



CGCM Newsletter | February 2020



## State leadership and stakeholder engagement essential for prioritizing and implementing GCM

Stakeholder engagement for prioritizing and implementing Global Compact for Migration (GCM) needs a state champion- mentioned the speakers at the side-event organized by Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM).

Honorable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen shared Bangladesh's status in implementing GCM, while leading experts emphasized on the importance of stakeholder engagement and cross-learning among different government and CSO representatives.

The event titled 'Road to Implementing Global Compact on Migration' was held on Monday the 21st January 2019 in Quito, Ecuador during the 12th GFMD. It was supported by PROKAS program of British Council and UK Aid.

Among others, Roula Hamati, Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM); William Gois, Regional Coordinator of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA); Coline Rajah, Action Committee Coordinator of ICMC; Sumaiya Islam, Executive Director of BNSK; Seniors Members of Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development; attended the event that was moderated by Syeed Ahamed, CEO of IID.

## CGCM members at Civil Society Day and People's Global Action during GFMD



Members of CGCM took part in the People's Global Action on Migration Development and Human Rights (PGA) and the Civil Society Day held on 20th and 22nd January 2020 respectively in Quito, Ecuador.

Members of CGCM raised various issues that are affecting the migrants throughout their migration process. Among the issues, loopholes of so-called free visa, problems relating to visa trading and 'kafala system', condition of undocumented migrants and prison-like shelter homes gained prevalence.

Among others, OKUP, BNSK, IID, Awaj Foundation and WARBE represented CGCM at these events.

## Road2GFMD- a handbook for Bangladesh delegation to the GFMD

IID, the CGCM Secretariat, prepared a handbook to support the Bangladesh delegation to the GFMD. The handbook—Road 2 GFMD—was designed to provide insights into the thematic issues of GFMD's roundtable sessions. It included definition of key concepts, evidence



Glimpse from the handbook

and suggestions from various research reports and consultations. It also included the notes from CGCM's pre-GFMD consultation which highlighted the gender-responsive and contextualized perspectives of GFMD issues.



The Honorable Minister (left) and DG of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the handbook during a session at the GFMD

## Bangladesh delegation's preparatory meeting for 12th GFMD held



The civil society representatives met with the senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at an event on Wednesday, 16 January 2020, to set Bangladesh's position and preparation for the upcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

The members of the Bangladesh delegation to GFMD decided that civil society platform- the CSOs for Global Commitment on Migration (CGCM) will be organizing a Policy Forum in Ecuador in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with support from PROKAS/UK Aid. The Policy Forum will focus on the implementation challenges and way forwards of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The participants in the meeting included, Ms. Nahida Sobhan, DG and Ambassador of Bangladesh to Jordan, Nazrul Islam, DG of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the government side.

## CGCM for improving the consulate services for migrant workers



Members of CGCM went to meet the newly appointed Ambassador of Bangladesh to Jordan – Nahida Sobhan on 8th January 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Number of returnee migrants and aspirant migrants to Jordan accompanied the CGCM delegation to seek the support of the Ambassador in improving the consulate services for migrant workers.

The migrant workers shared a number of ideas with the new Ambassador which included arranging regular gatherings or social events for migrant workers, ensuring migrant friendly services and easy access to the embassy for migrant workers. The ambassador assured them that the doors of the embassy in Jordan will remain open for the migrant worker.

During the discussion, Syeed Ahamed, the CEO of IID, shared the idea of a migrant-friendly Model Consulate. The Ambassador appreciated the idea and showed interest to implement the Model Consulate in Jordan.

## CGCM Members celebrate International Migrants' Day 2019



International Migrants Day 2019 was celebrated jointly by the government, Civil Society Organizations and international partners on 19th December 2019 in BICC Dhaka hosted by the Ministry of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment. CGCM was represented at the event through its member organizations at the event. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the International Migrants Day program stressing the call to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration from Bangladesh followed by a migration fair on the BICC premises.

CGCM members including IID, BNSK, OKUP, WARBE, BRAC participated in the fair with their stalls. Various other stakeholders, including public and private banks, government agencies, NGOs, INGOs and recruiting agencies participated in the fair with stalls to display their activities. IID and BNSK jointly put up a stall with the theme of 'One of Millions Migrant Story' that was awarded with the first prize for the best stall in NGO/INGO category.

## Empowering women migrants call for information & middleman regulation



Members of CGCM and representatives of various stakeholders of migration came together to discuss empowerment of women migrants during the presentation of the findings of BNSK's study 'Empowering

Women Migrant: Challenges in Service Delivery System' on 7th December, 2019. The Research Findings Sharing was attended by Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud MP, Honourable Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment; Md. Salim Reza, Honourable Secretary of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and Dr. Nomita Halder NDC, Member of National Human Commission Bangladesh.

The BNSK study aimed to investigate gaps in service delivery system in both origin and destination countries. The participants argued that empowering women migrants calls for better information dissemination and regulating middlemen.

## Secretary vowed to hold recruiting agencies at both sides responsible



Recruiting agencies at both sides need to be made responsible for failing to protect migrant workers in line with the 2015 Agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia for the protection of migrant workers. Participants also re-emphasised women's right to safe migration prior to the Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia Joint Technical Committee (JTC) meeting, at a discussion on gendered-mobility and rights of women migrants at a pre-JTC consultation held on Saturday 23rd November 2019.

A brief report on the progress and recommendations for the implementation of the Agreement was submitted to the secretary on behalf of the CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM). Md. Salim Reza, Secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, attended the discussion as the Chief Guest. Mahjabeen Khaled, Former Member of Parliament and Member of Bangladesh Parliamentarians Caucus on Migration and Development also joined the event as Special Guest.

The secretary promised to raise all the recommendations discussed on the event at the Bangladesh-Saudi JTC.



## Making GFMD contextualized and gender-responsive

The global commitments on migration needs to be locally contextualized and gender-responsive— argued the experts at the national tripartite consultation that have set an example of partnership and collective action among the government, civil society and UN bodies ahead of the 12th GFMD Summit on January 2020.



The consultation on 'Gender-responsive Sustainable Approaches to Human Mobility' was held on 22th October 2019 and was co-hosted by the UN Migration Network, CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM) and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

The event was organized by Institute of Informatics and Development (IID) and Bangladesh Nari Sromik Kendra (BNSK) under the banner of CGCM.

## CGCM Publications



This policy brief was prepared for the Bangladesh delegation to the Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia **Joint Technical Committee (JTC)** meeting.



Members of the CGCM prepared this policy brief for the Bangladesh delegation to the **Abu Dhabi Dialogue**, where these issues were raised by the delegation.



This event report summarized the recommendations and discussion highlights to set the position for Bangladesh at the 12th **Global Forum on Migration and Development** Summit.



This **event report** summarizes the recommendations and discussion highlights from the **side event** held during the 12th GFMD Summit in Ecuador.



This policy brief highlights the research findings from a country wide **survey** conducted by BNSK, on issues faced by women migrants of Bangladesh.



The **handbook** was prepared to share knowledge about the GFMD 2019 agenda and postulate elements for discussion during the 12th GFMD roundtable discussions.



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