

Statement of Bangladesh in Panel 3 (International cooperation and Governance of Migration on return, readmission, integration and reintegration) in the Third Thematic Consultation of the GCM, 20 June 2017:

Thank you Mr. Moderator and the panelists.

Return of migrants is indeed an area where further discussion among Member States is required. Bangladesh agrees that Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) of IOM is an important part of a comprehensive approach to migration management, since it safeguards the human rights of migrants and upholds international principles and standards. We underscore that the prerequisite of AVRR is a free and informed decision taken by the returning individuals. We also believe that reintegration programme for returnee migrants should be aligned with national and local development strategies and the needs of the communities to where they return. To promote voluntary return, it is also important to ensure portability of earned benefits of the migrants. In this connection, SDG Target 10.c needs to be implemented to allow migrants to send remittances to their country of origins creating an enabling environment for a better future after their return. Besides, each returnee should receive an individualized response to his or her specific needs, with the provision of a specific and tailored approach particularly required for migrants in vulnerable situations. Member States should promote evidence-based programming to help assess the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of voluntary return and reintegration assistance. To realize all these, greater international cooperation is necessary among countries of origin and destination. A global funding instrument for AVRR is necessary to respond to sudden large scale needs for AVRR, especially in transit countries.

Concerning Forced Returns, we reiterate the need for comprehensive dialogue between countries of origin and destination in order to find out a multilateral consensus on how this can be dealt with, in line with international standards, particularly the principle of non-refoulement. The best interest of the child should be upheld. Such consensus should include possible template of bilateral readmission agreements including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as well as readmission incentives. We believe that Forced Returns of migrants, as this is being done now, very often violate the fundamental rights of individual migrants, Therefore, Forced return and readmission should be avoided even if there is no risk of refoulement, and should be the last resort. The country of origin should be fully informed of any such return well in advance, including details of each returnee, reasons for deportation, timing and other relevant information. The readmission of Third Country Nationals should be totally prohibited unless fully informed consent is received from the returnee as well as the country of readmission.

Thank you.