

# Dhaka Declaration

*from Civil Society on* **GFMD & GCM**

Dhaka | 20 November 2018

## The Context

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led initiative by the United Nations Member States to address the migration and development interconnections in practical and action-oriented ways. The 11th GFMD, to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 5 - 7 December 2018, is the climax of the two-year Moroccan-German GFMD Co-Chairmanship that spans from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2018. This summit is particularly important for the civil society actors around the world as the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) is to be adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration from 10 – 11 December 2018 after the GFMD in Marrakesh Morocco, which will bring a new era of global migration governance.

## The Civil Society Initiative

A group of civil society organisations (CSOs) of Bangladesh formed a consortium to improve the transparency and accountability of the migration process. They held a National Consultation on GFMD and GCM on November 20, 2018, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At the event, CSOs, human rights activists and representatives from government organizations and media discussed and outlined a **10-point agenda** to ensure safe and orderly migration in the light of GCM and Agenda 2030 and to work collectively in post GCM period. GCM has already been negotiated and it will only be adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference. So the focus of this declaration is not on further negotiation, rather it will focus on the local and global role of CSOs in the monitoring and implementation of the compact. See overleaf for the 10-point agenda.



The National Consultation on GFMD and GCM, held on November 20, 2018, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



## Civil Society's 10-Point Agenda

- 1** This non-binding GCM should be considered as an **advocacy tool for collaboration** to ensure the implementation of ethical and orderly migration by the civil society. **Collaboration and partnership** among global civil society organizations, government agencies and interactions with media need to be strengthened.
- 2** **Internalizing** and including the GCM in the legal context on the national level is imperative. National laws need to be **reviewed, updated and implemented** in line with GCM and Agenda 2030.
- 3** **New York declaration**, as the anchor of GCM, needs to be taken into account while implementing GCM. Promoting and advocating for the **rights of migrants** in line with the rights of refugees is also important.
- 4** GCM in the context of **Agenda 2030** should be taken into careful consideration, particularly for the implementation of SDGs (10.7<sup>1</sup> & 10.c<sup>2</sup> and beyond).
- 5** Rights of women migrants in the whole migration cycle, from migration to reintegration, need to be addressed with a **'Women First'** approach. Especially, when the female migrant workers are at the destination countries, their working hour, wages, living condition and weekend should be pre-defined.
- 6** **Active monitoring** of workers' safety and rights in the destination countries by the embassies and the hosts of the destination countries is vital. External factors, such as cultural integration, visa trading, passport confiscation in the host countries also need to be highlighted.
- 7** Resources for GCM and Agenda 2030 implementation are to be reviewed and assessed. Particularly, it is necessary to ensure that the **resources reach the migrants** through the collaboration of Government and Civil Society.
- 8** **'Irrespective of the statuses'**, migrants' rights should be ensured through GCM. Their rights to decent work should be ensured by advocating for standard job contract, inter-country cooperation mechanism and ratifying and implementing UN Convention 1990<sup>3</sup> and ILO Convention C-189<sup>4</sup>.
- 9** Utilization of the skills and savings of returnee migrants by ensuring safe, dignified, right-based **return and reintegration**.
- 10** **Other global and regional platforms**, including Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Bali Process should also be utilized to highlight the above mentioned issues.

1 | Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

2 | By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

3 | Rights of all migrants workers and member of their families

4 | Convention concerning decent work for domestic workers.