

Pre-GFMD National Consultation on
Gender-Responsive Sustainable Approaches to Human Mobility

22 October 2019 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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More at: www.theCGCM.org

Concept Note

Context

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has been a state-led, but not state-only, platform that has been influencing the global discourse on migration and development for over a decade by engaging multi-stakeholders in an informal and non-binding exchange of ideas, innovations and practices. The Twelfth GFMD Summit will be held on 18-22 November 2019 in Quito, Ecuador with thematic focus on— "Sustainable approaches to human mobility: Upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships and collective action".

Gender-responsiveness: It is well recognized in the global commitments that sustainable approach to human mobility needs to be gender-responsive. The experience of migration differs significantly for women and men: every aspect of migration, from women who remain behind, the decision to migrate, transiting across borders, to settling in the country of destination is influenced by gender equality considerations. The Sustainable Development Goals¹ and Addis Ababa Action Agenda² both called for systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective, while the UN Resolution on protection of migrants³ and the declaration of the high-level dialogue on international migration⁴ encouraged all States to incorporate gender-perspective in policies, laws, institutions and programmes. The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) also included gender-responsiveness in its guiding principles⁵.

As women account for around 44 per cent of the estimated 150 million migrant workers worldwide, this preparatory pre-GFMD national consultation will seek to ensure that the discussions at every sessions and mechanisms of GFMD remain gender-responsive. The national consultation will be informed by and in succession of previous consultations which include consultations on women's rights in GCM⁶, global governance of migration⁷, gender-responsive financing for migration⁸, and role of CSOs in GCM⁹.

¹ UN General Assembly (2015) A/RES/70/1, para 20

² UN General Assembly (2015) A/RES/69/313, para 6

³ UN General Assembly (2015) A/RES/68/179, Para 5(f)

⁴ UN General Assembly (2014) A/RES/68/4, para- 11]

⁵ For details on the role of UN Women and women rights activists in ensuring gender-responsive GCM, see Carolina G & P Cyment (2019) The Global Compact for Migration: what could it mean for women and gender relations?, Gender & Development, 27:1, 67-83

⁶ The experts' meeting hosted by UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on 21 and 22 November 2016 in Geneva for addressing women's human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

⁷ High-level consultation on Global Governance on Migration, hosted by BNSK, IID Migration Unit, Migrant Forum in Asia and PROKAS, held on 30 July 2019

⁸ The policy seminar on Gender Responsive Budget to Empower Women Migrants on 30th June 2019 was jointly organized by IID Migration Unit and BNSK in partnership with WARBE and PROKAS

⁹ The 'Regional Consultation on GCM implementation' was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on 4th May 2019.

Localization: Since Ecuador, in its capacity as 2019 Chair of GFMD, has set the concept note and agenda, the focus of the sessions and guiding questions of GFMD round tables appear to have set in the context of large-scale mixed migration from South to North America. Given the different scenario of the economic migration of Bangladeshis, the agenda and themes of GFMD need to be discussed to make it localized and contextualized as well.

Objectives

The national consultation will achieve 3 objectives—

- a. Explore and contextualize the theme and sub-themes of GFMD through localized gender equality-lens;
- b. Setting Bangladesh's position at the GFMD and PGA, based on this tripartite discussion; and
- c. Create pathways for the post-GFMD partnerships and collective actions and for strengthening state agency for gender-responsive implement of the global commitments on migration.

Partnership

This tripartite consultation will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, UN Network on Migration and CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM).

The co-organizing partners are— IID Migration Unit, Bangladeshi Nari Sramik Kendra (BNSK) and PROKAS.

The consultation will bring together the government, civil society, private sector and members of United Nations Network on Migration.

Format of the consultation

This pre-GFMD consultation will have **three sessions**, each on the **three sub-themes** of the upcoming GFMD. Each session will highlight two issues, from the 6 government-led roundtables to be held at the GFMD.

There will be three **30-mins sessions**, each with an overview of the sub-themes, followed by inputs from the panelists and distinguished guests.

The inaugural session will highlight the aim and scope of the event and the concluding session will summarize the findings to set Bangladesh's position at the GFMD.