***Draft* Concept Paper**
Ninth Global Forum on Migration and Development - Bangladesh 2016

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

Introduction

Migration has always been an integral component of human existence and an avenue to livelihood for many. In recent times, however, the international community has identified migration as an inevitable and essential factor in the development process. International Migration has also been incorporated now in several key internationally adopted outcome documents, including the universal and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). The Paris Agreement on Climate Change also includes important references to displacement due to climate change. These key development documents recognize the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development and also the multi-dimensional relevance of international migration for origin, transit and destination countries. Migration needs to be viewed as a transformative phenomenon – complementing and supplementing the Agenda 2030.

Migration is, however, not an apolitical phenomenon. It is the outcome of a process through which an individual decides to move or not to move depending upon an interplay of forces and drivers within the context of political, economic, environmental and cultural factors. In today's fluid 'geo-politics', 'geo-economics' and commensurate socio-cultural contexts, migration must be addressed as the complex global phenomenon that it truly is.

Demographic changes must also be taken into account. Some industrialized regions have shrinking populations. International migration may well have a part to play in the reversal of this trend. However, at current levels, it is quite far from making good the deficit between deaths and births in those countries[1]. On another plane, the contemporary narrative, public discourses and policy approaches in the destination countries often do not recognize the significant contribution made by the migrants or diaspora in the some countries or respond in realistic terms to prevailing labour market situations. At the same time, fast emerging global trade-investment-finance regimes and new forms of regional connectivity frameworks demand that 'people' are placed at the centre of economic planning equations and that peoples' movement (*people-to-people contact*) be facilitated to a much greater extent than in the past if ambitions for 'inclusive economic growth' are to be fully realized.

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[1] *Given that the High-income countries received an average of 4.1 million net migrants/year from lower and middle income countries (2000-'15), in the future (2015-'50) those high net-worth countries would require to plug in a projected gap of 20 million people, indeed substantially through planned migration from rest of the world.*

During the Ninth GFMD (2016), it will be crucially important to define in precise terms the contribution migration can make to development so as to enable the formulation of policies that will help realize the full potential of migration for sustainable development. This will require much work.

In 2014, the world recorded the highest annual number of people being displaced globally, including a sizable portion of them in the wake of global climate change.

The migration crises across the Mediterranean and the Andaman Sea were a major complicating factor. The contemporary migration challenges could perhaps be attributed to the limitations, gaps and deficits in the existing migration governance institutions and systems that primarily evolved in the fifties in the context of the World War II. These institutions and systems seem to have difficulties in coping with contemporary migration risks and fail to provide pragmatic solutions for translating migration challenges to benefits. Therefore, it needs to be seen if the existing processes, mechanisms, institutions are adequate to respond to various challenges and draw optimal benefit out of current and future migration opportunities. All these also entail an important global governance challenge, especially when viewed in the light of SDG 16 - in relation to peace, justice and effective institutions.

There appears to be a strong case to bring up various migration-relevant issues, ideas and elements which have been recognized in various international processes over the past decade as these hold the potential for contributing to development at individual, societal and global levels. Some of the elements and issues have been discussed in the course of the global consultations leading to the Agenda 2030 and other global processes e.g. High Level Dialogue (*New York, 2013*), Hyogo Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction II (*Sendai, 2015*).

A transformative migration agenda needs to promote a sustained dialogue beyond any "silo" approach or confining it only in Agenda 2030. Rather, an 'SDG Plus' approach to migration issues would be more advisable going beyond incorporating the migration components (*targets, indicators*) contained in Agenda 2030. Bangladesh Chair would also focus on addressing the challenges and risks associated with human mobility and displacement as well as implementing the migration related targets and, subsequently, indicators at the national level. Agenda 2030 has made a universal call for all countries and stakeholders to act in a comprehensive and coherent manner to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration for all people who move, regardless of their status.

As the 2030 Agenda and AAAA are rolled out, the Ninth GFMD would be the first key global event on migration and development. In this context, the Bangladesh Chairmanship of GFMD would initiate discussions on:

(i) Designing pragmatic migration policy to establish coherence between national process(es) and global commitments to produce outcomes line with the 2030 Agenda;

(ii) Identifying migration indicators for delivering at the country level on migration specific and migration relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda;

(iii) Aligning national level migration institutions and systems with migration relevant and related provisions of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) Identifying components, entities and processes for making migration a part of transformative development agenda.

OVERARCHING THEME

The overall theme of the Ninth GFMD is: **"Migration that Works for Sustainable Development of All: a transformative migration agenda"**. The overarching theme would essentially be based on a 'SDG Plus' approach, i.e. to incorporate and advance, in the context of deliverables, a range of migration specific issues, ideas and elements that have already been recognized in various global consultative process and outcome documents over the past decade.

In light of the above, debate during the Ninth GFMD would be structured around the following three sub-themes, spread over six Round Tables:

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 migrants in all situations*

Governance of migration and development
- *Roundtable 3.1 Migrants in crises: conflict, climate change and natural disasters*
- *Roundtable 3.2 Institutions and processes for safe, orderly and regular migration*

Economics of migration and development

Roundtable 1.1 Lowering the costs 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 fees for documents and clearances, bank fees and charges, payments to other agents and intermediaries, insurance costs, and sometimes, payment of bribes. Such costs disproportionately affect low-skilled migrants from low-income countries. In the context of recruitment in particular, high upfront costs expose migrants to debt-bondage and other abusive practices. These practices continue notwithstanding the ILO Convention prohibiting

the practice of charging costs or fees to workers by private employment agencies, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part.[2]

Lowering the financial costs of migration would potentially increase the disposable incomes of low-income workers and reduce inequality. While there is no comprehensive data available yet, a study on recruitment costs in the Asia-Middle East migration corridor suggests brokers' fees range from approximately USD 114 to USD 2,445[3]. At times, such fees amount to several months' of expected wage in the country of destination. Reducing recruitment fees lend positive impacts for sending countries and migrants - not only in terms of decreasing the financial burden experienced by migrants and their families, but also through potentially increasing remittances. By reducing recruitment fees, the capabilities of people who could otherwise not afford to seek employment abroad are expanded; enabling them to compete for jobs on a more equal basis and reducing the likelihood of debt bondage for those migrants who are recruited.

The importance of reducing recruitment costs has been stressed in the GFMD since its inception. Over the years, recommendations to enhance accountability, transparency and responsibility have included identifying good recruitment practices; educating recruitment agencies; setting up benchmarks and codes of conduct for recruitment agencies, promoting licensing systems, registers for recruiters and monitoring; regulating recruitment agencies; assessing the efficiency of monitoring and regulation of intermediaries; requiring employers to issue bonds for their employees as a measure to avoid abuses; ensuring that collective bargaining agreements cover migrant workers; ensuring transparent contracts and regulations.

Working alongside the GFMD, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has embarked on a multi-stakeholder Fair Recruitment Initiative, through which ILO is conducting research on promising regulatory approaches that have had an impact on the reduction of recruitment costs, as well as the factors which expose workers to exploitation and abuse in key global migration corridors[4]. Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Organization of Employers (IOE), are working with a coalition of stakeholders to develop a voluntary multi-stakeholder certification system for recruitment intermediaries – the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) – to better enable companies to identify recruitment intermediaries who are committed to ethical recruitment principles.

In 2016, remittances are expected to reach over USD 600 billion, with over USD 440 billion being sent to developing countries.[5] While remittance transaction costs have reduced slightly in the recent years, they remain high at an average 7.37%.[6] The potential gains from

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[2] *The ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No 181).*
[3] *Agunias, D. R., 2012, Regulating private recruitment in the Asia-Middle East labour migration corridor, Issue in Brief, IOM/MPI.*
[4] *ILO, Fair Recruitment Initiative, http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/lang--en/index.htm.*
[5] *World Bank (2015), Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016, http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:21352016~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html.*
[6] *World Bank (2015), Remittance Prices Worldwide, Issue 16, (December 2015), https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_december_2015.pdf.*

reducing remittance costs are estimated to be as high as US$ 20 billion in resources flowing directly to households[7]. In view of these apparent social and financial benefits, especially for low income workers, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda have adopted targets to reduce remittance costs to less than 3% and work towards ensuring that no remittance corridor costs higher than 5%[8].

In the context of remittances, discussions at previous GFMDs have been concentrated on engaging with financial institutions, promoting competitiveness in the remittance market, raising awareness of the significance of remittances, developing financial literacy campaigns and promoting regulatory flexibility (taking into account security measures).

This Roundtable would further these discussions and bring together countries and other stakeholders interested in taking concrete action to deliver on the commitments in the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, especially relating to reducing the costs of recruitment and remittances, and combatting unscrupulous recruiters. Particular efforts should be made to involve private sector actors (employers), who are willing to adapt their recruitment processes to promote progress in this regard. Experiences from on-going initiatives would be shared, best practices explored and solutions tested and proposed.

Guiding questions:
- *What initiatives are underway to identify and target migration corridors associated with high risks of abuse and exploitation and high financial costs? What are the challenges faced in targeting these migration corridors?*
- *What positive examples of reducing migration costs, especially recruitment costs, can be shared? What aspects of these initiatives may be suitable for possible adoption elsewhere? Are there any unintended consequences of these initiatives that need to be considered? What are the roles of different actors to reduce these costs?*
- *How can governments, financial institutions and private sector increase competition in the remittance market and reduce transaction costs further? What can be learnt from past experiences where remittance costs have been reduced?*
- *What research is underway to track the impacts of reducing migration costs, especially in terms of its impact on remittances and consequent social development outcomes? Is it possible to identify enabling factors or conditions that support positive development outcomes e.g. access to health and education, especially for low-income families?*

Roundtable 1.2 Connectivity and migration (people to people contact)

Unlike the recent past decades, 'connectivity' has emerged as the defining feature in a globalised and multi-connected world. Across the regions, the countries have been witnessing numerous connectivity initiatives emerging in many forms. Connectivity – in theory and practice – has evolved considerably. In very limited cases, it is about collaboration in development of hardcore physical connectivity (*multimodal transport, energy, etc.*). In most

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[7] *World Bank (2015), Reducing remittance costs and the financing for development strategy,*
https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/reducing-remittance-costs-and-financing-development-strategy.
[8] *See Target 10c, SDGs.*

cases, a wider articulation of connectivity[9] is envisaged, in terms of 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.

The connectivity frameworks are most often viewed as development and deepening of multifarious links, networks to facilitate movement of cargo and passengers. Strengthened connectivity is ultimately to enhance economic gains for stakeholders. It is implicit that wider connectivity would facilitate business and all forms of economic engagements. Irrespective of the thrust or modalities for connectivity, the connectivity frameworks/platforms are to contribute to sustained, inclusive growth and sustainable development of people. Within an emerging discourse of connectivity and business, particularly in context of the Global Supply Chains, the connectivity arrangements are premised on a set of principles i.e. mutual interest and benefit, sharing of benefits.

Clearly, as the 2030 Agenda puts it aptly, connectivity should place people at the centre. In order to materialize that, connectivity within and among economies has to be preceded by connecting the communities and wider societies they live in. That has to be accomplished upholding the spirit of inclusion in all aspects - social, cultural, economic or, political. The 'connects' should contribute to building pluralistic and harmonious society. Such societies should be able to be flexible enough to appreciate the need for inclusion and be founded upon respect for people of diverse origin, background, etc.

A primary challenge for a particular society lies in its orientation and capacity to welcome people from diverse location/origin, background and also their contribution. Such contribution made by those people can only be sustainable and beneficial in the long run when it is coupled with securing dignity, well-being and economic gains for all people – irrespective of their origin, circumstances, etc. It assumes mutual trust and mutual respect on all sides.

Approached in terms of a wider matrix in contemporary trends of globalization, particularly for global business, connectivity menu is expected to contribute to further mobility of all economic inputs and factors and to facilitate efficient interfacing of various processes of production and also segments within regional and global value chains. In order for global business to be local and prosper in diverse social, cultural and economic setting, the business would need to acquire necessary social and cultural capital. That can best happen when people can have corresponding degree of mobility in mutual interest. Today, global business recognizes and thrives on the value of sourcing of people from diverse background, capabilities and skills.

This calls for deeper and sustainable mobility of people and their social and cultural capital to meet the increasing necessity of mobility of people. Clearly, connectivity frameworks /initiatives need to be as much as for growth-centricity as also for attainment of peace and stability within countries and around. This is demonstrated by the experiences across connectivity initiatives, including in the Asia-Pacific region. Eventually, deepening connectivity is seen to provide a vehicle towards contributing to economic integration among

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[9] *Ref. Declaration: the Fourteenth SAARC Summit (New Delhi, 2007)*

the sub-regions. Countries are increasingly forming /joining sub-regional/regional trading arrangements (RTAs) – not just for trade in goods or services, but also for overall social and economic development and greater cohesion and harnessing synergies in those sub-regions/regions[10]. In the process, the Asia-Pacific region for instance has seen emergence of largest number of regional cooperative mechanisms /arrangements.

As wider connectivity aims at enhancement of people's social and economic development, it is fitting to weigh as to how the connectivity initiatives and the RTAs further facilitate business and also needed mobility of people. This has so far not been adequately envisaged within existing economic models. Emerging demographics across different regions/sub-regions, for instance, would ask for corresponding mobility of people.

Guiding questions:
- *How can deepening connectivity further contribute to dignity and mutual respect among cultures while pursuing collaboration on migration and mobility?*
- *How mobility, as a component of connectivity, can contribute to 'Development', in particular advance attainment of the SDGs?*
- *How can the existing Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) further advance mobility of people and contribute to attainment of sustainable development at national development goals?*
- *How can we consider development of common bilateral /regional templates on mobility (including labour migration)?*
- *What best practices can be cited where connectivity facilitates better understanding of diversity – cohesion which is crucial for mobility/migration?*
- *How can mobility, within wider connectivity, address people's marginalization and vulnerability?*
- *What innovative, more responsive or, better functioning connectivity institutions / mechanisms at national /sub- regional can be envisaged?*

Sociology of migration and development

Roundtable 2.1   Migration, diversity and harmonious societies

Migration contributes to cultural diversity through bringing people together from different parts of the world. The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity calls for promoting an understanding of diversity which respects the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of different groups and societies embracing the humankind. It presents cultural diversity as a "*source of exchange, innovation and creativity*" and "*as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature*".[11] Through bridging plurality of identities and groups, migration lies at the heart of this exchange.

The 2030 Agenda includes pledges to foster inter-cultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect; combatting xenophobia and facilitating social integration; and, as expressed in SDGs (target 4.7), the "*promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity...*". Given that migration is a mega trend of present

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[10] *These are found to be for pursuing the common objectives i.e. ending poverty and hunger, attaining food security, ensuring energy security, provisioning social (health-education) goods, addressing environmental challenges, augmenting productive capacity (across sectors), securing availability of and access to knowledge-technology-experience-information.*
[11] *http://www.un-documents.net/udcd.htm*

times, the global living environments – the cities especially – are moving towards greater not lesser diversity. Demographics indicate that most countries of the world will become more multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious in the future.[12]

While this growing diversity in most parts is a positive experience, it also brings about challenges and tensions. In their most extreme forms, such tensions include violent extremism against migrants and their descendants as well as against members of host societies. The challenge for policymakers – and, hence, for the GFMD – is how to obtain positive outcomes from that diversity.

Members of host societies can experience anxiety about national identities, fear of losing jobs to foreigners, xenophobia and racism. Discrimination is manifested in many ways e.g., employers and landlords giving preference to native individuals over migrants or their descendants, which contributes to their social exclusion. In extreme cases, social exclusion has also taken the form of riots and acts of terror.

In contradiction to the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity as well as the Declaration from the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, political forces in some countries call for measures to counter cultural diversity. Instead of being viewed as positive contributors to diversity, such political actors tend to portray migrants as threats to national identities and sometimes even to national security.

Three broad policy positions have dominated government approaches to managing diversity: assimilation, integration and multiculturalism. Each of these concepts has many variants and they often overlap. In brief, assimilation requires migrants to undergo a real transformation to become full members of a new community, adopting its norms, values and ways of life (*by implication, setting aside his / her original set of life references*). Integration assumes that adaptation is necessary for both migrants and host societies. The multicultural model allows for the existence of a plurality of "newcomer" communities interacting within an established receiving community.

Guiding questions:
- *How has your government/organization facilitated inclusion and participation of persons and groups from varied cultural backgrounds, including migrants?*
- *How can other stakeholders – local authorities, police, media, educational facilities, NGOs and community organizations – be more involved in increasing community participation, fostering a sense of belonging among migrants, and building social cohesion in the face of growing cultural diversity?*

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[12] *Global or "world" cities of this type are a major draw for migrants; some 19 per cent of the world's foreign-born population is estimated to live in them (Çağlar, 2014).*
• Some cities with highly mobile workforces have particularly high proportions of foreign-born populations, for instance, Dubai (83%) or Brussels (62%) which is the headquarters of the European Commission.
• Migrants tend to be particularly concentrated in so-called global cities, for example, of Canada's 6.8 million foreign-born population (The Canadian Press, 2013), 46 per cent live in Toronto (Statistics Canada, 2011).
• Statistics from the United States show that, as at 2010, just over 40 per cent of the nation's foreign-born population was living in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and San Francisco (Singer, 2013).
•The foreign-born population may sometimes outstrip the native population in cities of this type: 28 per cent of Australia's 6.6 million people were born overseas (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015) and are mainly concentrated in Sydney (1.4 million) and Melbourne (1.2 million) (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014).

- *Can initiatives to support cultural diversity be further mainstreamed into educational curricula of receiving countries to promote broader appreciation of multiculturalism? Are there previous experiences which can be shared in this regard?*
- *Are there additional educational or social initiatives that could be supported by sending countries, especially in the context of labor migration, which may further assist migrants once they arrive in destination countries?*
- *Are there legal /institutional measures to ensure non-discrimination in your country?*

Roundtable 2.2   Protection of migrants in all situations

The value of migration for development in both countries of origin and destination is widely recognized. However, the protection in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of migrants are not well established.

This Roundtable will build on earlier discussions about the rights and protection of migrants, and promote the sharing of experiences about how migrants and their families can access fundamental services and opportunities. It will also explore ways to capture data to monitor the protection of migrants' rights and social development outcomes at all stages of the migration cycle (*recruitment, transit, destination, return and reintegration*). Migrants are exposed to heightened risks and vulnerabilities - whether they are fleeing from conflict, displaced by environmental processes and crises or seeking improved livelihood opportunities elsewhere. Migrants and their accompanying families typically have limited access to fundamental protections, opportunities and services in receiving countries e.g. fair work conditions, health services, and education, especially for migrant children. Limited access to information and assistance navigating service systems in destination countries are also barriers impacting the capacity of migrants to access opportunities where they are in place.

The international legal framework recognizes that migrants, irrespective of status, enjoy human rights, without discrimination, except for few exceptions relating to political participation and freedom of movement. The International Covenant on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Family articulates many of these rights, however, its ratification and translation into policy has been limited.[13] The 2030 Agenda 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.[14] The Agenda is not only concerned with the safety of migrants, it also focuses on the non-discrimination of migrants e.g. in terms of accessing health and social services. The 2030 Agenda also views extending educational opportunities to migrants and their children as critical in, so that migrants are afforded access to life-long learning and development opportunities which help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in and contribute to society.[15]

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[13] *The Convention has been ratified by 48 States. Other relevant international instruments include: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; ILO Domestic Workers Convention 2011 (No. 189); ILO Migration for Employment Convention 1949 (No. 97), ILO Migrant Workers Convention (Supplementary Provisions) 1975 (No. 143); ILO Convention on Private Employment Agencies 1997 (No. 181).*
[14] *Para. 29, 2030 Agenda.*
[15] *Para 25, 2030 Agenda.*

Previous discussions at the GFMD have focused on trying to increase the adoption of existing Treaties and Conventions on the protection of migrant rights; greater implementation of the terms of these instruments, including stronger incorporation into domestic law and translation of existing commitments into meaningful protection policies. This Roundtable will further these debates and focus on topics, including:

- The need for greater inclusion of migrants in both transit and receiving countries, through improving access to justice, information, safe and fair work conditions, education and training, health and social services, on a non-discriminatory basis;
- Measuring the protection of rights and opportunities: capturing disaggregated data on migrants at multiple stages of the migration cycle to ensure that migrants are not "left behind".[16]
- The disjuncture between demand for affordable labor in receiving countries and the limited availability of safe, legal channels to meet this demand; contributing to the use irregular channels, migrant abuse, exploitation and inadequate access to protections and opportunities in receiving countries (*also discussed in Roundtable 6*).

Guiding questions:

- *In what ways does your government provide access to legal protections and social services to migrants? On what basis or eligibility criteria are these services provided? What barriers exist or what factors are in place to support migrants to access these protections and services in practice?*
- *How are migrant families, especially children, provided with health care and educational opportunities in receiving states?*
- *To what extent are migrants provided with reintegration assistance upon returning to their home countries?*
- *Are there aspects of these practices, schemes or institutional processes which could be transferable or could be adopted by other states? What are the critical considerations to address if these initiatives are adopted by other governments? What are the roles of private actors?*
- *In what ways have states, or could states, be encouraged and supported to collect disaggregated data on migrants, and on the protection of migrants?*

Governance of migration and development

Roundtable 3.1 Migrants in crises: conflict, climate change and natural disasters

The world currently faces the largest displacement crisis since World War Two. Approximately sixty million people are displaced, of which some twenty million are refugees. Many people who are not recognized as refugees have also been compelled to cross international borders in response to climate change induced disasters, severe destitution and food insecurity. These patterns are expected to continue.

While protection is a shared global responsibility, currently, 10 countries host approximately 60% of the world's refugees, with developing countries hosting 84% of the world's refugee population. The current situation exposes significant gaps in terms of

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[16] *See the declaration (paragraph 74.g) and SDG target 17.18 regarding the need for monitoring data disaggregated by migration/migratory status, among other categories.*

responsibility sharing, as well as in terms of protection; whose protection needs are recognized and the availability of legal and safe pathways to reach countries where protection can be granted. A new paradigm is needed for displaced persons who are not refugees. New frameworks and agendas are emerging through intergovernmental and civil society processes, such as the Nansen Initiative and the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative (MICIC); however these initiatives are in their formative stages. The Nansen Initiative is a protection agenda to support people displaced across borders from natural disasters and climate change.[17] MICIC is a state-led initiative aimed at improving the capacities of states and other stakeholders, such as regional institutions, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, to respond to migrants caught in countries in acute crisis. MICIC is not set up to extend support to migrants experiencing personal crises.[18]

2016 promises to be an eventful year when it comes to addressing refugees and migrants in crises. Of particular relevance is the High-level Meeting on Legal Pathways for Syrians being hosted by UNHCR on 30 March as well as the High-level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in the General Assembly on 19 September.[19]

An outcome of the Istanbul Summit meeting was a recommendation that the GFMD continue to consider the conditions of people forcibly displaced across international borders, address policy gaps, and explore solutions in the context of sustainable development. Previous discussions have concentrated on the need to strengthen dialogue, especially at the local level, on the connections between climate change, migration and development. Discussions have also sought to identify linkages or points of intersection with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This year's GFMD will build on the recommendations made last year and facilitate consensus building as its stakeholders engage with other ongoing processes. Particular attention will be given to strengthening states' commitments to the protection of displaced persons and vulnerable migrants who fall outside of the scope of the 1951 Refugee Convention, as well as to pathways for accessing asylum and legal migration channels for other displaced and vulnerable migrants.

Guiding questions:
- *What legal pathways does your government offer to people displaced by conflict, climate change and/or other environmental processes, including refugees? On what basis are these legal avenues available?*
- *Which legal pathways might be foreseeable or valuable in the future?*
- *What types of circumstances or categories of migrants may be in need of protection not currently within the scope of the 1951 Refugee Convention?*
- *To what extent are the National Adaptation Plans of Action, prepared by Least Developed Countries under the UNFCCC, integrating migration related concerns?*
- *In what ways can research initiatives better capture data on displacement and human mobility that may meaningfully inform policy responses? What information needs to be recorded and how can this be done? (e.g. household level data or compilation of good institutional practices and responses).*

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[17] *https://www.nanseninitiative.org/*
[18] *https://www.iom.int/micic*
[19] *The US Government has also announced that it is hosting a Presidential summit on the global refugee crisis in connection to the high-level segment of the General Assembly.*

Roundtable 3.2 Institutions and processes for safe, orderly and regular migration

The 2030 Agenda establishes that that the international community will cooperate to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, including refugees and other displaced persons. This is also reiterated as a standalone target for the SDGs, with a commitment to facilitate such movements.[20]

This is an ambitious commitment. A plethora of drivers shape contemporary mobility and many different factors affect migration outcomes. Global connectivity has increased, enabled in part by ICT revolution, resulting in much greater levels of interaction between different regions of the world. The lack of prospects in one place and the opportunities – perceived or real – in another, lead people to brave the greatest hurdles to move across borders and continents. Labour market demand, whether in the formal sector or the informal economy, offers opportunities to those who move. Networks between individuals – often sustained through virtual channels – encourage others to move.

Combine this with the wide range of actors involved in migratory processes, including individual migrants, governments (regulations and agencies in countries of origin, transit and destination), transportation companies, employers, recruiters, smugglers, traffickers etc. and it becomes evident that these movements cannot be controlled unilaterally by governments. As the 2030 Agenda spells out, international cooperation is needed.

Migration governance has been described as fragmented at best, begging the question of how international cooperation can be achieved; in particular, which institutions and processes may facilitate this process?

Current institutions and processes for international cooperation at the global level include:

- The **High Level Dialogues (HLD) on Migration and Development**, organized initially as *adhoc* events in 2006 and 2013, are now to be conducted at regular intervals. They are held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly with the broad intention of identifying strategies to "maximize the development benefits of migration and to reduce difficulties".[21] One **of the recommendations of the 2006 High Level Dialogue** was the setting up of th*e Glob*al **Forum of on Migration and Development (GFMD)**, as a platform for informal, non-binding and government-led consultations "to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationship between migration and development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes." The Forum has engaged civil society representatives by inviting them to hold parallel meetings and share their deliberations with states. The private business sector is also a participant.

- The **Global Migration Group (GMG)** is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of relevant UN agencies and the IOM to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated

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[20] *Target 10.7, Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*
[21] *See, High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, United Nations General Assembly, 14-15 September 2006: https://www.un.org/migration/*

approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members in migration governance.

- The **IOM**, established in 1951, is the leading inter-governmental organization on migration, and works closely with governments, non-governmental organizations and other partners to ensure the humane and orderly management of migration. With 162 member states, 9 states with observer status, and offices in over 100 countries, IOM promotes international cooperation, provides humanitarian assistance to migrants, including refugees and internally displaced people. It also provides guidance to governments in the fields of labour migration, counter-trafficking, migration and development and migration health. IOM encourages compliance with international migration law and other instruments which uphold migrants' rights. While a great deal of operational cooperation exists between IOM and the UN, IOM is not part of the strategic decision making bodies of the world body since it is not a UN agency.

- **UNHCR** was established in 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. As the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR is mandated to coordinate international action to protect the safety and wellbeing of refugees. It also has a mandate to assist stateless people. UNHCR works in 123 countries to ensure that all people are able to exercise their right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, return home voluntarily, or resettle in a third country.

At the regional level, consultation and information exchange dominate the landscape. Generally, these regional exchanges are done through Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), which were set up in the late 20th Century, in part as a substitute for a global conference on international migration. Wished by some, considered undesirable by others, the idea of a conference was widely discussed following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, but never realized. Instead RCPs in all parts of the world emerged and adopted, almost instinctively, a formula of interaction that allowed them to consult and to exchange information without entering into formal negotiations about a potentially divisive topic. Although most of them remain non-decision-making bodies, they have, unquestionably, contributed largely to both the identification of key policy issues and to the formulation of policy responses.

Noting that there seems to be a consensus that existing institutions and processes, in their current shape, have limited capacity to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, what is needed to promote a global migration agenda and effective migration governance arrangements more fit for this purpose?

Guiding questions:

- *What international/regional institutions, mechanisms or processes are needed or should be strengthened to facilitate:*
    - *responsibility sharing among states*
    - *greater mobility*
    - *safe, orderly and regular labour mobility*
    - *regional mobility and coordination*
    - *more effective partnerships among stakeholders (states, private sector, civil society).*

Thematic Workshops

In addition to the six Roundtables, during the Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship, three **Thematic Workshops** would also be organized to focus the dialogue on some aspects of contemporary migration. The three thematic workshops would be as follows:

Theme	*Place*
Connectivity and Migration	Bangkok
Migration for harmonious societies	Geneva
Migration for peace, stability and growth	New York

Thematic Projects

In a concerted effort to strengthen the impacts of migration on development, it would also merit to design a few **pilot projects** for factoring migration within the wider implementation matrix of sustainable development during the Ninth GFMD Chairmanship.

Civil Society and Business Community

As has been agreed and practiced, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) would steer the Civil Society process during the Ninth GFMD. The Bangladesh Chair is closely coordinating with the civil society in ensuring that the government and civil society events are complementary and strengthened further. It is also recognized that issues related to 'business and migration' deserve further nurturing, given the important role of business in migration. In that context, Bangladesh would follow up on the outcomes of process(es) that have been commenced by Turkey and Switzerland, during the Turkish GFMD Chairmanship.

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