

REPORT

**First Thematic Workshop under the Ninth GFMD Chairmanship
on Migration – Connectivity – Business***29 March 2016, Bangkok***Summary Report****I. Inaugural Session**

The first GFMD 2016 thematic workshop on “Migration - Connectivity - Business” (*Bangkok, 29 March*) was attended by 87 government delegates, representing 48 Member States, 30 delegates from 13 international organisations, 5 civil society representatives and 1 business representative. Its objective was to explore the nexus between connectivity, migration and business and harness its economic, social and political potential for migrants, businesses, communities and countries while maintaining a people-centred approach.

The workshop¹ was co-chaired by Bangladesh GFMD 2016 Chair and Foreign Secretary, H. E. Md. Shahidul Haque, and Begum Shamsun Nahar, Secretary-in-Charge of Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare & Overseas Employment, Bangladesh. It was conducted in a two-part plenary session.² The first part was moderated by Amb. Haque, also featuring presentations from a number of panelists. The working session was moderated by the Governments of Ecuador and France which provided an opportunity for open discussion on the presentations and the theme, including for sharing experiences and offering policy recommendations.

Amb. Haque reflected on the thematic priorities of the GFMD 2016 Chairmanship, under the overarching theme “Migration that Works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda.” The first thematic workshop is a first-ever candid conversation within GFMD on the various aspects and issues concerning connectivity *vis-à-vis* evolving mobility and migration discourse and pathways. While discussion on manifold “connectivity” may not be new, the linkages *vis-à-vis* migration and global business increasingly merit consideration within GFMD discourse. Given wider and deeper movement of people and the range of opportunities being created, physical connectivity within and among economies is preceded by connected communities and societies in so many possible forms. This is increasingly recognized within a supply chain-centric global economic landscape with Regional Trade Arrangements (RTAs) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship thus approaches connectivity in terms of connecting ideas, knowledge, technology, culture, people, and movement of goods and services and investment. Referring to diverse

¹ The Workshop drew private sector and civil society to enable them to share their perspectives on migration - connectivity – business.

² Due to time constraints, the previously scheduled two breakout sessions on “Connectivity and mobility: the role of regional and bilateral agreements” and “Connectivity: migration, trade and investments” were dispensed with. Nonetheless, the topics and guiding questions of these sessions were considered during the open discussion.

regional experiences, Amb. Haque stressed the need to approach connectivity beyond limited “physical” (e.g. rail, road, maritime, energy, etc.) forms and to consider “people-to-people” manifestations as well – at sub-regional, regional, and or global levels. Referring to available evidence, assessments and trends, he suggested the potentially transformative effects that connectivity can lend to migration and global business and also bringing regions, economies and societies closer. He identified four drivers of connectivity: (1) multimodal transport serving as the basic form of connectivity; (2) trade, both in terms of distribution network and value chain e.g. sub-national/national/global/regional supply chains connecting economies and growth centers, (3) energy exchange (in respect of production-distribution); and (4) information and communication technologies (ICTs). He reasoned that in spite of bringing considerable positive transformation to economies and societies, “migration” is yet to be considered within the interplay of the world of business and connectivity frameworks.

Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP emphasized that sharing experiences, generating a common understanding and establishing norms and forms of cooperation between and among all stakeholders, are key to realizing the migration-related targets in international cooperation. He explained that international migration in Asia-Pacific was largely driven by economics - with considerable South-South labour migration flow within sub-regions and across regions. Businesses, he said, remain a key element in the labour migration process and also in the overall governance of migration. He lamented that while physical connectivity has been intense and increasing, labour mobility lagged behind because of restrictive policies. He argued for scope for further reforms in international migration governance i.e. in terms of facilitating the flow of both skilled and unskilled labour which are needed in many countries across Asia-Pacific region.

H. E. Virasakdi Futrakul, Thai Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, shared Thailand’s perspective on connectivity and migration in ASEAN. Connectivity by land - sea - air transportation infrastructure has physically linked people and goods together while software connectivity has facilitated the movement of trade, investment and people across borders. As people-to-people connectivity is an integral part of the whole ASEAN connectivity, migration remains integral to ASEAN regional development as ASEAN strives to establish a resilient, inclusive and people-oriented region, where people are at the center of development³ including migrants. He said, for Thailand, migrant workers’ contributions are vital to national economic and sustainable development; and hence, efforts are being made to promote migrants’ (and their dependents’) access to social protection, healthcare and education. Realizing migrant’s development potential in a sustainable manner can only be achieved through better migration management, inclusive dialogue and partnerships.

Mr. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General (Community & Corporate), ASEAN Secretariat explained connectivity as a very important component of the ASEAN Community, with three elements: physical connectivity, institutional connectivity and people-to-people connectivity. As the seventh largest economy and having the third largest population in the world, ASEAN adopts a holistic approach in promoting regional integration around three pillars: political-security, economic and socio-cultural. While migration has been a feature of the region for decades, regional integration and connectivity have resulted in increased migration, with one-third intra-regional migrants who are mostly concentrated in

³ ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025: <http://www.asean.org/storage/images/2015/November/aec-page/AEC-Blueprint-2025-FINAL.pdf>

low and medium skills and informal sectors. He said, ASEAN acknowledges the contributions of migrant workers to both sending and receiving countries and it advocates the recognition of migrant workers not only as agents of development, but as bearers of rights. He apprised that the ASEAN instrument on the protection of migrant workers will be presented at the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting (May 2016).

In the keynote presentation, **Dr. Khandker Golam Moazzem**, Addl. Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh explained the challenges in integrating migration in business and connectivity. He underlined that countries are on an unequal footing in the global production networks or value chains, which tend to contribute more to high and middle income countries than the low income countries. This affects the flow of migrants who may be needed to fill the jobs emerging out of the value chains. At the same time, people are also moving outside regional production networks. Migrants are actually engaged in diverse activities which are partially linked with the global value chains, partly linked with the non-tradable, and partly linked with the non RTA-centric economic activities. Furthermore, traditionally and technically, the existing regulatory structures view migration from a "trade in service" point of view or, Mode IV of GATS. "Migration" as such is most often not highlighted in the bilateral trade agreements; rather tend to cover only the movement of certain specific professional skill categories and/or temporary movement of people. Therefore, there is an increasing recognition for new models going beyond Mode IV. The experience of ECOWAS and OECD could be noteworthy in this regard.

On behalf of the **Global Migration Group (GMG)**⁴, **Ms. Lakshmi Puri**, Assistant Secretary General & Deputy Executive Director, UN Women, emphasized that in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Agenda provides an overall normative, aspirational framework for policy-making at all levels on migration and development; where migration is "indivisible" from other aspects of sustainable development; where it follows an "integrated approach" entailing "government and all of society" and mainstreams migration into key sectors and areas; where "innovation" is sought to reducing both the economic and social costs of migration and enhancing connectivity for trade and investment; where "investment" is at the nexus of migration and development; where migration lends considerable "impact" on sustainable development and its different objectives and goals. She stressed that in order to ensure that migration has a positive impact, human rights of both women and men as migrants must be respected, protected and fulfilled at every stage of the migration cycle. She recommended three policy directions for labour migration, connectivity and business: expanding remote work opportunities (i.e. as much via Mode IV as Mode III), safe and legal pathways for migration, reducing transaction costs of remittances and benefits for those left behind. She also referred to the outcome of the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (NY, 24 March 2016) which affirmed the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Farooq Ahmed, Representative of the International Organization for Employers (IOE), representing the voice of global business in migration, lauded the governments for the endorsement of the GFMD Business mechanism. He said that as the latest entrant in the global discourse on mobility and migration, the global employers' community considers an eventual need for a global relocation of resources and labour market adjustments - both at national and global levels. He referred to the emergence of global and regional production networks and value chains which are spurring migration

⁴ Global Migration Group (GMG) is currently chaired by UN Women. Details at:

<http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/>

more, facilitated by progressive liberalization of trade, expansion of maritime transports and diffusion of ICTs. Yet, in the contemporary world where capital and technology are so mobile, IOE asks for adjustment in the prevailing complexities in labor mobility. IOE thus asked the global community to look at the factors that constrain in reaping the full potential of connectivity and also how the bottlenecks along the path of integrative movements of goods and services and workforce across the world could be unpacked. For IOE, transparency in recruitment of migrant workers, adequate regulatory frameworks at local levels and adherence to international instruments are crucial.

Mr. William Gois, speaking on behalf of civil society, appreciated adoption of the ASEAN Declaration to protect the rights of migrant workers in 2007; and called for full implementation of the ASEAN instrument. He underlined that labor migration is a symptom of the inequalities brought about by the neo-liberal paradigm that promotes free trade and commodification, while connectivity and business promote free trade at the expense of local populations, forcing people to find a livelihood and survival outside and away from their community and country in which they were born. He said that in trade and economic connectivity, it has largely been Trans-National Corporations (TNCs) and large businesses that have benefited most while little has been transformed in the lives of people. To the contrary, he pointed to increasing fortification of borders and crackdown on migrants and their communities e.g. many migrants being held in detention, including women and children. He also pointed to people's movement along risky pathways and in precarious situations, in the informal sector and care economy. He maintained that connectivity would only bring transformative impacts when people are placed at its center, and drive it from a space that enriches their dignity in an inclusive manner.

II. *Plenary Session*

During the open discussion, at least 25 interventions from member states, international organizations and civil society participants were recorded. The following is an overview of their key messages:

a) *Nexus between Migration, Connectivity and Business*

Today, connectivity is transforming the migrants i.e. by allowing them to move more freely. As a country develops, it opens up and gets more connected to the world; and, this, in turn, facilitates more migration. Worldwide connectivity provides better instruments or tools for making fund-transfers (e.g. by telephone) and participating in crowd-funding or, participatory investments through virtual platforms.

Connectivity enables households to develop networks of inter- and intra-household connections in the context of complex trans-local livelihoods. Connections created by migrants become vehicles for the transfer of both economic and social remittances as well as knowledge, technology and skills through person-to-person exchanges as well as business-to-business transactions.

From an economics perspective, mobility is a human response to increasing economic interconnectedness worldwide exemplified by trade, investment, transnational companies and ICT networks and flows. The global economy consequently requires a mobile workforce, flexible human capital and international networks for productivity and growth. Individuals, on the other hand, are drawn by economic opportunities abroad to improve their livelihoods. The connectivity-mobility nexus can yield positive development outcomes at individual business and macro-economic levels if

corresponding national policies and international frameworks are effectively in place to enable human mobility alongside economic flows.

From a social perspective, the mobility-connectivity nexus is exemplified by migrant workers and diaspora communities which are the embodiment of connectivity due to their mobile livelihood and transnational identities. In order to unfold their multiple potential for connectivity through financial transfers, skills, entrepreneurship, cultural ties and social networks, enabling framework conditions for cohesive relations among migrant, host and sending communities need to be in place. As such, integration or rather social inclusion of migrants is an essential condition without which the development benefits of migration cannot be effectively tapped.

It is important to link connectivity in respect of social, cultural, economic and political dimensions for migrants, particularly in the contemporary context where discourse across many countries and contexts is increasingly under stress. A positive narrative on migration – drawing on the 2030 Agenda - urgently needs to be developed to illustrate the contributions of migrants to the development of origin and host countries.

b) Connectivity fostered by ICT Revolution

The growth and application of ICTs impacts human mobility in so many ways. Today, migrants do not move under the same circumstances as before. Through the use of communication technologies e.g. mobile phones, migrants are able to have a better understanding of the world before they embark on their journeys, including how to use legal avenues for migrating. Innovation in ICTs has the potential to substantially reduce transaction costs. ICTs can also help create new opportunities for governments to connect with their diaspora.

A number of national examples were cited e.g. programmes where migrants' investments are matched by governments to support social projects in the countries of origin. This helps to generate new enterprises, which in turn lead to job creation. Also, for instance: organization of fairs and events – in which governments connect electronically with their diaspora to share ideas on investment.

On the downside, ICT-fostered connectivity enables smugglers and traffickers to lure their targets. Also, the unlimited access to cultural content from one's country of origin slows down the integration process.

Over the past three decades, IT has demonstrated its potential as a catalyst /tool for positive change in societies; and it should therefore also be a part of the solution to further strengthen ties between peoples, provide protection for migrants and secure peace and stability.

c) Migration, Trade and Investment

In a globalized world, increasing human and movement of peoples across borders is characterized by reasons other than economic security, and the ever greater socio-economic and political interactions across diverse sectors and regions.

Regional partnerships/ integration e.g. through Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) are a key manifestation of economic connectivity. States acknowledge the benefits of establishing regional partnerships e.g. economic corridors to strengthen the links with neighboring countries.

Physical and economic connectivity projects/initiatives are underway at a much faster pace and intensity worldwide. For instance, free movement mechanisms for road transporters in Europe have facilitated fluidity of movement and connectivity between main urban centers through bus networks.

Within WTO process, Mode III was deemed rather slow compared to other service-related structures. Even in Mode IV schemes, only skilled workers and professionals are allowed to move. A recommendation was made to look into possible ways to optimize both modes of services supply for enhancing labour migration, connectivity and business.

d) Governance Frameworks at National, Bilateral, Sub-Regional /Regional Levels

States have the primary responsibility to establish an enabling environment for safe migration and decent work for migrant workers, including adequate and enforced regulation of migrant worker contracts to ensure safety and decent work terms and conditions. Mutual recognition of skills and academic and professional degrees, qualifications, etc. also remain important.

Migration policies should be articulated as people-centered and should factor in aspects concerning promotion of migrants' human rights, commitment to fight against trafficking of human beings and migrant smuggling, especially of women and children.

Governments' approach towards migration should be comprehensive and integrated; and should be based inter alia on the principles of shared responsibility between origin and destination countries.

Multilateral frameworks on migration need to be enhanced. Specific areas of policy interventions were suggested e.g. portability of benefits, open and transparent dialogue to reduce xenophobia, recognition of diversity and pluralism, integration of migrant workers in global value chains, study on investment patterns of temporary migrants, etc.

Policy coherence in migration and development is also required under a whole-of-government approach and also coordinated action between origin and destination countries. In the global supply chain, migrant workers remain at the bottom, which makes them vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation. Sound policies in protection of the rights of vulnerable migrant workers as well as regional and international cooperation will enhance the development impact of labour migration as well as reduce irregular flows.

Public-private partnerships, inter alia with the involvement of civil society, trade unions, employers and the UN system, would be crucial in global migration. The private sector is a crucial determinant in the labour migration process.

The bilateral /regional trade agreements should consider inclusion of a chapter on mobility. The social clauses that exist in some bilateral /regional trade agreements need to be assessed, monitored and (periodically) reviewed.

e) National Policies

Participating States shared their experiences and policies aimed at strengthening the nexus between connectivity, migration and business. Some of those policies revolve around trade agreements with neighboring countries e.g. establishing special economic zones, visa-free regimes, policies of free

circulation of people under bilateral and multilateral partnerships to facilitate investment and circulation of goods between states.

Ensuring promotion and protection of human and labour rights of migrant workers was emphasized. In that context, a number of initiatives were cited e.g. national registration systems (that grant migrants access to services like healthcare and education), humanitarian visa systems, multi-level integration programs (that offer information), counselling, protection from discrimination, employment services, language teaching, intercultural training and interpretation services.

A number of countries focus on establishing networks with their emigrant communities abroad, exploring new investment mechanisms. There are instances where governments make use of ICT to engage with their diaspora and discuss investment opportunities at home. In this regard, 'virtual' fairs have proven to be an important tool for fostering participation from migrant communities abroad in economic development of the origin countries. Destination countries also, for instance, are making efforts in creating platforms to enable countries of origin to engage with their diaspora.

At the national level, countries of destination showcased integration policies that grant services to migrants in all situations, providing health care, education and cultural integration services. Other policies reflect the rights-based approach to migration e.g. provision of humanitarian visas for people fleeing conflict and disasters.

Public-private partnerships are also being implemented to facilitate land transportation mechanisms for trade purposes. Other physical connectivity examples include: projects in railroad, border crossing, waterways and coastal shipping.

III. Conclusion

The closing session was chaired by **Begum Samsun Nahar, Secretary-in-Charge**, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment - Bangladesh, in the presence of **Amb. Norachit Sinhaseni**, Member and Spokesperson of the Thai Constitution Drafting Committee, House of Representatives. The latter stressed that soft or institutional infrastructure must not lag behind physical infrastructure. Examples of what needs to be done are: mutual recognition agreements, regional transport arrangements and similar cross-border procedures. Without such necessary software, the physical infrastructure that countries have invested in so heavily is unlikely to be fully utilized or realized to their full potential.

The session concluded that business and migration connectivity will only be a reality if it is supported by policy harmonization and a balance between the rights of migrant workers and economic gains of trade and business.

As global businesses continue to recognize and thrive on the value of sourcing people from diverse backgrounds, capabilities and skills, a new business model with an effective framework on the triple link of "migration-business-connectivity" is needed to achieve sustainable development. Integrating migrants' rights into this triple link, however, is still the subject of further discussion.

REPORT

**Second Thematic Workshop under the Ninth GFMD Chairmanship
on Migration for Harmonious Societies***18 May 2016, Geneva***Summary Report*****Inaugural Plenary***

Ambassador Shameen Ahsan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN, Geneva, opened the second Thematic Workshop⁵ on “Migration for Harmonious Societies”, in the presence of Ninth GFMD Chair and Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, H E Md. Shahidul Haque, and Begum (Ms.) Shamsun Nahar, Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare & Overseas Employment - Bangladesh.

The workshop was co-convened by Zambia, represented by **Ambassador Encyla Tina Chishiba Sinjela** and Australia, represented by **Ms. Romany Nanayakkara**, with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), led by its **Director-General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing**. Two keynote presentations were made by **Ms. Jyoti Sanghera**, Chief of the Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section, OHCHR and **Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski**, Migration Policy Specialist, MIGRANT, ILO, followed by a discussant, **Mr. Ignacio Packer**, Secretary General, Terre des Hommes International.

The day-long workshop was conducted in a two-part plenary, with two breakout sessions in-between: on “creation of common values and norms within the rubric of cultural specificities”; and, on “creating harmony in the midst of diversity”.

In his introductory remarks, **Ambassador Ahsan** explained that the objective of the workshop was to explore ways forward to foster a response to the challenge of achieving harmony amid diversity. He urged participants to reflect on what makes a society hold together and provide it with a strong sense of common identity and purpose, and the circumstances that allow a society to be diverse and cohesive at the same time. The workshop reflects the people-centric approach of the Ninth GFMD, which is embodied in the Round-table theme i.e. “Sociology of Migration and Development,” and in particular under RT 2.1 i.e. “Migration, Diversity and Harmonious Societies.” It presents an opportunity for member states to promote a dialogue in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that “*no one will be left behind*”.

Ambassador Sinjela highlighted the reality of a contemporary world of diversity, marked by continuous movements of people - who bring along different cultures, beliefs and perspectives. She stressed that the key to upholding diversity rests in appropriate management of migration, in order to ensure integration and well-being of migrant population, harmonious co-existence between local and migrant communities, mutual learning and development. She argued that policies should move away from the traditional perspective and approach of making people look alike.

⁵ The second GFMD 2016 Thematic Workshop was attended by 101 government delegates, representing 66 member states, 39 delegates from 17 international organizations and 10 civil society representatives.

Ms. Nanayakkara shared Australia's perspective and success in multi-culturalism - a concept that is largely supported and shared by its general population. She cited the Australian 'Racial Discrimination Act, 1975' as a foundation of its multicultural approach on countering racial prejudices and discrimination and commitment to diversity. In addition to the legislative framework, she highlighted local and national initiatives on advocacy, research and education which promote social and racial inclusion. Notwithstanding its achievements, she underlined that, Australia is mindful of the long-term trends of international mobility.

Ambassador Swing emphasized that the 'mega trend' of migration, fostered by a combination of demographic needs and disaster challenges (both natural and man-made), will continue to drive people to move across borders. He underlined the demographic deficit and the increasing demand for workers in the Global North i.e. EU alone will lack 14 million workers by 2020, as opposed to a population explosion in the Global South. At the same time, he highlighted the "arc of human suffering" resulting from recent tragic crises that have uprooted communities. Nonetheless, he pointed to the opportunities and economic progress that diversity could bring. But in order to capitalize on diversity, he said the debate has to move away from its current harmful narrative to a more historically accurate one that demonstrates the positive aspects of migration. He articulated the importance of integration that provides a range of services for migrants e.g. language training, education, and health services.

Secretary (Bangladesh) Shamsun Nahar re-emphasized the positive impact of diversity within society in the fields of development and knowledge sharing. She said the benefits that migrants bring are too often minimized and underestimated. It is in this context that GFMD should address such issues and share experience on initiatives supporting inclusive, harmonious and cohesive societies .

Keynote Presentations

Ms. Sanghera underlined the human rights perspective, with three key elements: *first*, all migrants should benefit from the same rights as nationals, regardless of their legal status; *second*, relying on facts (and not on myths), and criticality of ensuring comprehensive, evidence-based and migrant-centered policy-making; *third*, urgent need for political courage and strong leadership to move away from the current emotional debate around migrants and migration, and to construct new perspectives based on respect, compassion and empathy.

Mr. Cholewinski articulated the perspective of the labour market on the broader issues of diversity and harmonious society. He recalled the existing instruments and legal framework linked to the protection of migrant workers which are embedded in the core values of diversity, equality and non-discrimination. He highlighted the mutual benefits that could be gained for both employers and workers from having harmonious workplaces and adequate labour protection, and avoiding resentment and a "race to the bottom". Within the 'World of Work', he said, there are a number of positive practices of collaboration between employers and workers e.g. recent Statement of the European Economic and Social Partners on the Refugee Crisis - that views migration as an opportunity in a European context marked by increasing skills shortages. He underlined the continuing integration challenges for migrants in the labour market, and pointed to the specific ways to accelerate this integration process e.g. through vocational and language training. He also cited two advocacy initiatives aiming at changing public attitudes and perceptions towards migrant workers.

Open discussions

As a discussant, representing civil society, **Mr. Packer** asked if the languages used on the topic of migration are “words of harm or harmony.” He denounced the misleading language, images and metaphors (e.g. *the image of refugees and migrants as water, as in “waves of refugees” or “flow of migrants”*) that populate public discourse /sphere. He asserted that such expressions carry a racist and xenophobic baggage, tend to dehumanize migrants and create a sense of fear among the public, thus fostering an environment favorable for restrictive immigration policies. He welcomed the initiation of the UN’s global campaign to counter xenophobia; and referred to similar initiatives aimed at countering the political rhetoric that stigmatizes refugees and migrants. He called for migration discourses to be steered in a more humanized manner; and urged all to be more self-critical and aware of own use of language and metaphors.

During the open discussion, delegates expressed strong support for the topic of the thematic workshop. One stressed the importance of full integration of migrants in societies with a view to protecting their human rights and enabling them to contribute to the development of their host countries. It was further stressed that migration can contribute to nurturing harmonious societies by compensating adverse demographic trends and by stimulating the economy. However, in order to have a positive impact, migration should not be approached as a ‘necessity’ and rather to politically settle conflicts to limit forced migration.

Closing Plenary

Following the break-out sessions, participants reconvened in plenary for the closing session. The respective rapporteurs of the two breakout sessions presented their reports. This was followed by closing remarks from the co-conveners and conclusion of the GFMD 2016 Chair.

Break-out sessions

Mr. Samson Lungo (Zambia), rapporteur of breakout session 1 on “Creation of common values and norms within the rubric of cultural specificities⁶”, recounted the discussion on the different means to create common values and norms between migrants and host societies and the relevant policies and practices that were shared. When asked what legal and institutional measures are in place to ensure a peaceful and inclusive society, participants referred to the existing human rights framework as a common point of departure. A number of good practices were mentioned e.g. bilateral agreements, mainstreaming of diaspora and migrants into national development plans, creation of a specific institutional framework in charge of human mobility and establishment of a legal system that prevents discrimination on the one hand and facilitates inclusion through work on the other hand.

Appropriate policy interventions were suggested to facilitate participation of men and women in society from varied cultural backgrounds. Efforts to create a safe and secure environment for workers, to ensure labour market access and protection, especially for the most vulnerable (e.g. domestic workers and women migrants) and granting equal rights to migrant and local workers were underlined as vital for having an inclusive society. Building links between migrant workers and employers as well as with other workers in the community was considered an important measure to this end. Integration

⁶ The first break-out session was moderated by Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski, ILO.

programmes that provide free access to education services and language training were cited as another good example.

Multi-stakeholder involvement remains crucial for increasing community participation in fostering a sense of belonging among migrants and building social cohesion amidst growing cultural diversity. Educational institutions, employers and businesses, diaspora, civil society organizations that provide direct assistance to migrants and refugees, media and politicians play a role in communicating and creating common values that help to promote synergies between cultures.

Ms. Imen Zahouani Houimel (Tunisia), rapporteur of breakout session 2 on “Creating Harmony in the midst of diversity”⁷, reported a shared consensus among the participants on the necessary aspects of diversity for the evolution of humanity. Migration was recognized as an inevitable reality that needs to be managed by governments and other concerned stakeholders.

The first part of the session delved into the social challenges arising by way of diversity and aimed to understand the reasons and factors that undermine the acceptance of diversity. A general concern was shared with regard to negative views about migration in the public sphere, as well as the climate of fear that is often stirred by ignorance. Poor (if not ‘absent’) communication, lack of mobility, media influence, school curricula with negative connotations of diversity, and belief in the superiority of one’s culture were cited as some of the reasons why people are hesitant to embrace diversity.

During the second part, member states shared their own experiences and practices⁸ in encouraging people to embrace diversity and promoting harmonious and diverse societies. Education programmes, inter-cultural dialogue and language training were commonly considered as crucial for migrants’ integration and observance of their own culture, and for living together with the local community. Concrete initiatives that provide migrants with a regular status and access to basic services (e.g. education, health and affordable housing), decent work and rich cultural life are likewise effective in promoting their inclusion in the host society. The role of diaspora was also highlighted in this regard.

Some recommendations were made on ways to counter the negative narrative on migration and diversity. Creating links and working with journalists on the use of more positive language about migrants and migration was deemed important. In addition, avoiding a ‘politicization’ and ‘securitization’ approach to migration and mobility – a phenomenon that has taken hold lately – was also cited as vital for the promotion of harmonious and diverse societies.

It was also stressed that integration happens mostly at the local level and that local authorities and city administrations play a key role in enhancing social cohesion. In this regard, a suggestion was made for the GFMD to participate in the preparation of the upcoming HABITAT III. In the same vein, the GFMD was urged to draw inputs and contribute to relevant processes that celebrate diversity and promote the protection of migrants’ rights and their full integration in host societies.

Closing remarks from the co-conveners

⁷ The second break-out session was moderated by Mr. Appave, Special Policy Adviser to Director General, IOM.

⁸ See *Annex 1*.

Ms. Nanayakkara suggested other issues for future consideration and discussion. She first pointed to the challenges related to diversity and social cohesion in regional areas, especially with double citizenship. She also mentioned that circular migration – which is characterized by continuous movement of people between countries of departure and destination -- should be taken into consideration when looking at the concept of creating harmonious societies.

Ambassador Sinjela invited the participants to look at the national experiences and best practices presented during the discussions.

Concluding remarks by GFMD Chair

In conclusion, **Amb. Haque** reiterated the objective of the Ninth GFMD Chairmanship to anchor the discussion of mobility and harmonious societies within the larger framework of the 2030 Agenda. He underlined that diverse societies are entrepreneurial, productive and innovative. And, a key to building a cohesive and harmonious society in the midst of diversity is successful integration that allows people with different identities and cultures to coexist peacefully. He pointed out that the difficulty and reluctance in accepting and embracing ‘diversity’ and ‘otherness’ result from the over-rapid transformation of societies. In order to facilitate acceptance and transition from homogeneous to heterogeneous societies, mutual respect and mutual trust are crucial. He concluded by listing five elements for enabling harmonious society: political, economic and cultural inclusiveness; acknowledgement of the reality that we live in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious world; an open dialogue on security and religion; and recognition of the existence of multiple identities and democratic values.

Report of
Third Thematic Workshop under Ninth GFMD Chairmanship
on Migration for Peace, Stability and Growth

19 July 2016, New York

Summary Report

Inaugural Plenary

The third thematic workshop under the Ninth GFMD Chairmanship (Bangladesh) 2016 on “Migration for Peace, Stability and Growth” was held at the UN Headquarters, New York on 19 July 2016. 140 representatives, from 60 Member States and 17 international and civil society organizations, participated in the Workshop.

The thematic workshop also came against the backdrop of the UN Secretary General convening the High-level Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (*New York, 19 September 2016*). As contemporary debates on migration and mobility within and across societies bring new dimensions and challenges, UN member states, international organizations and global civil society are holding discussions on having a “global compact” on safe, regular, orderly and responsible migration - as a key outcome of the Summit – with a view to accomplishing the sustainable development goal (i.e. SDG Target 10.7).

In the opening remarks, Ninth GFMD Chair-in-Office, Amb. Shahidul Haque, highlighted that the 2030 Agenda recognized international migration as a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of the countries of origin, transit and destination. Migration requires a coherent and comprehensive response. He underlined that, against that backdrop, it was an opportune time for the international community to engage in result-oriented cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular and responsible migration as well as to address the “darker sides” of migration. He further underlined that while attempts to 'politicize' and 'securitize' migration have always been there, the most contemporary context demands a more robust, coordinated and comprehensive response from all relevant stakeholders at sub-regional, national, regional and global levels.

It was recalled that Bangladesh – as the GFMD 2016 Chair – recognized that the causal linkages between migration *vis-à-vis* attainment of peace, securing wider stability and attaining of growth across economies and societies had not received due attention. This was felt even further in the context of complex debate on the SDG 16 i.e. the goal related to governance, rule of law, peace and stability. The complex and diverse flows and patterns of migration were impacted *inter alia* by four factors in the recent times: (a) rise of terrorism and violent extremism, leading to forced displacement, (b) rise of strong nationalistic and identity-based politics, (c) recent debate on pluralistic, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural societal fabric across countries at different levels of development, and (d) declining impacts of globalization, leading to slow economic and job-rich employment growth.

The Chair urged the Workshop to explore, *inter alia*, the inter-linkages between migration, peace, stability and growth; to unpack the nature of conflicts i.e. human-made or, natural and their cause and

effect *vis-à-vis* migration and mobility; and to examine existing migration governance mechanisms. He elaborated that the current principles, tools, instruments and framework(s) – most of which were created in the wake of the Second World War (WW II) – were increasingly proving inadequate to deal with the present-day volatile and fluid migration. He reasoned that in order for migration to truly work and contribute to peace, stability and growth, a different approach to migration governance would be required.

The inaugural plenary also featured a few high-level presentations - as annexed hereto - that brought to the fore a number of key themes and viewpoints, as summarized below:

Linkages between migration and peace, stability and growth

Migration and human mobility lend a positive impact on development and are recognized as a driver of economic prosperity and social progress in both origin and destination countries. Beyond financial remittances, migrants create knowledge and trade networks, foster exchange of know-hows and bring home much-needed skills, knowledge, diverse experience and connections as well as enhanced financial and other forms of cultural literacy. Migrants also fill skills and labour gaps at all levels, bringing innovation and entrepreneurship to their host societies.

The 2030 Agenda suggested fostering positive effects of migration on development. In order for the global community to achieve the SDGs, especially aiming 'to leave no one behind', including all migrants, among others, through lowering remittance transfer costs, improving migrants' working conditions and comprehensively facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Harnessing the overall development impacts of migration can effectively deliver on realizing the SDGs.

Migration is a visible face of globalization, not merely a challenge. It is crucial to foster a balanced debate on migration - so as to prevent migration from being used as a “convenient surrogate” against the backdrop of prevailing political, social and economic issues that a given society may face in the context of dynamics of globalization. The discourse also needs to be shifted from looking at just the 'negative aspects of migration' to looking at 'how to bring stability and growth for the migrants and their host societies'.

Need for comprehensive global migration governance

The global migration crisis shows no sign of abating. 2016 should be seized as a year of opportunity for the international system to finally address the gaps, limitations and consequently design and adopt meaningful measures toward better governance of international migration.

While there are trans-national frameworks to deal with environment, trade and finance, there exists no comprehensive approach for international migration governance.

Bringing IOM into the UN system is a crucial first step to this end. It is important to give IOM the required leading role for it to effectively and comprehensively improve addressing the migration-related issues and questions globally.

In order for the international community to ensure that migration contributes to global peace, security and growth, a comprehensive framework has to be developed addressing all aspects of migration, including the areas identified as problematic e.g. irregular movement, violations of rights and matters

relating to security. Above all, the cooperative framework for international migration governance must work with, rather than against, the realities of globalization.

19 September UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

The UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants (19 September 2016) provides an important opportunity to advance the implementation of the SDG Target on safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration. It is fitting that the UN Secretary-General's Report (in preparation for the Summit) calls for undertaking a State-led process to elaborate a comprehensive international cooperation framework on migrants and human mobility in the form of a Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration; and to hold an inter-governmental Conference on international migration in 2018 to adopt the consensus Global Compact.

Aspirational elements for a Global Compact on safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration

The Global Compact must promote migration and development by facilitating mobility of migrants, ensuring their inclusion in destination countries and allowing them to keep what they earn.

It would need to address irregular migration by enhancing the orderliness of migration and combatting smuggling and trafficking of human beings. This also means ensuring the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and full protection of the human rights of migrants as well as their right to return to their countries of origin.

It should address the displacement and the crisis dimensions of migration, including mixed migration flows.

It needs to manage the long-term drivers and impacts of migration while responding to short-term crises.

It must manage new flows of migrants in combination with the integration of former migrants;

During the presentations and deliberations of the high-level speakers and discussants, inter alia, the following key views /observations came up:

GFMD has a responsibility to set the positive tone and human-rights-centered discourse on promoting safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration. The ninth GFMD Summit (*Dhaka, December 2016*) is expected to make a valuable contribution in that direction - not just to the thematic review of the SDGs, but also through contributing inputs to the process of the Inter-governmental Conference on International Migration (2018).

The international community ought to ensure that the 19 September Summit and the "Global Compact" it would endorse, do not become an exercise merely re-stating or, re-negotiating the hard-won progress made to date. Instead, the process must be geared towards making further advancement on operationalizing existing obligations and establishing the institutional setting and frameworks for making migration a positive phenomenon.

A collective response to development of a comprehensive approach to migration governance is both a humanitarian and an economic imperative. In order for the international community to address migration purposefully and coherently, three key policy clusters would need to be put in place: (a) creation of a comprehensive set of safe and regular options for people to move from one country to

another, (b) effective management of borders and actions towards prevention and prosecution of smuggling and trafficking, and (c) development of a policy toolkit to respond to mobility arising of crises and emergencies (natural or, man-made).

The UN has to be the place to work towards articulating a more positive vision i.e. to apprise how member states can cooperate in effective governance of migration and harness benefits that reach individual migrants, their families and to the countries of origin and destination. Up until the present, GFMD has fostered many of these discussions and built necessary trust among the States for undermining multiple sensitivities regarding the governance of Migration.

Following the launch of the European Agenda on Migration (2015), the European Union (EU) stepped up its ambitions and efforts by convening the Valletta Summit on Migration (2015) and by launching the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa with the objective of addressing both the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration as well as improving the overall governance of migration and refugee flows in the African partner countries.

The external dimension of citizenship laws and the political integration of migrants also need to be accounted. While civil and social rights are largely attached to residence, the political rights and mobility rights tend to be connected to citizenship status. The lack of political participation for immigrants i.e. lack of access to citizenship, lack of political liberties and lack of access to indirect representation (NGOs, Unions, Consultative bodies) create 'a democratic deficit' that must be addressed.

Securing further effective governance of international migration is a challenging task. International migration is often viewed as “a disrupter”, in ways similar to other great disrupters e.g. technological change or, changing gender roles. These disruptions on a global scale bring significant transformative benefits for all, yet they also create winners and losers. Nonetheless, there are enough common goals on which all states and other stakeholders can agree to build up a sizable agenda of cooperation on international migration governance e.g. need for more knowledge and better understanding of migration, recognition of the imperative for fewer deaths of migrants at sea or in deserts, and at the hands of ruthless smugglers; aspiration to reduce the influence of criminal networks; importance of minimizing the tensions between migrants and host communities, and of securing greater safety and dignity for migrants; pursuit of greater national security, and greater capacity for states to implement the policies that they adopted.

Over the years, discussions in GFMD influenced the global debate on migration and development and improved national and regional policy making. But the time has come for the next steps to improve global cooperation and coordination on human mobility based on principles and values. GFMD should continue to serve as the platform for dialogue - not only for implementation of the SDGs, but also in the process of developing a global compact on migration.

It is imperative to focus on creating a balanced narrative on migration and improving the perceptions of the general population on migration issues and migrant communities. The media's approach or overall outreach in the wider public domain vis-à-vis migration-related issues needs to be looked at. Conventional and emerging sets of actors e.g. journalists, advocates, policy-makers and the general public ought to be reached with a more complete and nuanced understanding of the current critical issues concerning migration and mobility. In doing so, broader platforms for deeper and more accurate public debate need to be facilitated and fostered. In 2015, UN Alliance for Civilizations (UNAOC)

launched “#SpreadNoHate initiative” with a view to exploring the reasons why 'hate speech' remains a pervasive element that contributes to violent extremism, particularly focused on migrant communities.

Interactive Open Discussions

During the interactive discussions at the plenary, sixteen Member States and three organizations shared their respective perspectives. They all underlined deeper inter-linkages between peace, stability and growth on the one hand and migration and mobility, on the other. One delegate eloquently explained, “Without peace it would be difficult to ensure the mobility of individuals and the movements of populations. The migration phenomenon cannot prosper if there are internal crises or international conflicts. Without stability and security of States, it would be difficult, almost impossible, to control movements and migrant flows. Without growth, the international community will always be confronted with challenges. To ensure a dynamic migration that is beneficial for all, we have to make sure that there is peace in all places across the globe.”

Linkages between migration and peace, stability and growth

The Workshop stressed strengthening prevailing international refugee protection regime and also the importance of improving migration governance. The participants recognized the common principles and the rights that apply to both refugees and migrants; and supported the elements that are included in (the current draft of) the outcome document of the 19th September Summit, including the protection en route, reception conditions, countering xenophobia and promoting policies of inclusion. They reiterated that all discussions and actions geared towards establishing a migration governance framework must be centered on the human rights of migrants.

A common concern was about the 'negative' and 'toxic' narratives about migrants and migration which impede building a harmonious society, especially in the destination countries. Participants underlined the imperative to address this problem, including by improving public perceptions of migrants and migration working with the conventional and new media and enhancing the educational and immigration systems.

The contribution of migrants to development of origin, transit and destination countries was acknowledged resoundingly. The participants maintained that migration has been and will remain a key factor and catalyst for economic, social and educational development for almost every nation in the years to come. As such, it was underscored that facilitating and effectively managing the movements of people across borders can be a useful tool for engaging in and benefiting from specialized production networks, bilateral trade and export. This would increasingly be so within the emerging global supply chains-led production worldwide. Conversely, complex visa requirements reduce trade and result in substantial negative impact on enterprises i.e. in the form of inclusive costs, delayed projects or delivery, insufficient operation, and loss of control or opportunity.

In addition to opening more regular paths for migration, the participants stressed providing decent work and social protection for people in the destination countries (including nationals, migrants and refugees). In that context, decent work and productive employment were emphasized as key to achieving the SDG 8.

Participants also shared their respective national policies and programs aiming to promote peace, stability and growth for migrants and their host communities. It was noted that some countries accord

migrants the same rights as their own citizens, and some others changed their policies to include irregular migrant workers in the provision of healthcare, education for children, and human security. For instance, some of the African countries (e.g. Western Africa) have always offered hospitality and integration to migrants in their territories with a view to attain peace, stability and development. Yet, migrants of those African countries were noted to fall victim of arbitrary repression and/or are expelled by certain other host communities, where the participants urged GFMD to focus on addressing such problems and work towards effective promoting of sharing of good practices for the good of migrants.

Governance of international migration

The Workshop was unanimous on strengthening the relationship of IOM with the UN. While there was general expectation that this development will address some of the gaps at the international level, it was underlined that migration governance gaps also exist outside the UN and international human rights frameworks. While State-led processes like GFMD have evolved over time to integrate all aspects of migrations, these remain limited by their voluntary nature i.e. in making contributions to address the gaps.

The importance of clarifying concepts and terminologies was highlighted. One suggestion was to further explain the term “governance.” Establishment of a special working group involving all concerned UN institutions was suggested to better identify and understand the inter-cultural elements that can promote peaceful co-existence of migrants and their host communities and foster social dialogue on migration.

There was general support for a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach and for promoting dialogues for convergence at all levels. Many participants insisted that efforts, time and resources of the international community must be focused; and disparate or duplicative initiatives be avoided.

There was unequivocal emphasis that migration governance must be a shared responsibility: first within nations, between governments - non-government institutions - civil society - international organizations; and, beyond that, between nations and regions. However, the differentiated capabilities of member states must be considered in the sharing of such responsibility. An appeal was made to highlight the need for international cooperation and burden-sharing, especially as it is crucial for the countries hosting large refugees and other displaced population.

The other important aspect was to break through the “silos” existing in the UN system as well as at the national level i.e. between development and humanitarian agencies. It is imperative for all the concerned actors to work jointly to make sure that forced displacement is prevented as well as vulnerable people are able to move out, of their own free choice.

Role of multiple stakeholders (civil society, business sector, trade union, regional partners, etc.)

At the national and local levels, a multi-stakeholder approach and partnership would be vital. In achieving the targets for decent work and social protection, for instance, trade unions have an important role to play. Local authorities are likewise crucial stakeholders in promoting migration for development and harmonious societies.

Integration of migration policies in regional and international cooperation framework(s) was stressed equally. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs), especially in Africa, and the MICIC and Nansen

initiatives are some of the functional and result-oriented examples of cooperative frameworks on migration.

Development actors could address more the situations of fragility that eventually lead to forced displacement. The background papers for the World Humanitarian Summit, for instance, pointed out the number of people in fragile situations which actually rose by a very significant percentage.

To promote a cohesive and coordinated approach in responding to the needs of both refugees and migrants, global civil society recently developed a collective action agenda - New Deal for Refugees, Migrants and Societies. The document draws attention to the Guiding Principles and calls for a sharing of responsibility, a change in migration narratives and strengthening multi-stakeholder partnership to ensure safer and more regular and orderly migration, and to work for better protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants, whether refugees or migrants.

The private sector was noted as an important partner in fostering global dialogue on migration, human mobility and development. In this regard, the GFMD Business Mechanism was cited as an important step to filling a long-standing gap in the Global Forum debates on migration and development.

Recognizing the contributions of GFMD

There was unanimous appreciation of the contribution of the Global Forum in advancing migration in the 2030 Agenda and recognizing its potential to further contribute to the enrichment of the global debates and processes geared towards strengthening international migration governance (global compact)

Highlights of the three (parallel) Break-out Sessions

A. Governing Migration – Implementation of migration commitments *vis-à-vis* 2030 Agenda

[Moderator: **Mr. Dominique Favre**, Deputy Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)]

In setting the tone of the discussion, Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary General, UN DESA welcomed the thematic focus of the workshop as it complements the ongoing efforts of the global community to respond to large movements of migrants and refugees and to implement the 2030 Agenda. Underlining the cross-cutting aspect of migration issues, he pointed to the principle of inclusiveness, embodied in Goal 16 of the Agenda. He stressed inclusiveness to be a guideline not only for the societies, but also for effective functioning of inter-governmental bodies and cooperation across organizations. He recognized the potential of GFMD to serve as one of the 'docking stations' for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) i.e. by providing a platform for doing groundwork and holding informal discussions. He also highlighted SDG 17 i.e. on strengthening the means of implementation and the targets with direct relevance to migration. It was acknowledged that monitoring the 2030 Agenda and ensuring the progress of its implementation calls for considerable innovation and flexibility at various levels.

There were also concerns on ways to reach the holistic and universal goals of the 2030 Agenda as the absorption and implementation capacities differ between countries i.e. between the global south and global north. It was stressed that real partnerships to strengthen cooperation should address both causes and symptoms. In addition, results of relevant surveys and papers were also shared, such as on gender equality and lowering migration costs. These studies can help policy makers in understanding the

diversity of migration and guide actions. Member states were also encouraged to ratify existing Conventions - particularly on labor mobility and migration.

There was wider agreement on the objective of 'leaving no one behind', which could be met through mainstreaming of national migration policies in development planning and implementation of 2030 Agenda as well as better-regulated systems, resources and international instruments. This includes the bilateral agreements and regional cooperation frameworks. Migration-relevant elements of the Agenda 2030, the September 19 Summit 2016 and the (proposed) Global Compact on migration (2018) - each constitute a pillar for the establishment of a more robust international migration governance.

B. Governing Migration – Addressing the challenges of migration

*[Moderator: **Amb. Miguel Ruiz Cabañas**, Under-Secretary (Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico]*

Mr. Gervais Appave, Adviser to Ninth GFMD Chair, referred to the prevailing paradox around migration. On the one hand, there is international recognition of its importance, as evidenced by the inclusion of migration in the new development framework (2030 Agenda); and, on the other, migration continues to be seen as a social, economic and political threat. He agreed (with an earlier assertion) that migration is a disrupter – i.e. a phenomenon with powerful, transformative impacts. He opined that the issues need to be addressed in a coherent and purposeful manner. Yet, the difficulty lies in the absence of common and shared values on migration. He questioned how migration continues to be perceived as a negative phenomenon and then how to develop a comprehensive approach founded on normative instruments that can foster diversity, unity and development.

Representatives of member states as well as of international organizations and civil society organizations shared their specific concerns and offered their ideas on moving forward. Some asked for greater clarity on the best ways to move forward on the (upcoming) governance framework affecting societal plane and security. They also advocated further inclusion of the darker aspects of migration (e.g. human trafficking) in the discussions, more information-sharing and transparency in the migration policy field, sharing of responsibility and addressing situations of fragility. Finally, there was a call to engage more at the regional level e.g. by organizing more meetings on the African continent.

Possible ways and certain practical experiences/ways were cited aimed at translating words into action e.g. consular protection and services, capacity building in countries of departure, recruitment initiatives, transportability of pensions and social services. But, the most important aspect would be to develop and operationalize a common governing framework that links the varied initiatives. All agreed on addressing the remaining gap i.e. the presence of a dispersed body of international laws in the area of migration and the need to translate these principles into practice.

C. Governing Migration – Addressing Displacement and Crisis Migration

*[Co-moderator(s): **Ms. Suzanne Sheldon**, Director, Office of International Migration, US State Department; and **Attorney. Francisco Noel Fernandez**, Special Assistant (Chief of Mission II), Office of the Under-Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs, Philippines]*

Protection of vulnerable migrants in situations of conflict or natural disasters and the concept of 'mini-multilateralism' were focused.

The representative of Mary Robinson Foundation, stressed the rising challenges posed by increasing global temperature and climate change – as a threat multiplier for people in vulnerable situations. She elaborated that climate-induced displacement remains a growing concern, not only because of its destructive scope but also because of the lack of legal protection for the affected persons and communities. Rather than creating new mechanisms, she advocated leveraging the already existing legal and policy guidelines to incorporate climate displacement therein.

Ms. Michelle Klein Solomon, Director of Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Secretariat, cited MICIC as a successful example of 'mini-multilateralism' i.e. a State-led process with a broad, consultative and inclusive approach, while non-binding yet action-oriented, and resulting in a guiding toolbox for member states and other concerned stakeholders. She expounded on the drivers of crisis-induced migration underscoring that crises arise in all three stages of migration and in countries of origin as well as in transit, where migrants can face extreme vulnerability, and finally in destination countries, where secured conditions may be missing. Migrants' resilience, she said, can be improved if migrants are protected in normal situations. She urged for consolidation of existing bodies of law, in particular the 1951 Convention that can be applied flexibly to adapt to different situations.

The participants further cited the Nansen Initiative – which has now shaped as the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD, October 2015) – as another noteworthy example of mini-multilateralism. PDD now focuses on cooperation and protection gaps faced by migrants in situations of natural disaster. Participants called for coordination and convergence of different initiatives and cautioned against reopening the discussion on the Refugee Convention, 1951. In moving forward, they argued on the need for wider ratification and implementation of the Convention and recognition of other situations that create vulnerabilities.

Closing Plenary

The respective moderators briefly reported on each of the three break-out sessions and also shared their own reflections. **Mr. Guy Ryder**, the Director-General of ILO, **Mr. Reinhard Krapp**, representing incoming GFMD 2017-2018 co-chair Germany, and **Ambassador Masud Bin Momen**, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York spoke at the session.

Brief conclusions from **Mr. Dominique Favre** (Moderator, break-out session I): participants welcomed the Agenda 2030 as a huge opportunity to embed migration and migrants across numerous SDG themes e.g. health, gender, education, etc. Participants expressed their willingness to factor migration in respective national implementation strategies of the 2030 Agenda, and to deliver on their normative commitments. They also acknowledged the lack of balance between international and national discourses and realities. Participants hoped that the outcome(s) of the 19 September Summit will reinforce migration commitments in the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

Ambassador Miguel Ruiz Cabañas (Moderator, break-out session II) recounted the rich discussions covering many aspects and issues, including the concerns of small island countries, the relationship of migration to different themes in the 2030 Agenda, the human rights of migrants and the push factors. He said that many countries that have expressed support for continued international cooperation are now ready to take it to the next level of global governance. He argued, however, that before moving in that direction, the States should first look at their national policies and strengthen their national capacity. He enumerated different elements for the establishment of migration governance - to examine

factors that lead people to leave their homes, to define and agree on a common roadmap, to recognize both the shared responsibility and shared prosperity in migration, and to ensure safe and orderly movement of people that protects the rights of migrants and states and thus contributes to greater security at the global level.

Ms. Suzanne Sheldon (Moderator, break-out session III) narrated that the session recognized the many layers and drivers of crisis-induced migration as well as the gaps in policy responses. This calls for responses at different levels i.e. international, national and sub-national (local). Referring to many participants, she agreed that there was no need to expand the existing refugee definition which has proven to be quite flexible. Participants also underlined the existence of a large body of laws, practices and policies applicable to migrants - which need to be compiled, collected and presented to the States and other stakeholders in a coherent way in the absence of a comprehensive framework. The session also highlighted the MICIC and Nansen Initiatives as examples of successful “mini-multilateralism” - State-led, practical, action-oriented, and broadly inclusive of multiple stakeholders. At the same time, the session recognized the importance of Regional Organisations and Regional Economic Communities in bringing forth creative and innovative solutions within regions. The session also upheld that the human rights of all people, including migrants, must remain as a core principle that underpins every discussion or action of the international community.

Mr. Guy Ryder, DG ILO, remarked that the complex notion of migration for peace, stability and growth finds resonance with ILO's work, which was founded on the proposition that without social justice, peace and stability will be under threat. He recognized the 2030 Agenda as a mega building block upon which the 19 September Summit can construct an edifice of migration governance issues. He acknowledged the existence of enormous normative capital - policies and standards - that should not be jettisoned or forgotten, but used and harnessed in establishing migration governance. He maintained that toxicity of migration that has leaked into the political discourse, is a reflection of hostile public sentiment and manifest concerns over governance of migration. He argued that the only way out is to guarantee due respect for the human rights of migrants. In labour migration, this means ensuring equal treatment at work, enforcement of minimum wages, addressing youth unemployment, combatting labour market informality, and enhancing access to the labour market in general. Regardless of the reasons that lead people to leave their own countries, the need to access the labour market is a common factor.

Mr. Reinhard Krapp (on behalf of Ambassador Harald Braun, Permanent Representative of Germany to UN, New York), on behalf of the incoming German GFMD Chairmanship, articulated that as a country with substantial immigration experience, Germany recognizes human mobility as an increasingly important global reality that affects the future of both developing and developed countries. He said migration offers significant development opportunities on the one hand, but also poses risks on the other hand, if not properly managed. As Germany supports the ongoing efforts to improve international migration governance, it points to the challenge of pooling in the interests of migrants and countries of origin, transit and destination. Germany also believes that good migration governance requires policy coherence among governmental institutions, regional and local administrative entities, as well as the involvement of the general public. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of the GFMD as a platform for the exchange of experiences in migration governance and the implementation of migration-related targets and the 2030 Agenda. Together with Co-chair Morocco, Germany will advance the discourse and cooperation on international migration during their GFMD 2017-2018 co-chairmanship.

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, (Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN, New York) acknowledged the participants for their thought-provoking deliberations throughout the day. He viewed that the cooperation between Geneva and New York will continue. He announced that a 'Friends of Migration' group was floated at the UN (New York, 13 May 2016). Co-chaired by Benin, Sweden, Mexico and Bangladesh, this group has 36 member States with cross-regional representation aimed at promoting the positive narratives of migration and migrants as major enablers of development in countries of origin, transit and destination. He reiterated the need to develop a comprehensive framework or a global compact for well-governed migration that can shift the focus from securitization of migration to looking at how to bring stability and growth - for both the migrants and their home and host societies. He expressed optimism that the outcome(s) of 19 September will be a step in this direction. He closed by inviting all participants to the Ninth GFMD Summit in Dhaka.

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- i. *Annex A* - Concept Note of the Workshop
 - ii. <http://gfmd.org/docs/bangladesh-2016> for the full speeches / presentations.
 - iii. More participants wanted to intervene; however, it was not possible to accommodate all of them due to time constraints.