Chair's Summary
12 December 2016

I.   Roundtable Outcomes

This year's annual GFMD Forum Meeting had three broad strands – the economics of migration, the sociology of migration and the governance of migration, captured in six roundtable sessions and a number of thematic meetings that supported the work of the roundtables.

Roundtable 1.1 Reducing Migration Costs

Migration and remittances have made a substantial contribution to poverty reduction around the world. Yet the social and economic costs of migration are high especially for low-skilled migrants.

There is a strong case for countries of origin and destination to cooperate to minimize those costs, especially in relation to worker recruitment.

Roundtable 1.2 Connectivity and Migration

Migration's dual nature as a consequence of and as a driver of global networks of exchange and communication is an emerging area of policy interest.

It is an area that deserves further exploration and experimentation to determine, for instance how technology can be used to provide essential services to migrants or to develop migration-related business enterprises.

Roundtable 2.1 Migration, Diversity and Harmonious Society

The challenge for all countries of migration today is to ensure social cohesion and harmony in the midst of ever-increasing social diversity.

Core international human rights treaties must be used as the foundation for any policy approach. Beyond that access to the labour market, and the promotion of cross-cultural dialogue are key elements as is the issue of paths to citizenship.

Roundtable 2.2 Protection of Migrants in all Situations

Migrant protection is a clearly recognized legal obligation grounded in numerous international instruments. The challenge is ensuring application of that principle through the development and implementation of rights-based policies.

Vulnerable migrants require special attention, including women at risk, children and victims of trafficking.

Roundtable 3.1 Migration in Situations of Crisis

The international community must ensure that migrants caught in such situations have

access to safety; another is to protect them from exploitation and abuse.

The Migrants in Crisis (MICIC) initiative and the Platform for Disaster Displacement provide both valuable policy options and examples of effective practice. We should encourage their dissemination and application in situations of crisis.

Together with the work of the GMG on the protection of vulnerable migrants, these efforts could inform the state-led process to develop guiding principles and guidelines on migrants in vulnerable situations, which is envisaged in the New York Declaration.

Roundtable 3.2 Principles, Institutions and Processes for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
The notion of migration governance has received a great deal of attention during our discussions.
There is growing recognition that it is only through the formulation of/and adherence to common principles, institutions and processes that the international community will be able to manage migration to the benefit of all.

It is clear that for us the road map to governance will come in the form of the Compact on Migration to which I will return shortly.

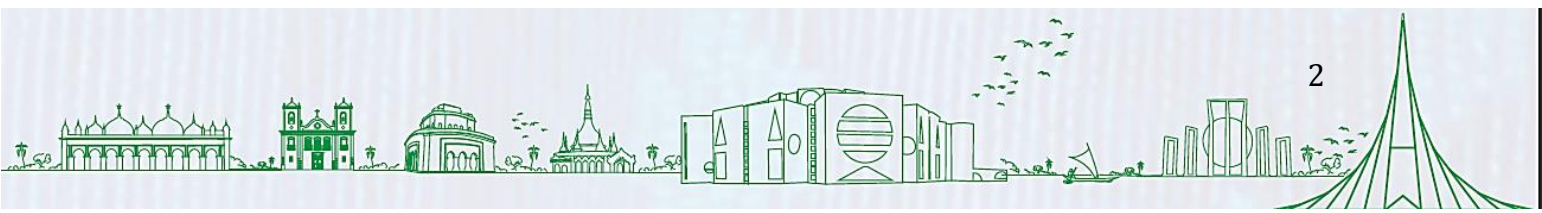## II.   The Global Compact on Migration

A common thread of all the roundtables was the improvement of the governance of migration. In fact, this has been the primary focus of the Bangladesh Chair of the GFMD.

The New York Declaration from the September Summit, the Global Compact on Migration and the 2018 intergovernmental conference are best seen one combined effort to deliver to the world that it has been missing for a long time: a comprehensive framework for the global governance of human mobility. The assignment is clearly a difficult one, but Roundtable discussions have provided with some very useful pointers. In addition, a first ever GFMD dialogue dedicated on the compact was held at the UN in New York.

While it is impossible to cover all the points raised, some broad lines of agreement are quite apparent.

A compact should aim for the following:

- Protects the rights of all migrants, regardless of migratory status;
- Opens channels for the safe and regular movement of migrant workers at all skill levels to meet labour market needs;
- Maintains the integrity of national borders, addresses irregular migration and combats migrant smuggling and trafficking;
- Provides effective protection for migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Ensures inclusion of migrants in host societies, including through non-

discrimination and access to health, education and the labour market;
- Enhances the development impacts of migration;

These policy objectives cover all the relevant dimensions of migration; the promotion of migration and development; addressing irregular migration; and responding to forced displacement and refugees.

A number of outcome options can be envisaged:
1. A legally binding convention or treaty regulating the conduct of states
2. A political declaration with guiding principles guiding the behavior by states
3. Concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and indicators of success as well as a robust monitoring framework
4. A combination of the three, possibly including a framework agreement with legally binding elements on issues ripe for this, political commitments on areas where there is a consensus of a more general nature; and commitments to concrete action with a follow-up mechanism where governments are ready to take action now.

As we prepare for the GCM, we should take care to ensure a comprehensive frame work; in fact, we should make sure that the global compact on refugees and the global compact on migration are mutually supportive and consistent.

Role of GFMD
The NYD explicitly invites the GFMD to contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations leading to the GCM and the Chair will share its summary of the main recommendations from this Forum Meeting with those conducting the negotiations.
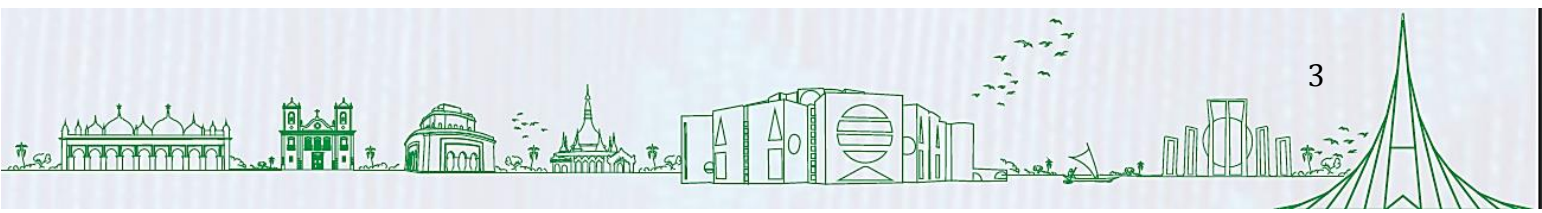
The incoming co-chairs have expressed their willingness and readiness to continue engaging with these issues.

As a member of the Troika of the GFMD, Bangladesh will play its part in ensuring that the GFMD is used as a platform for pushing the boundaries of what is possible and generating consensus around ambitious outcomes for the GCM.

III. 2030 Agenda

In response to the strong interest in the GFMD to play a strong role in the follow-up of the migration-aspects of the 2030 an ad hoc working group was formed to provide recommendations how the Forum could engage with this issue. The group identified three areas for which the GFMD could serve as a platform:
- Voluntary sharing of experiences, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the 2030 agenda;
- Building partnerships on migration related aspects of the 2030 agenda for voluntary action; and
- Keeping governments and other relevant stakeholders informed about developments on migration related aspects of the 2030 Agenda and providing

inputs to the formal follow-up and review mechanisms of the UN.

The group established that for this to be effective, the roundtables themes need to be linked more closely to the commitments in the 2030 Agenda and have a standing agenda item dedicated to the follow-up on the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, the group highlighted that this opportunity must be used to transform the GFMD into a catalyst for multi-stakeholder action to deliver on the 2030 Agenda commitments.

Finally, given the rapidly changing context, there was a recommendation for the ad hoc working group to continue exploring how the GFMD can engage with the 2030 Agenda and to expand its mandate to also look at how the forum engages with the global compact on migration.

IV.   Business Mechanism

The GFMD business mechanism put forward a "business case for migration" based on specific recommendations organized around the following 5 clusters:

1. The creation of labour migration administrative structures including "robust and flexible" provision for labour migration "to spur innovation, fill skill gaps and promote development".

2. The application and enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment laws.

3. The development of circular migration schemes coupled with effective remittance transfer mechanisms.

4. Corporate initiatives to help refugees, including through the reduction of barriers to refugee employment, integration and travel.

5. Business engagement in advocacy for "fair and open migration" policy, in countering xenophobia, and in highlighting the positive economic, social and cultural contributions of migrants.

V.   Future of the Forum

Member states met for the usual consultations about the Future of the Forum and were unanimous in their resolve to maintain the GFMD as a privileged platform for policy exchange. The Forum agreed that it should play an important role in the framing of the Global Compact on Migration.

Dhaka
December 2016