

DETAILED PANEL-WISE INTERVENTION OF BANGLADESH DELEGATION

AT THE 2ND INFORMAL THEMATIC SESSION ENTITLED ‘ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF MIGRATION, INCLUDING ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL DISASTERS AND HUMAN-MADE CRISIS, THROUGH PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY ERADICATION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION’

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PANEL – I: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

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(22ND MAY 2017, 1015 – 1300 HRS @ ECOSOC CHAMBER)

The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration (GCM) should envisage the following:

1. **Better governance for better migration:** Through GCM our efforts should be focused on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration through better governance in ways that align the interests of all those affected, building on existing legal and policy frameworks with the aim of maximizing the beneficial impact of migration and reducing the adverse factors that motivate people to move out of necessity.
2. **Revisiting Government policies:** GCM should call upon Member States for revisiting respective Government policy choices. Because Government’s policies, both in the countries of origin and destinations play a vital role in driving migration through shaping individual perceptions. At the same time, National government should oversee whether the working methods of the private sectors involved with labor recruitment in the countries of origin and their counterparts in the receiving end, acting as employers, are fulfilling required ethical standards or not.
3. **Reducing the drivers of unsafe migration:** GCM should recognize that risks of abuses are greater with irregular migration. Therefore, it is important to reduce the drivers of unsafe migration both in countries of origin and destinations through careful policy framing at national, regional and international level. GCM should address that.
4. **Ensuring migrants’ well-being in the countries of origin:** In the countries of origin, poverty, under development, food crises, natural disasters, human-made crises and conflicts can initially trigger internal displacement followed by trans-border movement at a larger scale through unsafe and unauthorized channels of migration. GCM should stress on designing national policies sensitive to these needs and challenges.
5. **Reaching out the ‘furthest first’:** National Governments under the light of SDGs have an obligation to reach the ‘furthest first’ in order to include the vulnerable groups

(who have the propensity to choose unsafe ways of migration) in the main stream of national development, harness their potentials for inclusive growth, ensure social and financial inclusion. The proposed compact should further facilitate establishment of a national social protection floor, in line with SDG 1.3.

6. **Ensuring the well-being of migrants in the destination countries:** Countries with a restrictive migration policy often attract migrants through irregular channels and place them in more vulnerable and deteriorating socio-economic situations. In these countries, migrants are often excluded from social protection systems and bear risks of greater degree of human rights violation and other abuses. Whatever the case may be the bottom line is to ensure the well-fare, particularly economic well-fare, of migrants to the extent possible. The norms and values associated with the human rights and International Humanitarian Laws need to be upheld in all the situations.
7. **Removing the barriers:** GCM needs to articulate concrete measures concerning removing all barriers for migrants to access justice and complaints mechanisms in their destination countries. Such barriers may include, among others, lack of language skills, restrictions on movement including detention, limited information about their rights, lack of legal aid and lack of legal status or identity and lack of guarantees for due process.
8. **Enhancing consular protection:** GCM should call upon Member States to expand their citizens' access to consular protection and assistance even if in transit. In this regard, states may initiate a technical assistance program, in coordination with para 10. (a) of the 1st statement of the Global Consular Forum to help States formulate their consular assistances to migrants.
9. **Capacity building of consular services:** In addition, there is also a need for enhancing collective efforts for capacity building of consular services, where individual States lack capacity; and develop a model agreement on consular assistance between migrant countries of origin and destination. Further international cooperation in border management should be carried out with full respect for human rights of migrants and facilitating voluntary return, readmission and reintegration. GCM should address these issues.
10. **Global guiding principles for migrants in vulnerable situations:** Member States need to focus on developing a global guiding principles on migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrant children as pointed out in the latest Peter Sutherland's report. In this regard, an independent expert panel may be commissioned tasked with: (a) developing a working definition of "migrants in vulnerable situations"; (b) providing an overview of the applicable international legal frameworks and non-binding instruments; and (c) identifying where protection gaps currently arise in law and in practice.
11. **Coherent policy guideline to respond to the push & pull factors:** GCM needs to come up with a coherent policy guidelines for all Member States that could respond to the push and pull factors that exist in the labor markets across the globe on assessing the actual need of labor and their skills, while bearing in mind that Governments retain the sovereign discretion, within the confines of international law, to determine which non-nationals may enter and stay on their territories.

12. **Well-governed and well-informed migration policies for better integration:** Those who are leaving their natural place of habitat, should be aware of the consequences of their decision and prepare themselves for the future challenges. Use of modern technologies and social media, awareness campaign and effective vocational and language trainings could benefit them to find a strong footstep in their country of destination. Whereas, destination countries will have a clear idea on whom they are receiving in their territories with a better understanding of their possible attributes, needs and vulnerabilities. GCM should propose steps in these directions.
13. **Setting-up institutional linkages:** GCM should establish an exclusive and workable institutional linkage between SDGs and migration as a stand-alone phenomenon, which would serve as an important catalyst for achievement of SDGs. At the country level, inter-sectoral, inter-ministerial, and inter-governmental cooperation is critical. It is essential to enhance policy coherence through dialogue and coordination among key government ministries and relevant stakeholders in sectoral policies and strategies, and include migrants themselves and diaspora associations in such conversations.
