respects the safety, dignity and human rights of those involved.

The issue of how to prevent human trafficking, and to the extent possible, human smuggling, while also respecting the rights and not re-victimizing people who are themselves trafficked or who are forced to rely on smugglers to get to safety was also raised. Furthermore, an ambitious Global Compact should promote access to fundamental rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to basic services, meaning access to healthcare, education, work, etc. This would require firewalls between the enforcement function of migration governance and basic service provision for people. It should also be inclusive of the perspectives and rights of women and children including by always protecting the best interests of the child.

In terms of "how", i.e. how to do this in an ambitious way and how to cooperate around the Global Compact, one of the things that was highlighted was that while the Global Compact conversations should be State-led, they need to be inclusive of a broad array of actors, including civil society, with voices and perspectives of migrants themselves, as well as the private sector. The negotiations should not be limited to a once-off event, but should include regional and national level consultations and involve stakeholders from, e.g. regional bodies that are set up or purpose-built to do political and human rights work in the regions, (e.g. regional human rights commissions, regional mobility agreements, etc.). The preparations should also encourage more bilateral and multilateral engagements, responsibility sharing, and dialogue, across all the regions.

4.2.2 Breakout session 2: Cooperation in Social Governance – Implementing successful campaigns for social inclusion and against Xenophobia and Discrimination: achieving Summit commitments and Agenda 2030 goals

Breakout session 2, which focused on how to implement successful campaigns for social inclusion and against xenophobia and discrimination, was moderated by Ms. Anna Crowley, Team Manager, International Migration Initiative, Open Society Foundation. Ms. Cécile Riallant, Programme Manager Joint Migration and Development Initiative was the rapporteur for this session.



With the assumption that most countries in future will be more multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious, a question that was posed was how to build a consensus, a new social pact, that will make societies hold together? How do we – in other words – govern and embrace diversity? More specifically, the discussions focused on how campaigns for social inclusion could help us to achieve the commitments in the New York Declaration as well as to implement the related elements in the Agenda 2030. Three main questions were raised: 1) if public campaigns are effective tools to combat xenophobia and discrimination: ii) what kinds of policy actions are effective; and iii) what could be the role of the GFMD to follow up on these issues?

In relation to the first question, on the effectiveness of public campaigns, it was suggested that the evidence on the overwhelmingly positive impact of migration and on the substantial economic gains to be made from better integration should be able to overcome many fears associated with migration. Nonetheless, the direction of politics and policies in a number of countries around the world seems to suggest that public communication campaigns for social inclusion are not having the desired effect on popular opinions. It could be that the messaging is not effective or that campaigns are not reaching the right audiences. There is a risk that information campaigns end up 'preaching to the converted' rather than disenfranchised elements of our societies that feel threatened by migration.

A number of delegates shared interesting practices and campaigns. One example was focused on debunking myths related to migration with tailored messages for the global north and the global south, or countries of destination and countries of origin, taking into account that myths are prevalent in both sets of countries. Another example highlighted how a campaign can contribute both to changing the narrative on migration as well as to advance policy responses to migrants' needs.

The critical role of building political consensus at the national level, e.g. through public speeches on migration, not as a problem or contentious issue, was highlighted. The importance of multi-stakeholder alliances, including the private sector, was also underlined for effective communication on migration. Recognizing that cities are the main destinations for migrants, the critical role that local and regional authorities and cities can play was also highlighted. Local leaders can be particularly effective promoters of campaigns in view of their proximity to their constituencies.

In terms of the second element of the discussions, "what kind of policy action have been effective", the value of adopting an integrated approach between laws, policies and services, was noted for effective implementation. Emphasis was put on strongly enforcing anti-racism and anti-discrimination laws, including on social media.

Participants underlined the critical role of local and regional authorities, and cities, suggesting that they need to be empowered and that their capacities need to be strengthened in their role in supporting social inclusion and addressing xenophobia and discrimination. Another issue that was mentioned was the value of creating links between local and regional authorities around the world to exchange practices and work together. In that context, the value of the Global Mayoral Forum on Migration and Development was highlighted.



Some pointed out that integration is a two-way process meaning it's important to create a balance of rights and responsibilities. Examples were mentioned from the local level, where migrants sign charters or pact for the host society to engage themselves with migrants and for migrants to engage themselves with the local society. Another important element that was emphasized is the civic integration of migrants, considering migrants as political actors, not only in the local community but also nationally. This was seen as a critical path towards social cohesion.

In terms of the third element of discussions, on the role of the GFMD, one issue that came up was how to build a more structured dialogue with local and regional authorities. Civil society also highlighted how instrumental the GFMD has been for them, in order to come together and build strong advocacy messaging on migration. It was suggested that this shows that exchanging knowledge and learning from each other is actually working.

A final point raised was that social inclusion has mainly been framed as something happening in the countries of destination. It was suggested that the GFMD should also be looking at what can be done in countries of origin to promote social inclusion.

4.2.3. Breakout session 3: Cooperation in Labour Market Governance – Ensuring decent labour and recruitment practices: achieving Summit commitments and Agenda 2030 target 8.8

Breakout session 3 focused on cooperation and labour market governance. Hessen El Sayah, the head of the Migrants Department, Caritas Lebanon was the rapporteur from this session.

The discussions set out that recruitment practices must be in accordance with internationally recognized human rights, including those contained in international labour standards. Workers are vulnerable to abuse of recruitment practices, especially when they are seeking jobs in an environment of high unemployment, fleeing crises situations like wars or disasters or when there is intense competition for jobs and when they are not protected by transparent law and effective enforcement. As a result, the recruitment inter-mediation landscape today is complex, owing to the fragmented global governance system of labour migration and the large number of actors involved. A number of highly relevant points were raised during the discussions to ensure decent work, fair recruitment processes, and the SDG target 8.8 to “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”.

All stakeholders emphasized the urgent necessity to address the challenge of recruitment fees and other forms of exploitation at the time of recruitment. Governments stressed the need to take serious steps to abolish such fees including those that are deducted from the salaries of migrants. This could include monitoring that no fees are paid for recruitment, making employers accountable for the actions of recruiters, and putting into practice decent, fair and ethical recruitment processes. One government shared how any employer that wants to bring employees into the country has to prove that no recruitment fees are charged. Migrants have to be pre-qualified, undergo vocational training and have a certificate in order to go into the recruitment process. Enforcement was also stressed to ensure that recruitment agencies abide by the rules of the government. Civil society delegates emphasized that the



recruitment process is key to protect, respect and fulfil human rights. In this regard, they stressed the general principles and operational guidelines of the ILO to ensure fair recruitment across the globe, including that no recruitment fees should be borne by migrant workers and that the terms and conditions of work should be reflected in a clear and transparent contract. Civil society delegates also called for liability and accountability by recruiters throughout the recruitment-chain – countries of origin, transit and destination. Private sector delegates agreed that recruitment agencies have to be professional and responsible, but stressed that not all are bad. Many have a code of conduct and principles that they apply. Still, as clients of recruitment agencies, they have to pay for fees related to recruitment. Private sector delegates also stressed the need for clear rules and regulations for recruitment agencies. In some countries, there are no licenses for the operation of recruitment agencies. In others, legitimate ones face unfair competition from unofficial recruitment agencies that are not registered, who are charging fees and exploiting migrants. Private sector actors also emphasized self-regulation tools.

Other forms of exploitation, like the confiscation and withholding of documents by employers was condemned by civil society and private sectors alike. The kafala/sponsor system was also highlighted as problematic by some governments and civil society actors called for its eradication. Freedom of movement of migrant workers should also be respected. Child labour was highlighted as a problem that affects migrants and civil society stressed that this practice needs to be eliminated urgently.

Delegates pointed out that all the forms of exploitation that had been discussed underline the importance of ensuring labour rights through the Global Compact. Migrants need to be enabled to file complaints through an effective complaint mechanism without losing their jobs, their freedom, their papers and without being deported.

Partnerships were stressed as key to making progress on labour market governance. Bilateral agreements between governments are key. For low-skilled workers in particular, government cooperation was seen as key to ensure effective protection through regulation. There were also suggestions for workers to organize better and for them to be empowered, as well as for working together – governments, employers, trade unions and other parts of civil society, including migrant organizations and the diaspora. Migrants should also be empowered to know their rights and the resources that they can benefit from. This can be done through pre-departure orientation, as well as dedicated efforts by various stakeholders in the country of destination. Portability of earned benefits (i.e. as per the commitment in paragraph 111 in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) was seen as another area that called for global, multilateral and bilateral cooperation. Partnerships were also seen as important for broader issues than strict protection measures, e.g. for skills and qualification assessments, verifications and recognition.

Other issues that were discussed included the need to address gaps in labour supply and demand in some states, as a failure to recognize demands through formal channels can increase the exploitation of migrant workers forced into irregular status. Other delegates questioned the presumption of demands on the labour market, stating that in some destination countries proposed jobs are non-existent. There needs to be a way of valuing fair treatment of migrants in the labour force as a means of effectively integrating them in their host societies.



Concluding reflections in the Common Space

The Common Space was closed by Ms. Kathleen Newland, Co-founder and Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute.

Ms. Newland highlighted that the overarching theme of the Common Space Time to Act: Compact for Governance of Migration had helped shape the focus of the day's discussions very much on the Global Compact. She summarized the discussed issues into three broad categories:

- 1) The content of the Compact;
- 2) The process for getting there;
- 3) The outcome of that global compact, i.e. what it might end up producing.

First, on the content, Ms. Newland suggested there are those who hoped for the sort of big ideas, the big comprehensive, hopefully binding agreement on international migration on the one hand, and those who hoped for more specific, practical measures to come out of the Global Compact on the other hand. She took note of the fears expressed with regard to binding agreements and feared that going for a big framework could be challenging since it would require approval from States that have until now been unable to agree on higher aspirations. On the specific, practical measures, some delegates saw that as less ambitious than a big comprehensive Compact, but others saw it as more ambitious because it will lead to more concrete changes and improvements in the lives of migrants.

Ms. Newland said the practical measures discussed at the Summit were largely achievable, perhaps because they were more specific. One measure focused on the regularization of irregular migrants, who have been in a country for a long time and are in effect integrated. Many countries have already regularized migrants in the past, making it easier to propose for inclusion in a bigger framework. A second measure focused on the idea that migrants, regardless of their legal status, should have access to basic services, to healthcare, to education for children, and access to justice. Another specific measure mentioned to look at new pathways for legal status, such as greater use of temporary visas, so that people who might prefer not to migrate permanently would be able to circulate back and forth, instead of finding themselves 'trapped' in a country of destination because it's too difficult to keep crossing the border.

Access to decent work was prioritized as an issue throughout the day, with a particular focus on recruitment practices. Since a lot of work has been done in this area, Ms. Newland was optimistic that a path towards better recruitment procedures could be agreed to. There was also a clear call to ratchet more attention on trafficking.

Throughout the day, delegates expressed concern for migrant children. The practice of detaining children was condemned several times. More generally, there was a call to prioritize the best interest of the child, whenever children are caught up in immigration situations and to reach out to immigration authorities in such instances. In relation to the issue of access to



basic services, there were calls to create firewalls between service providers and immigration enforcement, so that you do not have to be afraid that if you enroll your child in school, you are going to become more vulnerable to immigration enforcement.

Also, a concern was expressed about what goes under the rubric of externalization of borders, i.e. moving out the barriers to mobility.

On the second summary point, about the mechanics of creating of the Global Compact, inclusiveness was a key word used throughout the day. It should include on equal footing countries of origin, transit and destination as well as migrants themselves, not just symbolically or as vulnerable groups, but as agents of their own fate and as participants in the process of crafting the Global Compact. Migrants are the bearers of knowledge and understanding about how migratory systems work or do not work and how they could be improved. There was also great emphasis placed on the participation of broader civil society groups – not just migrants and diaspora groups – but other groups that work on a wide range of issues related to human rights, access to justice, rule of law and more. And finally, there is a new awareness that the private sector has an important contribution to make in the migration debate.

There was also emphasis, particularly from government delegates, on using existing tools, norms, laws and institutions to create a Global Compact. Bilateral agreements were also highlighted as useful at least until such time as more universal agreements could be reached. Regional processes – the UN regional commissions, regional economic associations, regional fora like the regional consultative processes, were mentioned as important contributors to the process. A number of delegations expressed the hope and expectations that IOM will be deeply involved in the Compact, using its technical and its operational expertise.

The GFMD was seen as a valuable contributor to the Global Compact process due to its ability to explore sensitive issues through constructive dialogue with a wide variety stakeholders, including civil society and through informal channels of communication that allow more trust to be built between stakeholders.

On the third summary point about potential outcomes from such a Compact, Ms. Newland referenced the GFMD Chair's hope for an outcome that improves the governance of migration, an area that, compared to other aspects of international relations and transactions, is relatively ungoverned. Delegates believe a framework to identify good practices and determine legitimately acceptable stakeholder expectations on migration was seen as a prerequisite for safe and orderly migration.

Another outcome from such a Global Compact would be the empowerment of migrants. She recalled a statement by Mr. Gibril Faal saying, "we are over-principled and under-performing", suggesting that migrants are not going to benefit so much from grand words and agreements; they need outcomes from this process that are really going to change their lives for the better.

And finally Ms. Newland mentioned that delegates hoped for a Global Compact that is able to lead to a reduction in the chaos and suffering that, far too often, plagues international migration today.



4.3 GFMD 2016 Roundtable Sessions – Key Outcomes

The three clusters of roundtables on the economics, sociology and governance of migration and development respectively were attended by government and observer delegates as well as representatives of civil society [and the private sector]. They brought an average of around 90 participants.

Economics of Migration and Development

RT 1.1 Reducing Migration Costs

The Roundtable 1.1 was Co-Chaired by Russia and the United Arab Emirates. The meeting discussed the main points of the background paper on migration costs: 1) Reducing recruitment costs; 2) reducing remittance costs and 3) reducing social costs. The first two costs could be measured in monetary terms, even if some are not possible to measure. Equally hard to measure are the “social costs” of migration that include, but are not limited to, the costs associated with family separation and families left behind. Several participants welcomed the holistic perspective to look through all those dimensions.

Although remittance costs have been declining over time, still these remain above 7 per cent of the amount transferred for all developing countries, and at 10 per cent for Sub-Saharan



Africa. Participants highlighted that it is important to recall that migrants seek to accumulate capital as a priority goal of their migration experience, and they look for financial instruments to save and invest that are tailored to their needs. For that reason, financial inclusion for migrants both in sending and destination countries is important. An important barrier to lowering remittance fees arises from the costs associated with implementing anti-money



laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML-CTF). Participants recommended finding a solution to the trend of banks withdrawing services to money transfer operators. Presently, however, ‘de-risking’ by international banks has become a major threat to remittance services in several countries. Financial inclusion can help improve the efficiency of remittances just as remittances can be leveraged for financial inclusion. Leveraging remittances for financial inclusion needs to involve traditional banks and other financial intermediaries such as insurance and pension providers, greater consumer education as well as mobile network operators (MNOs), and money transfer operators (MTOs).

Technology is already available for reducing remittances costs. Remittances could be reduced to zero along all migration corridors. While sometimes remittances might be associated with money laundering, it will be important for regulators to recognize that small remittances are not money laundering in order to overcome regulatory barriers and avoid the de-risking phenomenon. Since costs are high, there is a need for market consolidation in certain corridors.

Regarding recruitment costs, preliminary research by KNOMAD and ILO suggests that the most important determinants of costs include the existence of state-to-state agreements on free movement of workers, the existence of social networks, and policies of governance in both origin and destination countries. Costs are lower in corridors with a strong bilateral labour agreement-based approach (e.g., Spain and Korea). A major cost component is visa-related costs. There are large differences among countries regarding recruitment fees. Some countries are not allowed to charge recruitment fees while in other countries recruitment fees are permissible. Some countries have signed inter-governmental agreements to control visa trading and also the visa-free agreements.

Participants shared some experiences that are contributing to reduce migration costs: 1) using information communication technology for increasing transparency, monitoring recruitment contracts, tracking recruitment agencies and facilitating information; 2) visa free regimes that



stimulate labour mobility and reduce the risk of irregular migration. The private sector could also work on improving transparency in the supply chain including responsibility on recruitment, decent employment and safety. Some experiences on mobilizing cooperation with civil society and private firms including recruiting firms were presented.

Policymakers should endeavour to eliminate illegal recruitment fees and this would require effective regulation and monitoring of recruitment agencies and combating unscrupulous recruiters implemented in constructive collaboration between the sending and the receiving countries. Improving migrants' access to information can help improve the effectiveness of migration-related policies and regulations.

Also, reducing recruitment costs would lessen migrants' vulnerability, regulate unscrupulous recruiters, and allow governments and businesses to benefit fully from productive workers. Governments, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders should thus consider – improving access to job information and facilitating job matching; permitting direct employment by employers; regulating recruitment agencies' fees, and ensuring that no fees are imposed on migrant workers; working with the financial sector to provide low-cost financing for migration; and facilitating low-skilled labour migration through bilateral agreements, which incorporate government-to-government recruitment mechanisms. In South Asia, for instance, government monitoring of recruitment agencies is still weak due to poor public information systems, obstacles to obtaining data from departing migrants, and unregulated trade in rural areas. Associations that self-police have proven their worth in certain regions in South East Asia, and should be supported. The use of ICT could also help to reduce migration costs.

Participants also stated the importance of dialogue with the private sector and civil society to facilitate the reduction of migration costs. Greater emphasis should be placed on a more comprehensive view on the total costs of migration at every stage of the migration cycle. In



particular costs related to returning home deserve greater attention. Mention was also made of the direct and indirect costs to migrants in their dealings with their respective embassies and consulates abroad. Dialogue with multinational companies is important as well as the cooperation on visa regimes, bilateral and regional initiatives.

RT 1.2 Migration and Connectivity

The Roundtable 1.2 on connectivity and migration was Co-Chaired by France and Moldova. There was an overarching recognition that connectivity is enabling mobility. This new topic for the GFMD brought many dimensions of the impact that migration has on connectivity, and connectivity on migration. It was agreed that further discussions on connectivity and migration should be developed and considered by the GFMD under the next Chairmanship.

The discussions highlighted that the increasing demand for soft skills may significantly impact the sizable majority of unskilled and semi-skilled migrants at the bottom end of the socio-economic migrant pool. Also, as markets and economies get connected in every possible manner, and there is a growing demand for migrant workers from diverse countries, connectivity and technology may not yield corresponding benefits for the vast majority of migrants in the way it is envisaged. It was suggested that the digital economy and the advent of the fourth industrial revolution would demand migration and wider mobility. Policy makers would therefore need to look through new policy lenses: subnational, national, regional and global levels. It needs to be seen how the existing stock and flow of migrant workers satisfy labour demand in the new creative economy. Skills and mobility issues have to be looked into deeper, while research needs to be carried out on how new technologies could facilitate connectivity between migrant workers and lower the costs of migration, including remittances.

The Roundtable was divided into two panels: the first looked at how migration was impacted by connectivity; the second at how migration and connectivity impact the economy, growth and development.

Connectivity has changed the entire migration management dynamic. As a result, innovation has gained a huge impetus. We need a new approach to connectivity that recognizes it as a tool for survival, for integration, for education and for reintegration. Connectivity was recommended as a way to empower diasporas; to promote awareness of rights, opportunities and services; and to give better access to services and skills matching. Refugees were recognized as particularly vulnerable, yet connectivity was seen as a key element for their integration as well.

Digital technology providers were recognized as key to accomplish greater mobility and thus they should be part of the discussions. Greater connectivity will spawn more development, and more development will bring more mobility. The discussions also identified a number of success factors when designing tools for connectivity, such as the need to actively and directly involve the diaspora and migrants to ensure that the tools respond to their real needs and expectations. Efforts to engage and connect migrants and development must also reach out to families left behind in order for these tools to be fully effective. Governments cannot do





it alone. A multi-stakeholders approach is essential, which can also be bolstered through bilateral country-to-country cooperation, with complementary activities.

The role of the private sector and local and regional authorities was also seen as crucial: the private sector, in particular in relation to employment, recruitment and provisions of tools and applications; and local authorities as key actors to ensure that policies are successfully implemented, and linked to the real needs and opportunities, at the local level. The character of connectivity was also seen as very important. Investors want to see their investment grow, whilst the diaspora need to trust their partners on the ground. Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among diaspora need to be ensured and continued. Also, the need to engage collectively and promote partnership and joint action was highlighted. The main recommendations of the Roundtable 1.2 were that there is a need to ensure that connectivity is more egalitarian, that connectivity is accessible to all people in all the languages possible, and has the most outreach and is used in the right way to have it as effective as possible.

Connectivity needs to be localized, meaning the role of local and regional authorities should increase alongside with that of national ones. It was seen as very important to keep a focus on data-protection, and trust, when it comes to enhance connectivity through the private sector, especially in cooperation with different partnerships and the government. Also, in the context of changing production and investment patterns, the nature of the economy and supply chains change; the kind of services demanded by employers and, workplaces will change rapidly. This is why it is important to evaluate and adjust policies accordingly. It was suggested that the next GFMD Chairs, Germany and Morocco, should further explore the vectors of connectivity, migration and development.



Sociology of Migration and Development

Roundtable 2.1: Migration, diversity and harmonious societies

This Roundtable was Co-Chaired by Greece and Morocco. The Co-Chairs set the stage by stressing that migrants are not just labour, they are social actors; that integration requires a two-way effort – from migrants and from the receiving society- to become a reality; and that the integration process needs rules, based on the respect for human rights. The roles of cities, local authorities and civil society were also stressed. Many societies hosting migrants are themselves multi-ethnic and harmonious because they have been built on the social inclusion of migrants.

The Roundtable listed some of the main attributes of social inclusion models, also included in the background paper:

- Assimilation—elimination of all differences;
- Multiculturalism – based on respect for diversity, but which could lead to bifurcated societies; and
- Integration, as a two-way process – most recent model to be applied.

The Co-Chairs laid down some guiding principles on legal, institutional and practical measures to ensure the maintenance of peaceful, non-discriminatory and inclusive societies. This includes: the required cooperation and collaboration of regional and international institutions and processes for inclusive and harmonious societies; creation of a safe environment for migrants; promotion of broader appreciation and co-existence of different cultures and fight against xenophobia and negative perception of migrants; support cultural and social cohesion, human rights and gender equality; and addressing the perception



challenge in collaboration with governments, media, civil society and the private sector. They also raised the need for preventive policies or measures to address security concerns and prevent violent extremism.

A number of policy tools were discussed that could facilitate harmonious societies:

- Promoting political participation and other measures of integration;
- Inter-cultural dialogue, which is akin to democratic dialogue between citizens of a state; rules, rights and governance of the state. This has the benefit of providing an opportunity for migrants to be part of this dialogue;
- Promoting access to services the labour market and decent work for all;
- Recognition, instead of ‘tolerance’ of cultural diversity;
- Recognition of the social, economic and cultural contribution of migrants, and addressing negative perception of migrants, in order to facilitate social cohesion; and
- Sound legal framework against racism, xenophobia and the adoption of an ethical code for politicians and media; cities and local communities, civil society and private sector.

In the discussions, delegates stressed that policies and programmes in these areas would need to be approached at different levels and by different means. Cities and other local authorities would be key, as would regional processes and international initiatives, in addition to national level policy-making. Legal, institutional and administrative measures need to be combined. It was suggested that social inclusion is not just about co-existence of native populations with migrants, but that it requires a whole societal approach. Furthermore, it was suggested that the absence of the kind of policy measures listed above could result in the social exclusion of migrants, as well as, in the extreme, violence and radicalization. Specific efforts were seen as important to prevent violent extremism.

Delegates shared experiences from their own countries in promoting social cohesion and settling conflicts involving citizens and migrants. The importance of dedicated integration policies and programmes was stressed, with an emphasis on language classes; reaching out to migrants in cities and localities and to which migrants come, including through engaging civil society; assistance to access the labour market; and training on communication for police officials and civil servants who interact with migrants. It was suggested that countries of origin also have an important role to play in promoting social cohesion in destination countries. Resettlement was mentioned as a positive way of promoting the integration of refugees, as this facilitates planning for the integration process from day one.

The value of a human rights approach to integration was stressed. In this regard, principles of equality and non-discrimination were mentioned as were freedom of religion and equality before the law. Some delegates opposed detention centres with reference to a human rights approach. Building on the human rights approach, a human security approach, which is people-centred, comprehensive and context-specific, could be useful to promote social cohesion. Such an approach should also promote protection and empowerment of migrants and host societies alike.





The needs of youth and other vulnerable groups were emphasized, as was the importance of opening legal channels of migration. Education, youth, migration and media were listed as four important pillars, as well as of the soft power tool of dialogue, when seeking to change the narrative on migration and the discussion into a more positive discourse. Dedicated anti-hate speech initiatives were seen as important, as was the need to develop and make available more evidence on the role and contribution of migrants to society.

Other delegates stressed the need for a balance between rights and responsibilities for migrants and suggesting that social, economic and cultural cohesion is a two-way responsibility between migrants and host societies. Integration can only happen when laws that facilitate such activity have been implemented and are respected. In this regard, delegates also emphasized the importance of orderly and regular migration, as well as strong border management policies and of circular migration. Delegates emphasized the importance of ensuring social security, but also raised questions regarding how far the responsibilities of the host country extends to offer support to undocumented migrants. A particular challenge was noted when it comes to assisting migrants who are in an irregular situation, as they are often in informal settings, living in the shadows.

Round Table 2.2: Protection of migrants in all situations

This Roundtable was Co-Chaired by El Salvador and Sri Lanka, which invited the governments to make comments on measures at national and regional level on services, education,



employment, justice, health, and other rights, adopting a rights based approach to protecting the rights and opportunities of migrants. In this regard, reference was made to the forthcoming negotiations of the Global Compact and the need to reduce migrant vulnerability.

In the presentation, the Chair of the Committee on Migrant Workers requested Member States to ratify the Convention of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. He emphasized the need to protect migrant workers during the entire migration process and regardless of their status. In particular, he mentioned the need to strengthen the monitoring of recruitment agencies with provisions for penalties and a complete ban on detention of children. He hoped that UN Global Compact on Migration would establish an agenda that facilitates human mobility.

OHCHR mentioned that migration has numerous benefits, but also disadvantages. OHCHR also stressed that states have responsibilities to protect rights of migrants under international law and mentioned that by recognizing our shared interests, we can fight xenophobia.

In the subsequent discussion, it was clear that the implementation of existing conventions, which grant protection to migrants, was seen as one of the main concerns. Some delegates questioned the commitment of countries to the Convention on Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Nonetheless, it was stressed that the Agenda 2030 recognizes migrants as a vulnerable group and that their rights need to be protected, regardless of status. The political will to act is key to translate this commitment into a reality. This will require implementation of migration policy as well as policies and programmes dedicated to the protection of migrants. These should be human-centred and guided by existing international frameworks. The particular vulnerability of migrant women was highlighted and as such called for gender sensitive policies. It was also suggested that it would be useful for the Global Compact to bring more protection to migrants, and that it would be useful if it could change mind-sets on migration.

National experiences for the protection of migrants were shared, taking into consideration the challenges migrants face throughout the migration cycle, starting with pre-departure and recruitment through the journey, time in destination country and ultimate return.

It was suggested that development challenges and other drivers of forced migration need to be identified and addressed to reduce the vulnerability of migrants. Climate change was mentioned as a driver that can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities as well as development challenges and forced displacement. This called for shared responsibility.

There was a broad consensus that exploitation of migrant workers has to come to an end. To come to terms with exploitative recruitment practices, in the pre-departure phase, delegates emphasised cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination – as a two-way approach. Pre-departure trainings and education was highlighted as an effective way of preparing migrants for their journey. Others shared efforts at evaluating recruitment agencies and banning the confiscation of passports. Improving access to labour markets was suggested to be an effective way of enhancing protection in itself.





Once in destination countries, emphasis was given to improving working conditions and educating workers about their rights. Access to justice was highlighted as a critical issue, including enabling factors such as interpreters and legal aid for migrants. The right of migrants to vote locally can also enhance their protection. Efforts to strengthen consular assistance were shared and emphasized, in particular for victims of trafficking and in times of crisis, which may even call for evacuation of ones' nationals. Suggestions were also made to strengthen cooperation on consular services and assistance, including the evacuation of nationals of other countries during crisis.

In preparation for return, initiatives to train workers and to help them to return to their homes upon completion of their contracts were also highlighted. It was also stressed that return policies should respect the framework of international law, and that voluntary return should be the preferred option.

In order to make progress on the recommendations mentioned in this Roundtable, the important role of countries of destination was stressed, including north south cooperation. The need for better data was also emphasised. Ultimately, it would call for leadership as well as ethical and practical responsibilities.



Governance of Migration and Development

The third set of Roundtables was about the governance of migration and development. They took their departure in the on-going displacement crises and explored: i) how protection can be enhanced for migrant women and men in situations of crisis; and ii) how existing institutions and processes governing migration could be enhanced to improve the effectiveness of generating collective action on migration for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Roundtable 3.1 the Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and natural disasters was Co-Chaired by the Philippines and Ethiopia. Morocco was the rapporteur.

This Roundtable built on the outcomes and recommendations of RT 3.1 in Istanbul. A lot of progress has been achieved since 2015. There was a clear consensus on the importance of the topic of RT 3.1. It was underlined that no country is immune to crisis.

The perspectives of different actors were presented: governments of countries of origin, transit and destination, but also the private sector, the civil society and migrants themselves. Discussions can be summarized under 5 key points:

1. **Awareness-raising and training:** need to raise-awareness about the needs, vulnerability and agency of migrants in times of crisis. Need to train responders such as consular officers.
2. **Cooperation:** All the discussants and interventions highlighted the importance of building multi-stakeholder partnerships to protect and assist migrants in times of crisis. The roles of the private sector and the civil society were particularly underlined.
3. **Emergency evacuation:** importance to ensure that migrants can reach safety, regardless their status, in times of crisis. Need to develop legal mobility channels in this regard.
4. **Research:** need to further conduct research to develop the evidence-base.
5. **Long-term needs:** long-term needs of migrants in the post-crisis phase need to be taken into account so they can return and be reintegrated in their country of origin or be redeployed abroad.

Several concrete examples of intervention at all levels from which lessons can be drawn were highlighted: such as the white helmets in Argentina; the initiatives in the field of education in Portugal; the creation of a Ministry of Migration & Displacement in Iraq; or the crisis alert system in the Philippines.

The MICIC Initiative and the Platform on Disaster Displacement support these efforts by providing guidance and highlighting effective practices. There was a call to fully integrate their principles in the Global Compact on Migration and be practical.

Finally, most importantly, the Roundtable brought messages of hope, hope to further take forward on-going efforts and to join forces to better protect migrants in the event of a crisis and prevent forced displacement.



Roundtable 3.2 Principles, institutions and processes for orderly, safe, regular and Responsible Migration. It was Co-Chaired by Mexico and Sweden. Canada was the rapporteur.

Participants recognized that migration is a megatrend of the 21st century, with more people living away from the places of birth than ever before. As the drivers of migration including demographic trends and disparities, poverty, crises and globalization are unlikely to change in the near term there is a need to recognize migration as a reality to be managed.

Participants stressed that migrants as human beings must be placed at the centre of efforts, and that migration needs to be addressed comprehensively in all of its dimensions, including the human rights, development, economic, climate change and peace and security elements. Participants agreed that policy-makers have a historic – indeed once in a generation – opportunity to work to facilitate international cooperation to promote safe, orderly and regular migration and human mobility with the adoption of the SDGs, and the New York Declaration and its commitment to develop a Global Compact on Migration over the coming two years. While this must be done in the face of the re-emergence of widespread xenophobia and discrimination against migrants and migration, this is the chance that has been presented and it must be used to positive effect. It was suggested we must build on the tremendous momentum we have now at the global level, including with two major developments: the bringing of IOM into the UN system and family, and the opportunity before us provided by the New York Declaration and the commitment of 193 heads of state and government to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.



Several recommendations were made by Member States:

- Making it easier for migrants to move inter alia for labour migration at all skills levels, education and family reunification purposes;



- Reducing incidence and impacts of irregular migration, including trafficking and smuggling inter alia through border management carried out with full respect for human rights of migrants and facilitating return, readmission and reintegration;
- Enhancing socio-economic development of migration, including by reducing the costs and risks for migrants; enhancing the role of Diaspora;
- Ensuring that migrants' human rights are protected, including in situations of vulnerability and transit, with particular attention to women and children and those subject to exploitation and abuse, especially victims of trafficking; as well as by identifying relevant norms, guidelines and conventions and advocate for their implementation; Respect for human rights laws, humanitarian laws;
- Addressing crisis related movements, including in relation to conflict, natural disasters and climate change;
- Promoting migrants integration and social inclusion, including efforts to counter discrimination and xenophobia as well as through access, especially health and education; and
- Improving governance of migration, at local, national, regional and global levels, and strengthening the UN capacity to manage this issue.

In addition to the substantive elements to be included in the Global Compact, participants stressed the need to have inclusive consultations over the course of 2017 and perhaps part of 2018 are needed before moving to negotiations.

Participants said we should not start from scratch as there is already a wide set of norms, guidance and existing frameworks to draw upon. We should not reopen existing norms and principles but find practical means to ensure their effective implementation. The SDGs, NY Declaration, HLD Declaration of 2013, IOM's Migration Governance Framework and Migration Crisis Operational Framework, the Bern Initiative, the Migrants in Countries in Crisis guidelines and the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda already point the way ahead.

While the migrant workers convention is not widely ratified by migrant receiving states, some of its key principles can usefully inform the development of the Compact. The report of SRSG Sutherland to be released next month identified 5 key areas where progress could be pursued now, and not wait for 2018 and the negotiation and adoption of the Global Compact. These include improving protection of the rights of migrants including in crisis situations, facilitating more opportunities for labour mobility, working to ensure orderly return and reintegration, enhancing the contributions of migration to inclusive and sustainable development, and strengthening governmental and governance capacities.

We need to move away from unilateralism – individual states acting on their own and states collectively acting on their own – and bring in all key stakeholders to make progress, through genuine multi-stakeholder cooperation. To do so, we must identify common interests – and there are many – as well as common threats. We can and should break off bite sized pieces and make progress on them, recognizing that global governance of migration is most likely to emerge as a patchwork, and not in whole cloth. We must improve existing institutions and





mechanisms, and persevere in our efforts. We must take a long term view of cooperation to promote global governance, and recognize that while it is likely to emerge at different paces and through different steps on different aspects, it will eventually emerge because the gains are too great not to have it happen.

Participants stressed the value of the GFMD as a critical platform and space that is multi-stakeholder and has built trust over the past 9 years. In the coming two years, it can and should be used to focus on the key themes for the Global Compact and identify best practices as well as areas of consensus.

Participants also stressed that while many entities or organizations have important contributions to make, IOM is the key institutional actor and it needs to be empowered in Geneva and New York - through the modalities, process and content-development for the Global Compact -- to play the leadership role expected of it. IOM has unparalleled operational and policy expertise that needs to be brought to bear, and to help Member States and migrants ensure truly beneficial migration for migrants and societies.

There was a call to put migrants at the centre of efforts, and to build on the regional economic communities and regional consultative processes on migration to take account of regional and country differences, and the GFMD platform and IOM to move forward urgently to create more opportunities for regular migration and mobility, protection of migrants rights, and shared prosperity through genuine cooperation.



4.4 Special Session on Future of the Forum

The session was Co-Chaired by Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque and Mr. François Fouinat Senior Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration, on behalf of SRSG Sutherland.

In his opening statement, the GFMD Chair reminded the participants of the various events that had been taking place during the preparatory phase under the Bangladesh Chairmanship. He mentioned in particular the three Thematic Workshops: Connectivity and Migration, in Bangkok; Migration and Harmonious Societies, in Geneva; and, Migration for Peace, Stability and Growth, in New York. Apart from the usual GFMD preparatory meetings, the Chair also organized various side events, notably with GMG and CMW, as well as a GFMD Dialogue on the Global Migration Compact in Geneva.



Mr. Fouinat recalled the continuing interest and support of the SRSG for maintaining the relevance of the GFMD and praised its flexibility in adapting to changing circumstances. This ability was particularly welcome in view of current developments linked to the implementation of the New York Declaration. He expressed the hope that GFMD would play a determining role in the elaboration of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. He mentioned the forthcoming presentation of the Sutherland report should also contribute to a favourable evolution of the dialogue on migration and development.

An outline of the recommendations included in this Report were presented by Mr. Justin MacDermott, Adviser to the SRSG.



Ad-hoc Working Group on the Agenda 2030

Mr. Pietro Mona, Deputy Head, Global Program Migration and Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, presented a Working Group report on behalf of the Co-Chairs, Bangladesh and Switzerland. This Working Group was established at the 2015 GFMD annual meeting and met five times during the year. Its main initial recommendations are to:

- 1) Provide a platform for voluntary sharing of experience, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the Agenda 2030.
- 2) Facilitate voluntary action by building partnerships on migration related aspects of the Agenda 2030.
- 3) Inform Member States, observers and relevant organizations of migration-related aspects of the Agenda 2030 and provide inputs to the formal follow-up and review mechanisms of the United Nations.



The meeting approved the Report and endorsed its recommendations. It also agreed to extend the duration of the Working Group and expand its mandate in relation with the interest and role of GFMD for the elaboration of the Global Compact on Migration. Its ToRs will be revised and amended accordingly.

In view of its Co-Facilitator role in the GCM, Switzerland announced its decision to step down from the Working Group Co-Chairmanship, while remaining member of the group. Germany accepted to replace Switzerland as Co-Chair of the group, together with Bangladesh.



Ad-hoc Working Group on Communication

Ambassador Julia Niblett, from Australia, also presented a Working Group report. After its creation by the GFMD Steering Group, the Group met during 2015-2016 on nine occasions. Its main recommendations, based on the results of a wide survey, are aiming at:

- 1) Developing a positioning and communication strategy for GFMD, particularly in the perspective of the 2018 Migration event and of the 3rd High-Level Dialogue of the UN General Assembly.
- 2) Consider establishing a new Ad-hoc Working Group to support the above recommended positioning and communication strategy.

More specifically, the Group suggested to the GFMD Support Unit:

- a) To re-structure the GFMD website, in particular the Platform for Partnership (PfP).
- b) To increase the use of social media.
- c) To raise the visibility of the Policy and Practice Database (PPD).



The meeting approved the report of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Communication. The meeting took note of the suggestion made by the Group to discontinue its existence and agreed to leave it to the GFMD Troika and Steering Group to decide on its future.



In the general debate, 23 delegations took the floor. An overwhelming majority reaffirmed their attachment to the state-led, informal character of the GFMD, making it particularly suited to accompany and adapt to the rapidly evolving nature of the international debate on migration. In this respect, the meeting emphasized its support for a determined GFMD contribution to the Global Compact on Migration. They underlined in this respect the importance of a close cooperation with IOM.

A number of delegations insisted on the need to maintain a development perspective as well as involving as much as possible the regional entities, with their respective contributions in the gradual building of global understandings. Concerns for respect of human rights and gender related aspects were registered by several delegations.

Delegations expressed their satisfaction with the consolidation of the GFMD Business Mechanism which was, for the first time, an integral part of the annual meeting. This appreciation extended to the Civil Society and its contributions to GFMD as a whole.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Germany, the in-coming Co-Chair-in-Office for the 10th GFMD, presented its vision for GFMD 2017 that will concentrate on 1) Domestic Policies; Multilateral and Bilateral Partnerships; and, 2) Strategies beyond the State. The next GFMD Annual Meeting will take place in Berlin, June 28th to 30th, 2017.

Morocco, the Co-Chair with Germany for the period 2017-2018, confirmed its commitment to host the 2018 GFMD and advanced the theme of their Chairmanship, to be: "From Rhetoric to Action".

In its conclusion, referring to the wealth of initiatives and activities in the period leading to the elaboration of the Global Compact of Migration, the Chair, Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque stressed the need for clear objectives and coherence and expressed its support for the incoming Co-Chairs, Germany and Morocco.



4.5 Special Session on the Platform for Partnerships

The GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) was established as the mechanism for exchange of governments' policies and programmes which have been inspired by GFMD discussions and recommendations. It is a platform where governments contribute to and benefit from the evidence-base on migration and development practices. Since 2010, a Special Session on the PfP has been integrated in the annual GFMD Summits.

During the PfP session at the Ninth Summit, a preview of the rich content of the online PfP was presented by the GFMD Support Unit, which administers the Platform for Partnerships. This presentation also highlighted the GFMD web portal with more user-friendly functionalities and features that have been deployed by the Support Unit. The objective of these new features is to support the requirements of a more dynamic online PfP that will facilitate the collection of migration and development policies and practices and enhance the communication of GFMD outcomes. Additionally, it should foster interaction in the GFMD between crucial stakeholders from governments, international organizations, civil society and business. One important element that was underlined was the need to develop the habit of using this web portal as the migration and development space and to feed or contribute national policies and programmes to this online PfP.

After the presentation by the Support Unit, several migration and development policies and practices were presented. The presentations elaborated on policy tools or pilot projects initiated by governments alone, or working in partnership with international organizations. The key messages from these presentations are summarized below.

Kick-off Presentation on the German–Morocco migration compact

- Mr. Tarik Sissou, Head of Division of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, Morocco
- Ms. Ilse Hahn, Head of Division, Policy Issues and Displacement, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



Germany and Morocco share a longstanding cooperation in the field of development, including migration. Currently, Germany and Morocco have joint migration projects in the four areas of (1) integration; (2) asylum; (3) migration and development; and (4) legal migration. In the area of migration and development, Germany is helping Morocco to foster the potential of migration for development in the different stages of the migration cycle, for example through a coherent framework for dealing with Morocco's diaspora. Lessons learned from these joint projects were presented during the PfP presentation. It was emphasized that a holistic approach is essential, and that it is important to foster awareness and ownership by all concerned sectors of society. Additionally, it is crucial to define roles and responsibilities at all levels (local, national and international). While work on migration has advanced over the past years, improved bilateral and multilateral coordination is needed in order to better manage migration.

Diaspora Engagement Hub - Leveraging Human and Financial Potential Towards National and Local Development

- Ms. Rodica Ciocina, National GFMD Focal Point, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
- Mr. Ghenadie Cretu, Migration and Development Programme Manager, IOM Moldova



The Government of the Republic of Moldova and IOM have jointly designed, launched and started piloting the innovative program of the Diaspora Engagement Hub. It is aimed at facilitating and leveraging the active participation of diaspora representatives in the social and economic development of their country of origin and the empowerment of diaspora communities in the country of destination. Key elements of the Diaspora Engagement Hub are flexibility, national ownership and sustainability. Of the 120 active Moldovan diaspora



organizations that globally exist, the Diaspora Engagement Hub offers support to more than half (65) of them. The Diaspora Engagement Hub is comprised of a number of programmes, which can be categorized under the four themes of professional return, diaspora innovation, regional thematic partnerships and diaspora women empowerment. In the medium- to long-term these programs will hopefully provide examples for further concrete engagement of diaspora in homeland development. The importance of previous GFMD discussions and the ideas that were voiced at the Global Forum were mentioned as a vital input to the establishment of the Diaspora Engagement Hub.

Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development

- Mr. George Jashi, Executive Secretary, State Commission on Migration Issues, Georgia
- Ms. Camilla Hagström, Head of Section Migration and Asylum, DG for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- Mr. David Khoudour, Head of the Migration and Skills Unit, OECD



The Interrelations between Public Policies, Migration and Development (IPPMD) is the result of a project co-funded by the EU Thematic Programme on Migration and Asylum and carried out by the OECD Development Centre in ten countries, one of which is Georgia. The project aims to provide policy makers with evidence on the way migration influences specific sectors – labour market, agriculture, education, investment and financial services, and social protection and health – and, in turn, how sectoral policies affect four dimensions of the migration cycle: emigration, remittances, return and immigration. Several key findings were highlighted by the representatives of the European Commission, OECD and Georgia. Overall, the findings suggested that migration contributes to development, both in countries of origin as well as in countries of destination, but the full potential of migration has not yet been fully





exploited. The findings, based on surveys conducted among over 20,000 households in 10 different countries (which means almost 100,000 individuals), suggest that the impacts on households are still relatively limited, despite the progress that has been made in the (global) discussions on migration and development. Another finding was that policies in the aforementioned sectors affect different migration outcomes. Evidence was found that when you invest in non-migration policies, there is an indirect effect on migration. However, this impact remains limited, mainly due to the fact that policy makers do not take migration into account in their respective policy areas. In this regard, there is room for improvement: it is needed to convince policy makers who are not directly working on migration that their work matters for migration policies. In conclusion, the recommendations were made to develop a more coherent policy agenda to realize the development potential of migration, to integrate migration into development strategies and to improve coordination mechanisms and strengthen international cooperation.

Reducing Recruitment Costs

- H.E. Riaz Hamidullah, High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission in Sri Lanka
- Mr. Dilip Ratha, Lead Economist, Development Prospects Group Manager DEC-PREM Migration and Remittances Unit, World Bank
- Ms. Michelle Leighton, Chief, Labour Migration Branch, ILO

The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) of the World Bank and ILO are working jointly on a methodology on how to measure recruitment costs, and



have constructed a novel cross-country dataset on recruitment costs. The preliminary results of this data collection have several implications for policies on reducing recruitment costs, which is of vital importance for achieving SDG target 10.7 of the Agenda 2030. For the countries of origin, the suggestion is to regulate recruitment agencies; to educate potential migrant workers and existing migrant workers about their rights in employment conditions; to bring embassies abroad to provide services to migrant workers, and to negotiate with destination countries about employment conditions. Ultimately, resources are needed to collect and publish data on recruitment costs by job category. Data on this indicator is vital in order to assess whether countries are doing well or not. For destination countries, it is also important to regulate employers and recruitment practices, as well as educating migrants about their rights. It was also pointed out that many people are incurring high costs in going abroad because of the lack of opportunities at home, and that a large part of the movement of migrant workers is South-to-South. Finally, it was explained that cooperation between governments (both countries of origin and destination) and employers and workers' organizations would be central to any solution to reducing recruitment costs.

Increasing Gender Responsive Legislation at the National Level: Methods and Successes

- Ambassador Grace Princesa, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines
- Mr. Francisco Cos Montiel, Regional Policy Advisor, Office for Asia Pacific, UN Women

The Philippine government has continuously strived to integrate gender in its migration-related legislation. Remarkably, this is evident in the recent passing of the Republic Act 10801, known as the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Law (in May 2016). The Law is the result of a comprehensive CEDAW-based legal review of the migration laws supported by UN Women. As the Law puts great emphasis on gender by ensuring that government programmes and services are gender-responsive, it will boost the efforts of the government to protect the welfare and interests of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Law is an example of an effective partnership where UN Women supports Member States through tools and frameworks that are internationally accepted, in particular CEDAW. This Act has a real impact on women's lives, and not only on the ones who migrate but also on their siblings and family members that are left behind in the migration process. Fostering such partnerships is essential in order to ensure participatory development.

Follow-up and review of SDGs - Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)

- Mr. Guillermo Reyes, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- Mr. Maurizio Busatti, Head of Multilateral Processes Division (MPD), Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM

At the IOM Council of November 2015, IOM Member States gave their blessing to what is today the only internationally agreed definition of good migration governance: IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). MiGOF is based on the principle that migration management needs to be rights-based. In addition, it puts partnerships at the centre and



recognizes that solid data evidence is a prerequisite for migration governance. MiGOF has three main objectives: to ensure safe and dignified migration, to focus on the nexus between migration and development, and to incorporate the mobility aspect of crisis situations. In the pilot phase, an attempt has been made to produce a Migration Governance Index, which has been done together with Member States, particularly Mexico, and other partners like the Economist Intelligence Unit. Mexico was one of the 15 countries that took part in the pilot study for MiGOF, which will be followed by a second study that incorporates 100 countries. The project involves the development of a policy-benchmarking framework to assess the extent to which national migration policies facilitate orderly, safe and well-managed migration, as laid out in SDG target 10.7.

Incoming Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco concluded by thanking the governments for their valuable input in the PfP, and more in general for the progress that has been made in the field of migration and development. They also encouraged States to continue submitting their best practices to the PfP, especially multi-agency, multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance projects that states have successfully implemented in cooperation with civil society and the private sector.





4.6 Closing Plenary Session

The closing plenary session was moderated by H.E. Ambassador M. Shameem Ahsan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in Geneva. The session opened with the general rapporteurs accounting for the discussions and recommendations from the three clusters of Roundtables on the economics, sociology and governance of migration and development respectively. Ms. Daniela Morari, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Republic of Moldova accounted for the key points of discussion and recommendations from the two Roundtables under the economics of migration and development; Roundtable 1.1 on Reducing migration costs; and Roundtable 1.2 on Connectivity and migration. Mr. Arturo Cabrera, Former Deputy Minister for Migration, Ecuador presented the key points of discussions from the Roundtables related to the sociology of migration and development: Roundtable 2.1 on Migration, diversity and harmonious societies; and Roundtable 2.2 on Protection of migrants in all situations. Ambassador Michel Lastschenko, Special Envoy for Migration and Asylum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium, gave an account for the key points of discussion and recommendations from the Roundtables under the heading of governance of migration and development: Roundtable 1.1 on Reducing migration costs; and Roundtable 1.2 on Connectivity and migration.

The presentations by the general rapporteurs, were followed by a report on the Special session on the Platform for Partnerships by H.E. Devrim Öztürk, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Bangladesh and concluding Remarks and Report on the Future of the Forum (FoF) by Mr. François Fouinat, Senior Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration.

After this, statements were delivered by the incoming GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs, Mr. Markus Ederer, State Secretary, Federal Foreign Office of Germany and Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs. They expressed appreciation for the strong links to the Agenda 2030 during the Bangladesh Chairmanship. Further appreciation was expressed for how the Bangladesh Chair had placed the issue of governance and the Global Compact on Migration firmly on the GFMD agenda at an early stage of its Chairmanship. The Co-Chairs confirmed that the GFMD would continue to be engaged with the Global Compact on Migration and would contribute to its negotiation process as envisaged in the New York Declaration. Morocco emphasized that migrants – as human beings – would need to be at the centre of this Global Compact. Germany closed its statement by extending an invitation to the next Forum Meeting, which would be held in Berlin on 28-30 June 2017.

This was followed by a Chair's Summary by the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, GFMD 2016 Chair. Finally, H. E. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, gave a closing address before the official hand-over of the GFMD Chairmanship to the Co-Chairs of the GFMD 2017-2018. He presented the GFMD Chairmanship Plaque to the incoming Co-Chairs as a symbolic handover from 2016 to 2017-2018.



4.7 GFMD 2016 Side Events

Eight side events were held during the Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting. While most of the side events were organized by international organizations, some were organized in cooperation with governments. Also, some of the events were co-hosted with the Government of Bangladesh. A summary of the key outcomes of the side events can be found below, and the complete program is attached in Annex E.



Side Event 1 Towards a gender-responsive Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Convened by: UN Women

As part of the joint European Union and UN Women programme on promoting and protecting the labour and human rights of women migrant workers, UN Women organized a side event during the open space of the GFMD Summit on 10 December. Co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh, the event highlighted the importance of a rights-based and gender-responsive approach to migration governance, and the protection of women's human rights in the Global Compact for Migration. The Keynote Speech was provided by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. Panelists included UN Women's Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, the Chair of the Committee for Migrant Workers, Mr. José Brilliantes and representatives from the ILO and civil society. The side event emphasized that global migration governance needs to specifically address the rights of women migrant workers if it is to advance the human rights of all migrants.

Side Event 2 The Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative - Moving to Action *Convened by: MICIC, Philippines and USA*

The Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative was first launched in 2014 to help governments better respond to the needs of migrants affected by natural or manmade crisis. Two years later, in June 2016, the initiative published the "Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster". The MICIC side event at the 9th GFMD in Dhaka was the first glance at the practical implementation of the Guidelines.

Sharing early implementation stories, the panelists showed how practical applications of the MICIC Guidelines are already leading to better preparedness in countries with an important migrant presence. IOM and ICMPD are conducting global capacity building projects to support front line actors of disaster response in migrants' countries of origin and destination. Among the tools presented to the audience at the GFMD were a travel advice smartphone app to communicate more effectively with migrants in emergencies, an e-learning platform for consular staff to strengthen their emergency management capacity, and a training course for emergency management actors in host countries on integrating migrants in their work.

Many of the event participants, which included representatives from states, civil society and international organizations, felt that the MICIC Guidelines are a good base to the broader discussion just starting around the Global Compact on Migrants and Refugees. It was stated that continuing the discussion within the framework of the Global Compact and through the work of Regional Consultative Processes will allow the participating governments to look deeper into how the Guidelines can help address the vulnerability of migrants more broadly.



Side Event 3 Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants in Large Movements *Convened by: OHCHR, GMG-WG on HR and Gender Equality*

Millions of women, men and children around the globe are embarking on precarious journeys in search of safety, dignity and respect for their human rights. More than 6,187 people have perished along migratory routes this year alone. Thousands more suffer serious injuries, xenophobia and discrimination as they move.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants included principled commitments to fully protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants as equal rights-holders, regardless of their status, and to devise comprehensive responses to large-movements that will demonstrate full respect for international human rights law and relevant standards. The Summit marked the beginning of a 2-year process to elaborate a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be adopted in 2018, which will set out principles and commitments regarding international migration in all its dimensions.

In preparation towards this process, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is organizing this side event on Protecting the Human Rights of Migrants in Large Movements, in collaboration with the Global Migration Group (GMG) Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, to discuss the integration of human rights consideration within the follow-up to the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, including in the process of developing a Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration as well as the development of principles on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Participants will also be informed about the development of a set of Principles and practical guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and within large and/or mixed movements, led by the GMG Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, and explore how this tool can better assist States and other stakeholders in regard to the development, strengthening, implementation and monitoring of measures to protect migrants in vulnerable situations.

The Speakers for this session were Dr. Erasmo Lara, Director General for Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico; Ms. Pia Oberoi, Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Chair-in-Office of the GMG Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality; Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski, Migration Policy Specialist, Labour Migration Branch (MIGRANT), International Labour Organization (ILO); and Mr. Justin MacDermott, Senior Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration.



Side Event 4 What is the Future for International Migration in a Shifting World?

Convened by: OECD Development Centre

The OECD Development Centre organized a side event on “The future of international migration in a shifting world”. The event was the opportunity to launch the newly released OECD publication: Perspectives on Global Development 2017: International Migration in a Shifting World. It was very well attended (around 80 participants) and benefitted from the presence in the panel of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary, Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, as well as of Ms. Grace Rulio Princesa, Assistant Foreign Secretary of the Philippines, Mr. Pietro Mona, Deputy Head of the Migration and Development programme from the Swiss Development Cooperation, Mr. Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director (a.i.) of the OECD Development Centre and Mr. David Khoudour, Head of the Migration and Skills Unit at the OECD Development Centre. After a presentation of four different scenarios on the potential future of migration, the panellists discussed how policy makers should adjust their policies to adapt to the incoming migration challenges. They also discussed how the migration governance framework should look like to make migration work for development.

Side Event 5 Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

Convened by: PDD

The PDD side event was an opportunity to present the work and strategic priorities of the Platform and to identify challenges and opportunities for enhanced action and policy development in situations of displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

The first part of the side event introduced the PDD as a state-led multi-stakeholder-driven Platform. Established in 2016 by Germany (Chair) and Bangladesh (Vice-Chair), the Platform on Disaster Displacement aims at following up on the work started by the Nansen Initiative and implementing the recommendations of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda, endorsed by 109 governmental delegations in October 2015. H.E. Markus Ederer, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, Federal Government of Germany explained that the link between the adverse effects of climate change, disasters and displacement has already been recognized in recent global policy processes and outcome documents such as the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and at the World Humanitarian Summit. If implemented, all of these measures seeking to better manage risks and address the root causes of contemporary population movements will reduce the risk of displacement, internally and across borders. The implementation of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda is complementary to such efforts. H.E. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of



Bangladesh drew the attention to a case in point, namely the Delta region in Bangladesh. Deltas and their populations are facing growing problems of coastal flooding, wetland loss, shoreline retreat and loss of infrastructure, and climate change is making the situation worse. It is thus important for the Platform to work together and link up their work with the Delta Coalition .

The second part of the side event discussed regional and global effective practices for the protection of disaster displaced persons. Ms. Gisella Yockchen, Director, General Directorate of Migration and Immigration, Government of Costa Rica, introduced the Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries: protection for persons moving across borders in the context of disasters adopted at the XXI Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in Honduras, November 2016. Mr. Sarat Dash, IOM Chief of Mission in Bangladesh and Mr. Michele Cavinato, Head of the Asylum and Migration Unit, Division of International Protection, UNHCR, presented their organizations' work on disaster displacement.

Side Event 6 The International Day of Family Remittances (16 June) – Supporting the Achievement of the SDGs by 2030

Convened by: IFAD

The IFAD side event on the International Day of Family Remittances (June 16th) Campaign was the occasion to present governments' delegations attending the Summit information about the International Day of Family Remittances and the key role that both remittances and diaspora engagement can play in the global effort to reach the SDG targets by 2030. IFAD Member States proclaimed 16 June to be the International Day of Family Remittances (Resolution 189/XXXVIII) as an opportunity to recognize the efforts of migrants globally, as well as to strengthen existing partnerships and to create new synergies among sectors to promote the development impact of remittances worldwide.

The side-event saw the active participation and support from the delegations of Germany (Co-Chair of the GFMD 2017-2018), Mexico, Moldova and Philippines, as well as from UN DESA. The four high level representatives of the Member States joined IFAD in support of the Day and in calling upon the United Nations General Assembly to endorse its observance.

During this year's celebrations on June 16th, the Day saw official recognition of over 90% of global Money Transfer Operators, many mobile companies, the Global Migration Group and other key organizations involved in migration and development. Very recently, the Day was mentioned in the UN Draft resolution on International Migration and Development A/C.2/71/L.48 (paragraph 18) adopted by the Second Committee on Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development .



5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY

In his summary, the Chair highlighted discussions across five broad areas, (i) the Roundtable outcomes; (ii) the Global Compact on Migration; (iii) the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development; (iv) the GFMD Business Mechanism; and (v) the Future of the Forum.

I. Roundtable Outcomes

This year's annual GFMD Forum Meeting had three broad strands – the economics of migration, the sociology of migration and the governance of migration, captured via six Roundtable sessions and a number of thematic meetings that supported the work of the Roundtables.

Roundtable 1.1 Reducing Migration Costs

Migration and remittances have made a substantial contribution to poverty reduction around the world. Yet the social and economic costs of migration are high especially for low-skilled migrants. There is a strong case for origin and destination countries to cooperate with a view to minimizing those costs, especially in relation to worker recruitment.

Roundtable 1.2 Connectivity and Migration

Migration's dual nature as a consequence of and as a driver of global networks of exchange and communication is an emerging area of policy interest. It is an area that deserves further exploration and experimentation to determine, for instance, how technology can be used to provide essential services to migrants or to develop migration-related business enterprises.

Roundtable 2.1 Migration, Diversity and Harmonious Societies

The challenge for all countries of migration today is to ensure social cohesion and harmony in the midst of ever-increasing social diversity. Core international human rights treaties must be used as the foundation for any policy approach. Beyond that, access to the labour market, the promotion of cross-cultural dialogue and identifiable paths to citizenship are key elements needed to ensure social cohesion and harmony in ever-growing multi-cultural societies

Roundtable 2.2 Protection of Migrants in all Situations

Migrant protection is a clearly recognized legal obligation grounded in numerous international instruments. The challenge is ensuring the application of that principle through the development and implementation of rights-based policies. Vulnerable migrants require special attention, especially children, women, and victims of trafficking.



Roundtable 3.1 Migration in Situations of Crisis

The international community must ensure that migrants caught in such situations have access to safety; another is to protect them from exploitation and abuse. The Migrants in Crisis (MICIC) initiative and the Platform on Disaster Displacement provide both valuable policy options and examples of effective practice. We should encourage their dissemination and application in crisis situations. Together with GMG's work on the protection of vulnerable migrants, these efforts could inform a state-led process to develop guiding principles and guidelines on how to protect migrants that find themselves in vulnerable situations as envisaged in the New York Declaration.

Roundtable 3.2 Principles, Institutions and Processes for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The notion of migration governance has received a great deal of attention during our discussions. 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 this aspiration points us to the creation of a Global Compact on Migration.

II. The Global Compact on Migration

A common thread in all the Roundtables was the improvement of migration governance. In fact, this has been the primary focus of the GFMD Bangladesh Chairmanship.

The New York Declaration from the September Summit, the Global Compact on Migration and the 2018 intergovernmental conference are best seen as key platforms to deliver what has been missing in the world for a long time: a comprehensive framework for the global governance of human mobility. The assignment is clearly a difficult one, but Roundtable discussions have provided some useful pointers. In addition, a first ever GFMD dialogue dedicated to the compact was held at the UN Headquarters in New York.

While it is impossible to cover all the points raised, some broad lines of agreement were quite apparent. A Compact should aim for the following:

- Protect the rights of all migrants, regardless of migratory status;
- Open channels for the safe and regular movement of migrant workers at all skill levels to meet labour market needs;
- Maintain the integrity of national borders, address irregular migration and combat migrant smuggling and trafficking;
- Provide effective protection for migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Ensure inclusion of migrants in host societies, including through non-discrimination and access to health, education and the labour market; and
- Enhance 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 outcomes from such discourse could be envisaged:

1. A legally binding convention or treaty regulating the conduct of states;
2. A political declaration with guiding principles that ascribes aspirations to state behaviour;
3. Concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and indicators for success as well as a robust monitoring framework; and
4. A combination of the three, possibly including a framework agreement with legally binding elements on such issues, political commitments on areas where there is a more general consensus; and commitments toward 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 framework, in fact, we should make sure that the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration are mutually supportive and consistent with each other.

Role of GFMD

The NYD explicitly invites the GFMD to contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations after which the GCM and the Chair will share their summary of the main recommendations from this Forum Meeting with participants. 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.

III. Agenda 2030

An Ad-hoc Working Group was formed to provide recommendations on how the GFMD could follow up on the migration aspects of the Agenda 2030. The group identified three areas for follow up:

1. Voluntary sharing of experiences, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the Agenda 2030;
2. Building partnerships on migration related aspects of the Agenda 2030 for voluntary action; and
3. Keeping governments and other relevant stakeholders informed about developments on migration related parts of the Agenda 2030 and providing inputs to the formal UN follow-up and review mechanisms.

The group established that for this to be effective, the Roundtable themes need to be linked more closely to the commitments in the Agenda 2030. There also needs to be a standing agenda item dedicated to following-up on the Agenda 2030. Furthermore, the group highlighted that the follow-up must be used to transform the GFMD into a catalyst for multi-



stakeholder action to deliver the Agenda 2030 commitments. Finally, given the rapidly changing context, a recommendation was made to create an Ad-hoc Working Group to continue exploring how the GFMD could engage even more closely with the Agenda 2030 and how the GFMD could expand its mandate to also look at how the forum engages with the Global Compact on Migration.

IV. Business Mechanism

The GFMD Business Mechanism put forward a “business case for migration” based on specific recommendations organized around the following 5 areas:

1. The creation of labour migration administrative structures including “robust and flexible” provision for labour migration “to spur innovation, fill skill gaps and promote development”.
2. The application and enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment laws.
3. The development of circular migration schemes coupled with effective remittance transfer mechanisms.
4. Corporate initiatives to help lower the barriers that refugees face in terms of employment, integration and travel.
5. Business engagement in advocacy for “fair and open migration” policy, in countering xenophobia, and in highlighting the positive economic, social and cultural contributions of migrants.

V. 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.



ANNEX

Annex A

[Address by H. E. Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble. Prime Minister of Bangladesh](#)

Annex B

[Concept Paper: Ninth Global Forum on Migration and Development - Bangladesh 2016](#)

Annex C

[Background Paper on Roundtable 1.1 Reducing Migration Costs](#)

[Background Paper on Roundtable 1.2 Connectivity and Migration](#)

[Background Paper on Roundtable 2.1 Migration, Diversity and Harmonious Societies](#)

[Background Paper on Roundtable 2.2 Protection of Migrants in all Situations](#)

[Background Paper on Roundtable 3.1 Migrants in Situations of Crises](#)

[Background Paper on Roundtable 3.2 Principles, Institutions and Processes](#)

Annex D

[Programme: Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda” Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting](#)

Annex E

[Ninth GFMD Summit Schedule of Side Events](#)

Annex F

[2016 GFMD Civil Society Days](#)

Annex G

[GFMD Common Space 2016](#)

Annex H

[Overview of Roundtable Sessions Composition](#)

Annex I

[Getting Migration Governance Right](#)

[The Future of Migration Governance](#)

[Our Duty to Migrants and Refugees](#)





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