



GEM Delegates 2014

and origin and non-discrimination in the work place.

10.b Protect the rights of migrant workers, in compliance with international human rights norms and labour standards.

10.c Ensure that implementation of the decent work agenda keeps in mind the rights, needs and interests of migrant workers, taking into account national circumstances and needs and ensure effective monitoring.

10.d Promote the implementation of nationally-appropriate social protection measures, including floors, with focus on the most marginalised.

10.e Lower the costs of accessing employment for migrant workers.

10.f Protect migrants against all forms of discrimination and address labour exploitation and abuse, especially low-skilled workers, female migrant workers and children.

10.g Facilitate collaborative arrangements for access to social security benefits as well as ensure migrants' social protection and portability of social security benefits.⁶

11. Economic Growth/Development

11.a Frame economic policies taking into account impacts of migration in reducing poverty as also addressing inequality, as may be determined nationally, through inclusive governance.

11.b Promote equality of economic opportunity for all, including women and young migrants, including their access to all productive assets and financial services towards attaining financial literacy, as may be determined nationally.

11.c Promote financial inclusion of migrants and provide incentives to trade with, and to

save and invest in origin and destination countries and promote a strategy to enable, engage and empower migrant diaspora and their entrepreneurship.

11.d Ensure governance of migration to promote matching of skills and jobs as well as labour supply and demand between countries, including through creating regular channels for migration.

11.e Increase the share of migrants who are working at the skill level that is most relevant to their education and training to facilitate their integration in the local labour force and their reintegration in the labour market of the country of origin.

11.f Reduce the overall cost in migration process, both direct and indirect, including costs of:

11.f.1 Remittances: promote regular and beneficial engagement of all stakeholders to promote competition; and incentivise cost-effective channels of remittance and also address irregular channels;

11.f.2 Recruitment: ensuring ethical, transparent, responsible engagement of intermediaries at both ends through establishing effective governmental regulatory monitoring frameworks

12. Means of Implementation/Global Partnerships

12.a Reinforce political will among countries to effectively realise means.

12.b Facilitate contribution of migrants to development, through realising Right to Development, in countries of origin and destination, including by reducing the transfer costs of remittances and mitigating brain drain and facilitating mobility of talents.

12.c Deepen work within regional cooperative mechanisms on migration towards facilitating easier mobility of people, especially migrant workers.

12.d Ensure the development of policies and arrangements between countries with regards to effective regulation of labour recruitment agencies.

12.e Ensure that migration is safe and fair and aligned with human rights standards; and ensure that all bilateral and multilateral agreements on migration include human rights safeguards.

12.f Strengthen national capacities,

including through international technical and financial assistance, for equitable, effective and human rights-based governance of migration and human mobility and re-integration of return migrants.

12.g Strengthen policy coherence at all levels to achieve safe, orderly, regular and well-governed migration; and address migrants' smuggling and trafficking in persons to reduce negative impacts of migration.

12.h Deepen cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries and other stakeholders to ensure that migration contributes to human rights-based, equitable and sustainable development.



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List of participating countries

Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam, Zambia

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Global Expert Meeting on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

28-29 April 2014 | Dhaka, Bangladesh



GEM Inaugural Session 2014

The Global Experts Meeting on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place in the context of increasing recognition that migration is a key driver of sustainable development. Over two days, experts from a wide range of countries discussed how the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), currently being debated at the United Nations, can better facilitate the positive role of migration, migrants and mobility in overall socio-economic development. The resulting recommendations aim inter alia to underline before the UN Open Working Group (OWG) relevant elements so as to make the Goals and Targets migration inclusive with the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Meeting, co-hosted by Bangladesh and Switzerland, drew 132 experts/delegates representing 62 countries as well as 34 international and civil society organisations. In the sessions, the experts debated on issues related to: Migration and Economic Growth; Migration and Decent Work; Migration and Education; Migration and Health; Migration and Means of Implementation / Global Partnerships; and The Next Steps – National, Regional and Global Levels.

The Meeting was inaugurated by Bangladesh Prime Minister, H. E. Sheikh Hasina. The inauguration was also addressed by Foreign Minister –Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali; Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister – Khandker Mosharraf Hossain; and Planning Minister - AFM Mostafa Kamal from the Bangladesh Government along with Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General; Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General, IOM (delivered by Ovais Sarmad, on behalf of the DG); Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, Special Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation for International Cooperation in Migration; and Neal Walker, Resident Coordinator for the UN in Bangladesh.

⁶This bullet would also be applicable to section on Health e.g. health Insurance

In view of the ongoing discussions within the OWG on SDGs, the Meeting recognized a strong need to secure migration within the emerging framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In that direction, the Meeting reached convergence on a number of possible specific targets and indicators that could be advanced within the Post-2015 global discourses. It was further agreed that the 'Recommendations' would also be advanced within the United Nations and also at appropriate national, regional and global platforms, including at the upcoming Seventh Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) (Stockholm, May 2014) and within the work plan of the incoming GFMD Chair (Turkey, 2015).



Guiding Questions for the Discussions

Migration and Economic Growth

- Which of the migration development links should be included within the sustainable development goals?
- How can the development community further enhance the impact of migration and remittances for development? How to ensure recruitment cost reduction?
- What could be the government policies to leverage migration and remittances for economic development?

Migration and Decent Work

- How can the costs of migration be lowered for migrant workers?
- How can adequate social security and portability of benefits be provided for migrant workers?



- How can social cohesion of communities that host migrant workers be promoted through equal wages and working conditions?
- How can international dialogue mechanisms be enhanced to promote legal avenues of labour migration as an alternative to irregular migration, and how can labour migration be integrated into macroeconomic employment policies, including encouraging transition from informal sector to formal sector employment?

Migration and Education

- What, more precisely, should be understood by equal access for immigrant children and migrant workers to schooling and educational opportunities, what special needs have to be addressed?



- What would be relevant indicators for success in relation to a target on "... focus on the most marginalized...?"
- Would it be more effective to argue for a disaggregation of migrants' educational situation at the various levels, instead of expressing it as a target?

Migration and Health

- What are the instruments through which countries can extend social protection in health and improve social security for all migrants? (i.e. bilateral labour migration agreements)
- How can discriminatory health practices towards migrants be eliminated (such as detention and deportation of pregnant migrant women, refusal of work permit based on latent TB infection)?
- How can we ensure that all countries, even lower and middle countries, provide equal access of irregular migrants to basic health care services in a cost-effective manner, taking into account economic limitations?

Migration and Means of Implementation / Global Partnerships

- Which migration related topics could potentially be included within a Sustainable Development Goal on Means of Implementation? Would only remittances be relevant?
- Which would be the main vehicles for fostering Partnerships on Migration and Mobility?
- How could progress on Partnerships for Means of Implementation be monitored?



Recommendations

Migration remains one of the means for individuals to seek freedom of choice and opportunity. It also provides avenues to better livelihood options, overcome poverty, escape conflicts, adapt to economic and environmental challenges and strive for a more prosperous future for the migrants and their families. Migration is first and foremost about people, their dignity, well-being, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the cumulative outcome of individual endeavours.

Globally, migrants continue to contribute to economic and social development in origin and destination countries. Migrants also contribute by sending remittances, in various forms, knowledge, technology, life experience as well as fill critical gaps in labour markets, stimulate trade and investments and provide and consume goods and services, enrich cultures and promote interactions and exchange of ideas. Evidences suggest that migration also contributed to the achievements of the MDGs – inter alia reducing poverty by increasing household incomes and investment in human capital, often leading to improved health and educational outcomes. Migration, if not governed properly, may also have adverse impacts, both for the countries and for migrants themselves: e.g. 'brain drain' and 'brain waste'; discrimination and xenophobia against migrants; physical and mental health distress; and human trafficking and abusive migrant smuggling.

There is global recognition that migration is a driver and enabler for sustainable development; and that migrants are agents of development. In order to robustly secure a future for migration within development, the following recommendations were agreed upon:

Overarching Recommendations³:

- 6.a Ensure that migration is recognized as a cross-cutting enabler for sustainable development and migrants and diaspora as agents of development.
- 6.b Ensure that the positive contributions of migrants to societies of origin, transit and destination are acknowledged and enhanced.
- 6.c Ensure that migrants are considered as subjects of human development and that their human rights, particularly those of women and girls, regardless of their status, are protected, respected and fulfilled with access to justice.
- 6.d Strengthen migration governance to achieve a balanced, cooperative and equitable system that is safe, fair, well-governed and more beneficial for all, that is culturally responsive, that promotes the participation of all migrants in decision-making processes that concern them.
- 6.e Eliminate acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and their families.
- 6.f Assist in the inter-sectoral collaboration of policymakers and ensure they have access to up-to-date, relevant, precise information, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality and migrant status, regarding migration flows and stocks and the situation of migrants in order to ensure coherent policy development, and to assist the monitoring and evaluation of policy outcomes.



³ Numbering as per the official recommendations paper
¹ e.g. human rights, health, education, productive employment and decent work, rural and urban development, disaster risk reduction particularly (national) poverty reduction strategies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), National Adaptation Plans of Action and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda
² Ref. Declaration of the Second UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (Oct. 2013)
⁴ e.g. detention or deportation based on migrants' health conditions
⁵ Ref. Declaration of the Second UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (Oct. 2013)

Thematic Recommendations

7. Promote integration of migration into national and sectoral development policies of origin, transit and destination countries; and recognize well-being, dignity and safety of migrants and their families in the design and implementation of national development policies. The following sectoral policies would need to be considered:

8. Health

8.a Allow unhindered access to adequate, affordable, accessible and quality healthcare, including mental healthcare, for all migrants and members of their families³; and eliminate discriminatory practices and barriers⁴.

8.a.1 Ensure the development of national health legislations, policies, strategies and plans, to promote sustainable universal health coverage and its implementation for all, including poor and vulnerable migrants.

8.b Promote provisions for all poor and vulnerable migrants access to social security schemes, including healthcare.

9. Education

9.a Ensure equitable and unhindered access to quality primary and secondary education at all levels for all⁵, including migrant girls and boys, youth and for return migrants;

9.b Achieve recognized and measurable learning outcomes and relevant data, especially in literacy and essential life skills for all migrants.

9.c Ensure that education policies take into consideration special requirements of vulnerable groups, including migrants, like language training; and also facilitate their social and economic integration through inter alia the recognition of qualifications.

10. Employment and Decent Work for All

10.a Promote full and productive employment and decent jobs in both countries of destination