10-point agenda from parliamentarians’ caucus and CSOs on the implementation of migration-related SDG goals and targets

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – accommodating 17 goals and 169 targets – are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. In the SDGs, although a number of goals and targets have implications for safe and sustainable migration targets, particularly, targets 5.2, 8.7, 8.8, 10.7, 10.c and 16.2 have a greater degree of relevance to the important aspect of migration.

The 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the global forum for reviewing successes, challenges and lessons learned on achieving the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, will be convened from Tuesday, 9 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019, with the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum convened jointly with the high-level segment of the Council from 16 July to 18 July 2019. The forum is important for Bangladesh’s migration scenario in the light SDGs, as it intends to promote and review the implementation of sustainable development and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations.

In this context, a dialogue on the ‘Progress of SDGs on Migration and Development in Bangladesh’ was organized by the Parliamentarians Caucus on Migration and Development in partnership with WARBE Development Foundation, Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) and British Council’s PROKAS on 1st July 2019 at the Parliament Members Club in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The discussion was guided by the findings from a report on the progress of implementation of SDGs by WARBE Development Foundation and a presentation on the role of the CSOs and parliamentarians in SDGs by IID.

The event allowed the participants with a unique opportunity to assess the current status of the implementation of migration-related sustainable development goals and targets and identify the challenges in achieving the targets within the stipulated SDG timeline. The dialogue allowed the participants to discuss and outline a 10-point agenda to address the challenges in achieving migration-related SDGs.
10-Point Agenda

1. Addressing data gap that exists in migrants, returnee and missing migrants, in particular the data gap in monitoring SDGs 10.7, 17.18

2. Implementing Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme, including pre-departure and post arrival orientation, to promote Decent Work in line with SDG 8.5, 8.7 and 8.8

3. Strengthening anti-trafficking initiatives— in line with SDGs 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2— by taking action against human traffickers

4. Digitalization of migration management system and promoting more ICT-based recruitment system and to identify and address the loopholes in the recruiting process, including the regulation of middlemen

5. Monitoring and evaluation of program activities undertaken to address the migrant worker issues according to the migration policy guidelines would be critical for achieving relevant SDG targets.

6. Appropriate, demand driven skill enhancement programs need to be undertaken for raising average remittance per migrant workers. Measures should be taken to increase allocation in the national budget for undertaking skills development programs

7. Active involvement of CSOs for the localisation, implementation, monitoring and voluntary reporting of the implementation of SDGs

8. Investing in future of works, taking into account the global job market under 4th industrial revolution, taking up new initiatives for skills development, and diversifying overseas migration market

9. Better engagement of Parliamentarians in the implementation of SDGs through legislation, budget allocation and parliamentary oversight

10. Expanding the support services available to migrant workers within Bangladesh and through consular services overseas, creating model high commissions for the workers in the destination countries. Social Security schemes for left behind families and returnee migrant workers.