

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

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

---

***Introduction***

1. Migration has always been an integral component of human existence and an avenue to livelihood for many. In recent times, the international community has identified international migration as an inevitable and essential factor in the development process. It has been incorporated in several key outcome documents, including the universal and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as the Sendai Framework. These documents recognize the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development; the challenges linked to displacement, including due to climate change; and the multi-dimensional relevance of international migration for origin, transit and destination countries. Migration thus needs to be viewed as a transformative phenomenon – complementing and supplementing the 2030 Agenda.
2. 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, and shaped by gender norms. Importantly, migration and its outcomes are also affected by the policies in place to govern this phenomenon. 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). In today’s fluid ‘geo-politics’, ‘geo-economics’ and commensurate socio-cultural contexts, international migration must be addressed as the complex global phenomenon that it truly is, while promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, including women and girls.
3. Demographic changes must also be taken into account. Some industrialized countries/regions have shrinking populations. International migration may well have a part to play in the reversal of this trend in those countries/regions. However, at current levels, it is quite far from compensating the deficit between deaths and births

in those countries<sup>1</sup>. Technological advances could also affect the availability of jobs and skills-sets required for those jobs. From a labour-market perspective, attention thus needs to be given to the skill-sets of migrants arriving, as many countries of destination lack workers in certain professions, which may or may not be addressed through migration. Through offering care-based services, often performed by migrant women, migrants entering the labour market could have a positive effect on the ability of women to enter the work force in destination countries. Nonetheless, the contemporary narrative, public discourses and policy approaches in the destination countries often do not recognize the significant contribution made by migrants or the diaspora and do not respond in realistic terms to the prevailing labour market situations. This could limit the feasibility of taking recourse to migration to close the demographic deficit while maintaining social cohesion.

4. Meanwhile, 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. While some regions have advanced in this respect, inter-regional mobility remains restricted. Furthermore, connectivity can only complement, not supplement national efforts for inclusive economic growth if this is to be sustainable.
5. UN DESA estimates that there are almost 244 million migrants in the world (2015), approximately half of whom are women and girls.<sup>2</sup> According to recent ILO estimates (2013 figures), 150 million were international labour migrants, out of which approximately 44% were women.<sup>3</sup> The increasing participation of women of all skill levels in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, requires greater gender sensitivity and attention in laws, policies, institutions and programmes. At a global level, migrants display a higher labour force participation rate than non-migrants, showing that international migration is a phenomenon intrinsically linked to the world of work. It is also clear that the work of migrant men and women lend an essential contribution to their countries of destination. The governance of labour migration thus needs to be given attention within broader deliberations on governance of international migration.
6. During the Ninth GFMD (2016), it will be crucial to define in precise terms the contribution that migration can make to development, including specific SDGs, so as to enable the formulation of human rights-based and gender-sensitive policies that will help realize the full potential of migration for sustainable development as well as a

---

<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.

<sup>2</sup> UN DESA International Migration 2015

<sup>3</sup> ILO Global estimates on migrant workers and migrant domestic workers. Results and Methodology, Geneva, 2015, available at: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_436343.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_436343.pdf)

more evidence-based debate that avoids the pitfalls of xenophobia and other negative stereotypes of migrants. This will require significant work.

7. On a less positive note, the world recorded the highest annual number of people being displaced globally since the Second World War in 2015—with approximately 40 million internally displaced persons<sup>4</sup> and some 20 million refugees<sup>5</sup>. Beyond these 60 million persons, many more have been compelled to cross international borders in search of safety or have ended up in a vulnerable situation due to crises in the country of destination or in transit.
8. Evidence demonstrates that climate change and other natural disasters have been contributing factors to a sizable portion of those displaced. In fact, since 2008, an average of 26.4 million people have been displaced each year by disasters brought on by natural hazards.<sup>6</sup> The refugee and migration crises across the Mediterranean, the Andaman Sea, the Central American-US route and other regional corridors are major complicating factors.
9. In response to this on-going crises, there will be a *High-level Plenary of the General Assembly on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants* (Global summit on refugees and migrants) on 19 September 2016<sup>7</sup>. When the Secretary-General of the United Nations proposed this meeting, he called for enhancing ‘equitable responsibility sharing’ as a basis for progress in international cooperation. In preparation for the Summit, the Secretary-General will issue a report outlining possible outcomes and the GMG has committed to host a series of events. Ultimately however, the nature of the outcome will be up to the Member States.<sup>8</sup>
10. The contemporary migration challenges could perhaps partially be attributed to the limitations, gaps and deficits in the existing migration governance institutions and processes that primarily evolved in the fifties in the post-World War II context. While progress has been made in some regional levels, at a global level these institutions and processes seem to have difficulties in coping with or responding to contemporary migration risks and realities; and thus fail to provide pragmatic solutions for effectively addressing irregular migration, protecting the human rights of all migrants as well translating migration challenges to benefits for all concerned. Therefore, it

---

<sup>4</sup> According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, “internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”

<sup>5</sup> While refugees are part of the broader category of displaced persons, and of serious humanitarian concern, they will not be the focus of deliberations in this year’s GFMD, since they are already covered by a legal regime. According to this regime, the 1951 Convention, refugees are persons who, “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is out-side the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

<sup>6</sup> International Displacement Monitoring Centre (2015) *Global Estimates: 2015: People displaced by disasters*.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Co-facilitators (Ireland and Jordan) have been appointed to lead the Member State-led preparations (modalities resolution and possible negotiated outcome).

needs to be seen if the existing processes, mechanisms and institutions are adequate to respond to various challenges and draw optimal benefit out of current and future migration opportunities. This entails an important global governance challenge, especially when viewed in the light of SDG 16 - in relation to peace, rule of law, justice, inclusion and correspondingly effective institutions.

11. The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration, Mr Peter Sutherland, will produce a report to advance the debate and improve the collective handling of international migration. This report is expected during the autumn of 2016, before the GFMD Summit meeting in Dhaka, and could thus be an important input to the deliberations on how to improve global governance of migration.
12. In addition, some of the elements and issues that have been discussed in the course of the global consultations leading to the 2030 Agenda and other global processes e.g. High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (*New York, 2013*) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 would be useful references for such debate.
13. A transformative migration agenda needs to promote a sustained dialogue beyond any "silo" approach or, confining it only to the 2030 Agenda. Rather, an 'SDG Plus' approach to migration issues would be more advisable going beyond incorporating the migration components (*targets, indicators*) contained in the 2030 Agenda. At a minimum, this should include exploring how to ensure that migrants are not left behind and thus included on a non-discriminatory basis in the achievement of all relevant SDGs and targets as well as how migration and migrants can contribute to the attainment of those SDGs and targets. The Bangladesh Chair would also focus on addressing the challenges and risks associated with human mobility and displacement, including the gender-specific vulnerabilities of migrant women, in addition to implementing the migration related targets and, subsequently, monitoring the indicators at the national level. The 2030 Agenda 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.
14. As the 2030 Agenda and AAAA are rolled out, the Ninth GFMD would be the first key global event on migration and development in the context of these global commitments. In this context, and in view of the on-going efforts to address various crises related to refugees and migration, the Bangladesh Chairmanship of GFMD would initiate discussions on:
  - (i) Designing pragmatic migration policy to establish coherence between national and local (sub-national) process(es) and global commitments that incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people centred perspective, to produce outcomes in line with the 2030 Agenda;

- (ii) Identifying migration sex-disaggregated indicators for delivering at the country level on the 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 human-rights-based and gender-responsive migration part of transformative development agenda<sup>2</sup>;
- (v) Promoting consensus around protection for migrants in situations of crises in order to facilitate an ambitious outcome at the 19 September Summit; and considering how the GFMD can facilitate follow up to the outcome of this Summit; *and*
- (vi) Considering the institutions and processes required for ensuring and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, including with reference to the report of the SRSG for International Migration.

## ***OVERARCHING THEME***

15. The overall theme of the Ninth GFMD is: “**Migration that Works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards 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 *inter alia* in the two UN General Assembly High level Dialogues on International Migration and Development (2007, 2013) and in various other dialogues/platforms, global consultative processes and outcome documents over the past decade.
16. 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 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*

## **Economics of migration and development**

17. Over the recent years, the international community has acknowledged the contribution of migration to economic development in international declarations, most recently in the 2030 Agenda.<sup>9</sup> This Agenda is “*a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity*” which identifies the eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge. It sets out a collective transformative journey in which no one should be left behind. Prosperity is further explained as a situation in which “*all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature*”. This is thus the challenge that has been set for economic development. The Agenda acknowledges “*the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development*”. It sets out to combat inequalities within and among countries, as well as “*to create conditions for sustainable inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all...*” At the same time, the agenda is “*people-centred*”, recognizes gender equality and women’s empowerment as critical to development and it endeavours to “*reach the furthest behind first*”.
18. More specifically, the 2030 Agenda has explicit targets to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (target 10.7), to reduce the costs of remittances (10.c) and protect rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants (target 8.8).
19. Through this year’s Roundtables on economics of migration and development, efforts will be made to mobilize actors around two particular sets of issues: first, lowering the costs of migration, in particular recruitment and remittance costs; second, exploring the role of migration in promoting connectivity, business and people’s interaction.

### ***Roundtable 1.1 Lowering the costs of migration***

20. 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

---

<sup>9</sup> Paragraph 29 of the Agenda : “We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development”. See also Declaration A/RES/68/4 of 3 October 2013 from the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which acknowledged “the important contribution of migration in realizing the Millennium Development Goals”, recognize that human mobility is “a key factor for sustainable development”, and acknowledged “the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development.”

fees and charges, payments to other agents and intermediaries, insurance costs, and sometimes, payment of bribes. Such costs disproportionately affect low-skilled/poor migrants from low-income countries, furthering inequality. 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.<sup>10</sup> A further commitment to cooperate internationally to lower the costs of recruitment and combatting unscrupulous recruiters is included in the AAAA (§111).

21. Lowering the financial costs of migration would potentially increase the disposable incomes of low-income workers and reduce inequality. Since women migrant workers tend to be paid less, this would also serve to effectively reduce gender disparities. 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<sup>11</sup>. At times, such fees amount to several months' of expected wage in the countries of destination.
22. 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. Similarly, with policies at times ignoring the real demands on the labour markets while some migrants fill demands in the irregular labour market, host societies incur costs that tend to negatively affect those at the lower end of the income-scale.
23. 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; establishing standard contracts, especially for domestic workers; and ensuring transparent contracts and regulations. There are also regional initiatives to develop standard terms of employment for domestic workers, e.g. from South Asia to Gulf countries, in an attempt, partially to address the issue of recruitment costs.
24. Working alongside the GFMD, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has embarked on a multi-stakeholder Fair Recruitment Initiative, through which ILO is

---

<sup>10</sup> The ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181).

<sup>11</sup> Agunias, D. R., 2012, Regulating private recruitment in the Asia-Middle East labour migration corridor, Issue in Brief, IOM/MPI.

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<sup>12</sup>. 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.

25. In 2016, remittances are expected to reach over USD 600 billion, with over USD 440 billion being sent to developing countries.<sup>13</sup> While remittance transaction costs have reduced slightly in the recent years, they remain high at an average 7.37%.<sup>14</sup> The potential gains from reducing remittance costs are estimated to be as high as US\$ 20 billion in resources flowing directly to households<sup>15</sup>. 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%<sup>16</sup>. As evidence suggests that female migrants remit a larger proportion of their wages, this gain would help close the gender gap.
26. For migrant workers, remitting money to their family in a secure manner, at affordable costs and efficiently is the most important service required. However, migrants working abroad often require additional financial services such as specific transfer and account services, and related products like savings, insurance and housing loans. At the same time, for the receivers, especially women, remittance as a financial service not only covers fundamental financial needs such as unforeseen and current expenses but also often constitutes the main experience with a regulated financial service provider<sup>17</sup>. Remittances increase the disposable income thereby limiting households' vulnerability to external shocks and opening opportunities to save and increase assets. In addition to policies and engagement to reduce the costs of sending money, initiatives aiming to improve financial inclusion and services of both senders and receivers help to decrease the costs and increase the financial options that allow migrants and their families in the countries of origin to limit their vulnerability, develop their autonomy or finance their projects the long run. Financial services that enable migrant workers build assets can be particularly important for women's longer term economic empowerment.

---

<sup>12</sup> ILO, Fair Recruitment Initiative, <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> 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>.

<sup>14</sup> World Bank (2015), Remittance Prices Worldwide, Issue 16, (December 2015), [https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw\\_report\\_december\\_2015.pdf](https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_december_2015.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> World Bank (2015), Reducing remittance costs and the financing for development strategy, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/reducing-remittance-costs-and-financing-development-strategy>.

<sup>16</sup> See Target 10c, SDGs and §40 of the AAAA.

<sup>17</sup> IFAD/World Bank (2015), The Use of Remittances and Financial Inclusion, G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) <http://www.gpfi.org/publications/use-remittances-and-financial-inclusion>



27. 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).
28. This Roundtable would deepen 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, promoting the link between remittances and financial inclusion, including for women and in rural areas, 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:**

1. *What initiatives are underway and could be conceived to **address high financial and social costs** (including human rights' abuse and labour exploitation)?*
  - *What aspects of these initiatives may be suitable for **possible adoption** by other countries?*
  - *Are there any **unintended consequences** of such initiatives?*
  - *What are the roles of different **actors** in these initiatives?*
  - *In this context, highlight initiatives targeting **migration corridors**?*
2. *How could these initiatives assist countries in implementation of Agenda 2030 and AAAA (for example AAAA, para 111, incl. SDG target 10.c)*
3. *What **institutions and process** could facilitate the reduction of costs of recruitment and remittances as well as promote financial literacy, inclusion and services?*

### **Roundtable 1.2 Connectivity and migration (people to people contact)**

29. 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 cases, a wider articulation of connectivity<sup>18</sup> 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.

---

<sup>18</sup>Ref. Declaration: the Fourteenth SAARC Summit (New Delhi, 2007)

30. 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 and improvements in protection of human and labour rights.
31. 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, equitable and harmonious societies. Such societies should be able to be flexible enough to appreciate the need for inclusion and reduction of poverty and inequalities be founded upon respect for men and women of diverse origin, background, etc.
32. A primary challenge for a particular society lies in its orientation and capacity to welcome people from diverse location/origin, background and also to recognize their contribution to sustainable development. Such contribution made by those men and women 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 gender, origin, circumstances, etc. It assumes mutual trust, respect and adherence to legal provisions on all sides.
33. 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 men and women from diverse background, capabilities and skills.
34. 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 equality, peace and stability within countries. 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 the sub-regions. Countries are increasingly forming /joining sub-regional/regional economic communities (RECs) and 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<sup>19</sup>. In the process, the Asia-Pacific region for instance has seen emergence of largest number of regional cooperative mechanisms /arrangements.

35. As wider connectivity aims at enhancement of all people's social and economic development, it is fitting to weigh as to how the connectivity initiatives and the RTAs further facilitate business and the needed mobility of women and men. 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:**

1. *What is the evolving scope, nature and context of mobility, connectivity and business, particularly within global supply chains?*
2. *How can existing **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** and **Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs)** advance mobility of women and men, and its contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development?*
  - a. *In the context of connectivity, what would be the key components and standards of templates for bilateral and regional agreements on mobility?*
  - b. *How has **migration contributed to economic engagements, particularly trade and investments** in your country?*
  - c. *What **policies, programmes or, practices** are in place to promote such linkages?*
3. *How could **institutions and processes** be made more effective for facilitate mobility and connectivity as well as its contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development?*

## **Sociology of migration and development**

36. Migration is a natural phenomenon that is as old as humankind. It has often been described as the oldest strategy for poverty reduction.<sup>20</sup> By contributing to the introduction of new ideas, norms and cultures, migration transforms societies. As such it affects not only the lives of people on the move, but also those who are left behind and the societies to which migrants come. This explains why migration is a highly engaging and political issue. It can affect ideas of what is normal and what is right.

---

<sup>19</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup> The original wording comes from economist John Kenneth Galbraith, who wrote "Migration is the oldest action against poverty". Galbraith, J. (1979) *The Nature of Mass Poverty*, Cambridge Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

37. The resultant transformations 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.
38. Efforts geared towards promoting social cohesion are crucial for maintaining harmonious societies. Similarly in order to ensure that no one is left behind, effective measures are needed against discrimination. This year’s roundtables on sociology of migration and development, will therefore focus 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 exploring how countries are protecting the human rights of migrants, especially through ensuring access to services and how the outcome of these efforts can be measured.

### **Roundtable 2.1      *Migration, diversity and harmonious societies***

39. 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*”.<sup>21</sup> Through bridging plurality of identities and groups, migration lies at the heart of this exchange.
40. 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 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.<sup>22</sup>
41. While this growing diversity in most parts is a positive experience, it also brings about challenges and tensions. Different values can clash. Members of host societies can experience anxiety about national identities, fear of losing jobs to foreigners,

---

<sup>21</sup><http://www.un-documents.net/udcd.htm>

<sup>22</sup> 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).

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. Migrant women and girls are particularly impacted by discrimination due to existing gender-stereotypes 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 for policymakers, in particular at the local-level – but also for the GFMD – is how to obtain positive outcomes from that diversity.

42. 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.
43. 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 and includes social and market integration. The multicultural model allows for the existence of a plurality of “newcomer” communities interacting within an established receiving community.

### **Guiding questions:**

1. What **legal and institutional measures** are in place to ensure a **peaceful, non-discriminatory and inclusive society** in your country, in particular with reference to:
  - a. **Facilitating participation** of men and women from varied cultural backgrounds, including migrants?
  - b. **Stakeholder involvement** in increasing community participation, fostering a sense of belonging among migrants and building social cohesion in the face of growing cultural diversity?
2. How can initiatives to support cultural and social cohesion, human rights and gender equality be implemented to **promote broader appreciation of co-existence of different cultures** (e.g. through media, educational curricula and pre-departure programmes)?
3. How could **regional and international institutions and processes, including for local government involvement**, be better geared towards cooperation and collaboration on inclusive and harmonious societies?

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

44. 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 all migrants, including women and men, is not well established.
45. 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. Through the 2030 Agenda, and its target 8.8, governments have explicitly committed 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”. The roundtable also explore ways to capture data to monitor the protection of migrants’ rights and social development outcomes, disaggregated by sex, at all stages of the migration cycle (*recruitment, transit, destination, return and reintegration*).
46. Migrant women and men are affected by the major crises that mark today’s world and are exposed to heightened risks of human rights violations and vulnerabilities - whether they are forced to flee or seeking improved livelihood opportunities elsewhere. They are particularly vulnerable when they are in an irregular situation. Migrant women may also be disproportionately vulnerable to abuse based on economic, gender, ethnic and immigration status, and may face the risk of gender-based violence. Migrants and their accompanying families typically have limited access to fundamental protection, opportunities and services in receiving countries e.g. 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.
47. 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.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> The Agenda is not only concerned with the safety of migrants, it also focuses on the non-discrimination of migrants, especially women and girls, e.g. in terms of accessing health, social and legal

---

<sup>23</sup> 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).

<sup>24</sup> Para. 29, 2030 Agenda.

services. The 2030 Agenda also views extending educational opportunities to migrants and their children as critical in, so that migrant women and men 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.<sup>25</sup>

48. 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 (including migrants with specific needs, e.g. disabled, women and girls, victims of trafficking unaccompanied minors, youth etc);
- Measuring the protection of rights and opportunities: capturing disaggregated data on migrants, including by sex, at multiple stages of the migration cycle to ensure that migrants are not “left behind”.<sup>26</sup>
- The disjuncture between demand for affordable labour 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:**

1. *In what ways does your government provide **equal access to legal protections and social services to all migrants**?*
  - a) *How are **labour rights** and safe and secure working environments ensured for both female and male migrants regardless of migration status (SDG target 8.8)?*
  - b) *How are migrant families, especially children and women, provided with **health care and educational opportunities** in receiving states?*
  - c) *What are the **roles of private sector and other stakeholders**?*
2. *In what ways can states be engaged and supported to collect **disaggregated data on migrants, including by sex, and on the protection of migrants** as set out in SDG target 17.18?*
3. *What are the critical gaps in existing **regional and international institutions and processes** to support the protection and promotion of all migrants’ rights?*

---

<sup>25</sup>Para 25, 2030 Agenda.

<sup>26</sup> 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.

## Governance of migration and development

49. While there is no commonly agreed definition of governance of migration, the Commission on Global Governance established that governance is “the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and co-operative action may be taken.”<sup>27</sup> The subsequent Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance maintained that global governance is needed for interconnected issues that cannot be dealt with effectively by any one state or group of states alone.<sup>28</sup> There is an emerging consensus that migration is such an issue that individual countries cannot manage effectively without international cooperation. This was highlighted in the Declaration from the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and was further stressed in the Declaration of the 2030 Agenda, through which the global community agreed 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”.
50. This year’s roundtables on governance of migration will depart from the on-going displacement crisis and explore 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 Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards***

51. There are approximately sixty million people displaced in the world today, of which some twenty million are refugees. Many people who are not recognized as refugees, and are thus not covered by the legal regime afforded to refugees, have also been compelled to leave their place of residence in search of safety, dignity, respect for their rights, and the prospect of a secure livelihood. Such displacement can take place internally or across borders.
52. According to IOM’s *Migration Crisis Operational Framework*, ‘migration crisis’ is a term that describes the complex and often large-scale migration flows and mobility patterns caused by a crisis which typically involve significant vulnerabilities for individuals and affected communities and generate acute and longer-term migration management challenges. A migration crisis may be sudden or slow in onset, can have natural or man-made causes.<sup>29</sup> Examples include, inter alia, climate change induced

---

<sup>27</sup> Our Global Neighborhood (1995)

<sup>28</sup> Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance (2015), *Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance*,

<sup>29</sup> IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework, MC/2355, <http://www.iom.int/mcof>



disasters, massive human rights violations, generalized violence, severe destitution and food insecurity.

53. While a migration crisis includes refugees, this category of displaced people will not be the focus of this GFMD discussion, as it is a distinct category of people with a specific legal status under international law. The GFMD discussions will rather explore the protection gaps that exist for those that fall outside of the 1951 convention.<sup>30</sup>In pursuit of this, the discussion in this roundtable will be further confined to those who cross an international border.
54. Since the ‘displaced migrants’ in view are not covered by any dedicated legal regime as yet, they are neither afforded any special protection measures nor systematically counted. Nonetheless, these migrants in situations of crises are most often highly vulnerable, they are significant in numbers, and the drivers of such displacement are likely to continue over the foreseeable future and are likely to evolve in their complexities.<sup>31</sup>
55. A new paradigm is, therefore, needed for the displaced persons who are not refugees, but are fleeing an existential threat to which they have no access to a remedy or resolution in situ. This can be done through more flexible interpretation of existing human rights instruments, or by expanding their meaning. For instance, at a regional level the OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems and the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees respectively have broadened the concept of refugees enshrined in the 1951 Convention. In moving towards building on such legal efforts, development of ‘guiding principles’ can serve important as “soft-law”.
56. 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 was a consultative, state-led process that produced a protection agenda to support people displaced across borders in the context of disasters emanating from natural hazards and climate change.<sup>32</sup> MICIC is a state-led initiative aimed at improving the capacities of states and other stakeholders, such as regional institutions,

---

<sup>30</sup>Compare to the description of ‘Forced migrants’, used in the GFMD Summit in Istanbul in 2015, where it was established that the term did “not comprise a new legal category of people entitled to international protection beyond the fundamental human rights protections that are owed to all people. The term was used in a purely descriptive sense, to encompass displaced persons who are compelled by external factors to leave their homes in search of safety, dignity, respect for their rights, and the prospect of a secure livelihood.

<sup>31</sup> For example, the Sendai Framework establishes that Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, are increasing in frequency and intensity. Evidence indicates that exposure of persons and assets in all countries has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster- related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels.

<sup>32</sup>The Nansen Initiative defines ‘disaster displacements’ as situations where people are forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard. Such displacement results from the fact that affected persons are (i) exposed to (ii) a natural hazard in a situation where (iii) they are too vulnerable and lack the resilience to withstand the impacts of that hazard. It is the *effects* of natural hazards, including the adverse impacts of climate change, that may overwhelm the resilience or adaptive capacity of an affected community or society, thus leading to a disaster that potentially results in displacement. <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/>

international organizations, the private sector and civil society, to respond to migrants caught in countries in acute crisis.<sup>33</sup>

57. The Sendai Framework also establishes the importance of transboundary cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk at the global and regional levels, including displacement risk (§28 d), as well as for national action to ensure effective response to disasters and related displacement (§33 h).<sup>34</sup>
58. An outcome of the Istanbul GFMD Summit meeting (2015) 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).
59. The Ninth GFMD will build on the recommendations made at the Eighth GFMD and facilitate consensus building as its stakeholders engage with other on-going processes, in particular the Global summit on refugees and migrants<sup>35</sup>. Particular attention will be given to the Secretary-General's report as well as the preparatory inter-governmental process leading up to the summit.
60. Regardless of the cause of vulnerability, migrants in situations of crisis tend to share some common needs *inter alia*:
  - a. Ability to move safely and legally out of harm's way.
  - b. Access to appropriate assistance in transit<sup>36</sup> and on arrival, including by having their protection needs assessed at destination.
  - c. Social and economic inclusion to enable them to resume their lives, become self-reliant, and participate in their host societies.
  - d. Safe and dignified return and reintegration to their country of citizenship.
61. In order for these needs to be fulfilled, governments and other stakeholders need to cooperate on a number of issues, for example: minimising harm in countries of origin (*e.g. through humanitarian and development assistance*); provision of safe and legal pathways for seeking protection; search and rescue and provision of information and support along migratory routes and in countries of destination (*e.g. through migrant*

---

<sup>33</sup> The scope of the MICIC initiative is limited to migrants caught in countries experiencing specific types of crises such as conflicts/civil unrest and natural disasters. The initiative encompasses all migrants/non-citizens, with or without legal status, who are present in a country temporarily or permanently at the time a crisis ensues. MICIC is not set up to extend support to migrants experiencing personal crises. <https://www.iom.int/micic>

<sup>34</sup> United Nations (2015) *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

<sup>35</sup> Other relevant fora include the World Humanitarian Summit; the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF.

<sup>36</sup> Thousands of people seeking safety die trying to cross international borders each year. In 2015 alone, at least 5395 migrants perished along migratory routes across the globe. Source: <http://missingmigrants.iom.int/latest-global-figures>. While not all of those who drowned or otherwise perished were crossing borders in pursuit of protection, but the magnitude of the figure testifies to the insufficiency of legal avenues for reaching safety for those who do so.

*resource centres and consular services*); systems for having protection cases tried in a predictable manner in accordance with rule of law and international law; provision of access to e.g. education for all migrant children, regardless of their status, and access to the labour market for adults; and agreement on when and under what conditions those not deemed in need of protection may be returned to their countries of citizenship, and a commitment by such countries to duly receive and reintegrate them.

62. In view of the protection gaps that exist, this roundtable should give particular attention 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 should be given to the specific vulnerabilities of women and children.

### **Guiding questions:**

1. What **legal pathways for protection and operational measures does your country provide**, including through partnership with other countries, to people displaced by conflict, climate change and/or natural hazards?
2. To what extent is your government integrating displacement and migration-related concerns in **preventing, preparing for and responding** to conflict and climate change and/or natural hazards, e.g. in National Adaptation Plans of Action prepared under the UNFCCC?
3. What good practices can be identified in terms of **conditions for return of migrant women and men** to the countries of citizenship?
4. What **institutions and processes** can be foreseen to enable protection of categories of migrants/displaced persons (*i.e. not within the scope of the 1951 Refugee Convention*)?

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

63. The 2030 Agenda establishes that the international community will cooperate to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. This is also reiterated as a standalone target for the SDGs, with a commitment to facilitate such movements.<sup>37</sup>

64. 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, often irregularly, across borders and continents. Labour

---

<sup>37</sup> 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

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.

65. 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.
66. 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?
67. In addition to the GFMD, which has been instrumental in generating trust amongst stakeholders of international migration, the major current institutions and processes for international cooperation on migration at the global level include:
  - The **High Level Dialogues (HLD) on Migration and Development**, organized initially as *ad hoc* 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”.<sup>38</sup> One of the **recommendations of the 2006 High Level Dialogue** was the setting up of the **Global 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 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

---

<sup>38</sup> See, High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, United Nations General Assembly, 14-15 September 2006: <https://www.un.org/migration/>

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. There are advanced discussions on establishing a closer legal relationship between IOM and the United Nations, thereby enhancing the capacity of the United Nations System to provide policy and operational guidance and support on migration matters.

- **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.
- **ILO**, established in 1919 representing 186 UN Member States, is the principal international Agency addressing world of work issues, as demonstrated also in its tripartite structure comprising governments and representative employers and workers' organizations. ILO has the mandate for "the protection of the interest of workers when employed in countries other than their own" (ILO Constitution, 1919) and has established a body of international labour standards, which apply to all workers, including migrant workers and refugees, as well as mechanisms to supervise their application. These Standards include specific instruments on the protection of migrant workers and governance of labour migration (Conventions # 97 and 143). They are supplemented by an ilo Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration containing Principles and Guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration. In 2014, the ILO DG presented the Agenda on Fair Migration which was endorsed by the International Labour Conference.

68. Beyond the institutions and processes listed above, a number of additional UN entities and processes provide essential fora for cooperation on migration, including, inter alia, the General Assembly (including in particular the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Committees where migration and development and migrants rights are addressed respectively); and the Commission on Population and Development, which has the mandate to follow up on the ICPD Programme of Action including its migration-related commitments.<sup>39</sup>

69. At the regional level, consultation and information exchange dominate the landscape. Generally, these regional exchanges are done through Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), which were set up in the late 20<sup>th</sup> 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

---

<sup>39</sup> This list is non-exhaustive, as, for example, all agencies that are part of the GMG provide platforms for cooperation and services that are key for improving the outcomes of migration.

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. Importantly a number of the RECs have implemented common policies on migration matters, including regional free movement agreements.

70. 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:**

1. What are the current **limitations** of existing principles, processes and institutions of governing migration at the global and regional level?
2. What are the major issues that should be covered in a **comprehensive migration policy framework** to support the implementation of SDG target 10.7?
3. How could international/regional **principles, processes and institutions** be strengthened to facilitate:
  - a) **orderly, safe, regular and responsible mobility;**
  - b) **responsibility sharing** among states, including for protection of women and men on the move;
  - c) **regional mobility;** and
  - d) more **effective partnerships among stakeholders** (states, local authorities, regional and international organizations, private sector and civil society etc).

**Thematic Workshops**

71. 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:

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

## ***Thematic Projects***

72. The 2030 agenda sets out ambitious goals for human development. As such it has provided guidance on important action over the coming 15 years. Concerted efforts will therefore be made to facilitate action and strategic alliances on concrete challenges identified in the 2030 Agenda and beyond through encouraging willing participants in government teams to design **pilot projects or initiatives** for factoring migration within the wider implementation matrix of sustainable development during the Ninth GFMD Chairmanship. It would be up to the co-chairs of each roundtable to engage with the other structures of the GFMD, e.g. the Platform for Partnerships to extend invitations also to non-state actors (e.g. civil society organizations, private sector actors, trade unions etc) as per the specific needs of the respective pilots. Examples of concrete commitments in the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA, that could benefit from multi-stakeholder problem solving initiatives include, inter alia:

- 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 subnational 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 host 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 banks withdrawing 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, 2030 Agenda § 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?]**;

- m. Support the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries (SDG target 3c).

### ***Civil Society and Business Community***

73. 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. The GFMD Business Mechanism has been established and is being facilitated by the International Organisation of Employers, which hosts the GFMD Private Sector Coordination Unit, and the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration, with an aim to facilitate public-private dialogue on migration and development.<sup>40</sup>

---

---

<sup>40</sup> For more information, see [http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/IOE-WEF\\_GACM\\_proposal\\_on\\_the\\_GFMD\\_Private\\_Sector\\_Interaction\\_Mechanism\\_31August2015.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/IOE-WEF_GACM_proposal_on_the_GFMD_Private_Sector_Interaction_Mechanism_31August2015.pdf)