

**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”**

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***Introduction***

1. Migration has always been an integral component of human life, livelihood and development. Lately, international community has recognized migration as an inevitable and essential factor in the development process. International Migration has also been incorporated now in almost all the 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 included important references to displacement due to climate change. The key development documents recognized the positive contribution of migrants for 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.

2. Migration is, however, not an apolitical phenomenon. It is an outcome process in which an individual decides to move or, not to move within 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 should be considered as a complex global phenomenon.

3. We are also witnessing demographic changes. While some of the prosperous regions are witnessing shrinking population, international migration still has not reached the deserving size compared to death-birth gap in population of those countries<sup>1</sup>. 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 even respond pragmatically 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 and peoples’ movement (*people-to-people contact*) are facilitated compared to any time in the past to realize inclusive economic growth.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

4. During the Ninth GFMD (2016), it would be crucial to articulate the development aspects, elements and constituents of migration in concrete and deliverable terms to realize the full potential of migration for sustainable development. It is increasingly evident the migration is both an opportunity and challenge for sustainable development. In 2014, the world recorded the highest number of people being displaced globally, including a sizable portion of them in the wake of global climate change. Migration also impinges on global governance for sustainable development which can be weighted in the context of SDG-16.

5. It has become further complicated by the contemporary migration crises across the Mediterranean and the Andaman Sea. 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 Second World War. 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.

6. It would also be necessary 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*).

7. A transformative migration agenda needs to promote a sustained dialogue beyond any “silo” approach or confine it only in Agenda 2030. Rather, an ‘SDG Plus’ approach to migration issues would be more pragmatic 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.

8. 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 draw coherence between national process(es) and global commitments to be able to deliver in line with the Agenda 2030;
- (ii) Identifying migration indicators for delivering at the country level on migration specific and migration relevant targets of the Agenda 2030;
- (iii) Aligning national level migration institutions and systems with migration relevant and related provisions of the Agenda 2030;
- (iv) Identifying components, entities and processes for making migration a part of transformative development agenda.

### ***OVERARCHING THEME***

9. 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.

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

- (i) Economics of Migration and Development:
  - social and human costs and benefits of migration.
  - connectivity and migration (people to people contact)
- (ii) Sociology of Migration and Development:
  - drivers and networks of migration
  - rights of migrants and harmonious society
- (iii) Governance of Migration and Development:
  - peaceful, stable and growth-enhancing migration: institutions and process
  - migration in crises, particularly in climate change situations.

### ***Thematic Workshops***

11. In addition to 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:

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Place</i>
Migration for Connectivity and Business	Bangkok
Migration for harmonious societies	Geneva
Migration for peace, stability and growth	New York

### ***Thematic Projects***

12. 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***

13. 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.

*Dhaka, 30 December 2015*

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