



# State leadership, ownership and stakeholder engagement essential in implementing GCM

Side Event @ 12th GFMD | 21 January 2020 | Quito, Ecuador

## Suggestion Highlights



**The government must take the lead** in prioritising and implementing GCM



**Champion states** can pave the way for other countries for effective implementation by setting examples



**Cross-learning** among different government and CSO representatives is vital



Bangladesh should **reach alliances with other nationals** and focus on other regional consultative processes

Government ownership and proper stakeholder engagement are essential in prioritizing and implementing the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and this needs state leadership and state champions to set examples, mentioned the speakers at a side-event during the 12th GFMD Summit Meeting.

The Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh **Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen**

emphasised that the government of Bangladesh is pledge-bound to provide safety and security to every native and foreign citizen in Bangladesh. Highlighting Bangladesh's progress in implementing specific objectives of the GCM, the Minister mentioned that Bangladesh is leading both in inception and implementation of GCM. He also highlighted some of the collaborative actions Ministry of Foreign Affairs has undertaken with civil society organisations.



Speaking as the keynote speaker **William Gois**, Regional Coordinator of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), highlighted the need for champion countries implementing the GCM but also to take state-leadership because the GCM is primarily a state-led mechanism. So the state should be in the forefront of implementing the GCM. He also acknowledged Bangladesh's pioneering role for showing the path in this regard.

Realizing the importance of stakeholder engagement and cross-learning among different government and CSO representatives, the event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM).

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.

While moderating the event, **Syed Ahamed**, CEO of IID and founding member of CGCM, highlighted how civil society forums in Bangladesh are now playing an active role in engaging UN and government agencies in implementing the global commitments on migration.

**Md. Nazrul Islam**, Director General of the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that although Bangladesh is in the process of developing a robust implementation framework for the GCM, the country has already made significant strides in achieving the compact's objectives, especially at the local level – through its efforts to collect data on migrants, combat trafficking and by establishing safe home at district level.

Highlighting the importance of information availability in implementing GCM, **Ahmed Munirus Saleheen**, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment suggested to increase the access to information through collaboration between the government initiatives and CSOs.

**Roula Hamati**, Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) acknowledged the importance of the government-led transformative agenda to go beyond any projects on migration. She argued that





for the level of ambition the civil society has for GCM, it cannot be achieved through business as usual project-implementation approach. That's why its very important for the government to have the sense of ownership over the agenda.

**Shakirul Islam**, Chairman OKUP acknowledged Bangladesh government's commitment to implementing GCM and emphasised collaborative actions engaging the grassroots-CSOs and the government.

**Colin Rajah**, Action Committee Coordinator of ICMC emphasised internalisation of the spirit of the compact. The Global Compact happened at a time when it was hard to even have a conversation on migration. So while its not perfect, it has brought us so much further than where we were before. As some of the countries rolled back on GCM, he argued that it is now all the more important to have champion states to lead the implementation of the compact at the local, national and sub-regional levels.

Malaysian lawyer and global migration expert **Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna**, Chairperson of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) shared her experience from working with MFA. She commended the government of Bangladesh for its firm commitment and consistent effort to implementing GCM. She suggested more engagement of the Bangladesh consulates at the destination countries for the purpose of implementing GCM as the scope of GCM is not only specific to sending countries.

**Gerry Fox**, Team Leader, PROKAS stated the need

to develop a framework for collective solutions among different countries facing similar challenges while implementing GCM.

**Shirin Lira**, IBP Manager and Gender & Inclusion Adviser of PROKAS stressed on sharing best practices of GCM implementation by CSO representatives and building mutual capacity that can be transferred to the grassroots levels.

A strong alignment of Bangladesh Prime Minister's vision and migration sector development was pointed out by **Md. Nazrul Islam**, Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Sumaiya Islam**, Executive Director, BNSK and Founding Member of CGCM extended gratitude to





both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment for their continuous support in implementing GCM objectives.

On behalf of the hosts, **Md. Nazrul Islam** and **Sumaiya Islam** thanked the Honourable Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CSO representatives and IID as the secretariat of CGCM for making the event successful with their valuable inputs.

Among others, Bangladesh Ambassador to the Mexico Supradip Chakma, Members of Parliamentarians'

Caucus on Migration and Development, Barrister Shamim Haider Patwary MP and former member of parliament Mahjabin Khaled, journalist Md Owasim Uddin Bhuyan; Joanna Yu, Ellene A. Sana, Executive Director of Centre for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines; Syed Saiful Haque, Chairman & Founder Member of WARBE DF; Anisur Rahman Khan, Director of Migration Program, Awaj Foundation; and Nicola Piper, Founding Director of the Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia were present at the policy forum.

CSOs for Global Commitments on Migration (CGCM) is a platform of the leading civil society organizations committed in advocating, implementing and monitoring the regional and global treaties, compacts and consultative processes on migration.

Given the diverse and independent nature of CSOs and the complex nature of global compacts and commitments, CGCM offers to provide more technical, systematic and collaborative engagement of civil society in the implementation, follow-up and review of these global commitments.

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