

Speech by Mr Guy Ryder
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVKn3gU-WAk>

Honourable Prime Minister,
Honourable Ministers,
Ambassadors,
Colleagues from the international organizations,
Representatives of the social partners and of civil society,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I begin by thanking the Prime Minister and the Government of Bangladesh for organizing this timely and important Summit, and I'm very pleased to be participating with you in it.

Migration and refugees continue to occupy the news headlines around the world and to be central to political discourse, although not always in ways which are helpful to the purposes that we gather here to advance. Indeed, it is one of the disturbing paradoxes that at a time when the economic and the developmental case for migration has never been stronger, social and political obstacles to it seem to be ever more formidable.

So, successful follow-up to the New York Declaration is much needed and it will depend on the adoption of global compacts—on refugees and on migration—that contain actionable commitments and measurable targets aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

And this Global Forum is ideally placed to contribute to that effort. I commend the Bangladesh Chair for orienting this Summit to that effect, and we look forward to the upcoming German and Moroccan Co-chairs taking forward the GFMD's work on important thematic areas which the Compacts will need to address.

One of the most challenging is the governance of labour migration and mobility. Most people who are mobile are seeking work: there are today more than 150 million migrant workers. Moreover, for refugees and other forcibly displaced adults, access to work nearly always becomes a central concern.

These movements, if not governed well, can create enormous pressures on the economies and labour markets of host countries and that is why it is **vital for labour migration and mobility to be a central theme of the Global Compact**. And in this context, three critical areas will have to be addressed.

The first is ensuring that migration is a genuine choice, not a simple means of survival, and that means action to stimulate opportunities for decent work in people's own countries in line with SDG 8's objective of full employment and decent work for all.

Secondly, because people will continue to migrate in search of decent work and because this can and should be beneficial to sending and receiving countries, there is urgent need for **a new,**

cohesive framework to guide the governance of labour migration that is fair, effective, and rights-based, and which addresses the fragmentation, gaps and shortcomings of existing arrangements.

On this day in particular, let us all reassert that respect for the rights of migrant workers, including their fundamental rights at work, is a matter of basic social justice. And that is why the New York Declaration urges ratification of relevant ILO Conventions.

And thirdly, **cooperation across borders** is essential to ensure that governance frameworks extend protection and access to decent work for all.

This cooperation must aim to eliminate the high costs of migration, including deceptive and fraudulent recruitment practices. And to this end, the ILO has just adopted *Principles and Operational Guidelines on Fair Recruitment* to help govern all facets of that process. And together with the World Bank, we are preparing a methodology for member States to implement the recruitment cost indicator for SDG target 10.7.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in current circumstances, our collective determination to act on the commitments made in New York is likely to be judged above all by how we cooperate to address the existing migration and refugee crisis and how we join together to confront new crises that emerge.

Labour issues cut across both of the migration and the refugee Compacts, and it is important that the ILO's constituents – workers and employers as well as Governments – are able to contribute fully to the elaboration of the Compacts.

Next June, the ILO's constituents from our 187 member States will gather at our International Labour Conference to discuss **fair and effective labour migration governance at all levels, including fair recruitment**. And through this and other deliberations, our Organization will honour its responsibility to contribute robustly to the two Global Compacts that we will adopt in 2018.

I thank you.