

Statement of H. E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, in the Opening Session of the GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration(06 April 2017, Geneva)

Thank you Mr. Moderator/ Co-chairs Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme and Mr. Ahmed Skim. I take this opportunity to welcome Ambassador Lauber of Switzerland and Ambassador Kamacho of Mexico, distinguished co-facilitators of the GCM process, once again in Geneva.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

As the 2016 GFMD Chair, Bangladesh remains strongly attached to the endeavour of improving the global migration governance in general and to the process of elaborating the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM) in particular.

As a state-led, consultative forum, the GFMD is flexible enough to generate confidence and trust to discuss practical issues relevant to important aspects of international migration and human mobility. Over the 9 Forums so far held, a wide array of such issues, both thematic and practice-oriented, has been debated and critical outcomes reached. These outcomes reflect a range of principles, commitments, best practices or understanding which relate to the humanitarian, developmental and human rights related aspects of international migration and are key to developing a framework for comprehensive international cooperation. GFMD has also been working to contribute to the implementation of the relevant goals and targets of the SDGs, particularly because target 10.7 is the centre piece which is about safe, orderly and regular migration, by emphasizing on 'well-managed migration policies'. In fact, the Sutherland report proposes that GFMD serve to support a consensus building approach on the elaboration of GCM and thereby advance implementation of the migration related commitments in the 2030 agenda.

So, working on GCM in a consensual way and thereby promoting the implementation of the relevant goals in the 2030 Agenda – these dual objectives approved in the Dhaka summit find expression in the strengthened and expanded mandate given to the 2030 Working Group co-chaired by Bangladesh and Germany. This coming together of the GFMD membership in order to contribute to the GCM

process is not only auspicious but also cost-effective, opportune and in line with its well-known work ethics seen at play at the 2013 HL dialogue on international migration and in the NY Declaration.

Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

For some time now, migration has been increasingly in the spotlight of public and political debate. The surge in the scale of movements and loss of life of migrants in different parts of the world questions the adequacy of the existing national and international tools to deal with migration-related challenges. You may recall that Bangladesh has always flagged, especially within the GFMD, the importance of a global migration governance architecture. The New York Declaration of September 2016 setting up the target to elaborate the GCM by 2018 is thus an important achievement for us all. This is the recognition that we will be able to manage migration to the benefit of all. That can be only possible through agreeing upon common principles, processes and institutions. Since then and during our chairmanship last year, we put special emphasis on discussion on the GCM under the aegis of the GFMD, reflected by arranging the first GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact in New York in November 2016. The six roundtable outcomes of the 9th GFMD Summit in Dhaka, especially of the RT 3.2 on "Principles, Institutions and Processes for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", was also aimed towards the direction of improving the governance of migration. Today, it should be clear to all that institutionalization of global migration governance will come in the form of the GCM.

Given the task ahead, clearly, we have a tight schedule before the 2018 Conference. There is need for more clarity as to how the consultative and negotiation processes shape up. While waiting for Secretary-General's Work Plan, we hope the SRSG, DG IOM, the USG of DESA as well as the co-facilitators would be able to give us further insight into the future process today. We need to prepare ourselves accordingly for the global consultations scheduled on 8-9 May 2017 in Geneva.

Distinguished participants,

One immediate issue to address during today's dialogue is the role of the GFMD in the upcoming six global consultations of the GCM consultation phase, including the three to be held in Geneva and Vienna, vis-a-vis the role of the Member States. On 8-9 May 2017, we have the consultation of the GCM process in Geneva on "human

rights, social inclusion, cohesion, discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance". Another, scheduled in the third week of May in New York is on "drivers of migration, including climate change, natural disasters & human-made crises, through protection & assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution". The other four rounds will also take place in immediate succession till October. Based on its policy experience and practice-oriented recommendations gleaned from previous Summits, the GFMD can contribute to the six themes of the global consultations. Despite broad consensus, a concerted GFMD position, ideally through a general statement by the Co-chairs on behalf of the membership, may not be possible due a number of reasons including some differences existing in some areas. Thus, it seems for the GFMD there are three pragmatic avenues to be explored in order to effectively deliver substantive inputs to the upcoming consultative process of the GCM.

First, the co-chairs, with the help of the GFMD Support Unit, may prepare summary outcomes of this Dialogue, including of the one held in February, based on deliberations of member states and other stakeholders, and forward those to the SRSG, as the Secretary-General of the 2018 Conference, for suitable inclusion in the zero draft of the GCM.

Second, the outcome of the six Government Round-Tables of the upcoming GFMD Berlin Summit may be forwarded in the same manner and with same objective.

Third and most importantly, the consensus outcome from GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda having additional and extended mandate to prepare GFMD's input for the GCM process, to be finalized preferably during the Berlin Summit or during the thematic workshop in Geneva in September 2017, may be formally submitted to the Stocktaking Conference in Mexico in November 2017 as the official input of the GFMD. As a co-chair, Bangladesh is looking forward to finalizing the GFMD input for the GCM in a comprehensive manner.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The process remains important but we must not lose sight of the substance of the future GCM. It might appear to be impossible to cover all the points raised while

some broad lines of agreement are quite apparent. We believe that the GCM needs to encompass the following key issues:

***First**, opening channels for the safe and regular movement of migrant workers at all skill levels to meet labour market needs;*

***Second**, addressing irregular migration, combating migrant smuggling and trafficking and maintaining the integrity of national borders;*

***Third**, providing effective protection for migrants in vulnerable situations;*

***Fourth**, enhancing the development impacts of migration;*

***Fifth**, protecting the rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status and*

***Finally**, ensuring non-discrimination and inclusion of migrants in host societies, including through access to health, education and the labour market.*

Bangladesh also believes that the Global Compact on Migration should not merely be a political declaration with a set of guiding principles. It should rather take the form of a framework convention incorporating legally binding elements on areas where consensus can be reached, political commitments with guidelines, concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and indicators of success and a robust monitoring framework.

Excellencies, distinguished participant,

It is important to ensure that the two global compacts on refugees and migration respectively are so formulated that they become mutually supportive and consistent. In view of undeniable existence of mixed migratory and large, crisis related movements, we should think beyond the compartmentalized solutions of the two separate, distinct and independent compacts. It should be possible to address the issue through innovative, coordinated approach while not questioning the respective areas of responsibility of the two UN operational organizations. With regard to implementation of the GCM, the functional and operational relevance of the constituents of the GMG is clear. Hence, it would make sense to conceive for it a more direct role in supporting work at the country level.

I would like to stress that we are indeed on the cusp of an historic opportunity to shape up the future of the world by formulating the first ever global migration governance architecture in the form of a Global Compact for Migration. The GCM is expected to set out a range of common principles and commitments among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions thus making an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration. During this process, we should bear in mind the most profound and philosophical mooring for any discourse on migration at the GFMD and that is the dignity of every human being. We must not forget the misery faced by millions of migrants around the globe on a daily basis, which should be addressed in an effective manner.

Distinguished participants,

The elaboration of the Global Compact for Migration is no doubt an ambitious undertaking. We believe success can only be achieved through open dialogue among States, international organizations, civil society, migrants and diaspora organizations, academia, and the private sector in the spirit of partnership. The GFMD, as recognized in the New York Declaration, can play a pivotal role in this regard. We have full confidence in the co-chairs i.e. Germany and Morocco's ability to successfully steer this forum in that direction. As a Troika member, 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.