

**Bangladesh- Country Statement on**  
**“Asia -Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global**  
**Compact for safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”.**

**10 March 2021, UNCC, Bangkok**

*Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Thank you very much for giving this opportunity for Bangladesh to share its experience and achievement as a champion country in the arduous journey of implementing the Global Compact for safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Bangladesh takes pride as one of the early starters by completing all groundworks for implementing the SDGs as well as embedding the Global Development Agenda into the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th Five Year Plan, Mapping of Ministries by goals and targets, Data Gap Analysis, SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Preparation of Ministry specific Action Plan etc. Voluntary GCM Review 2020 is one of such actions. It is a great honor to be one of the champion countries in this regard.

Presently more than 12m Bangladeshis are engaged in overseas employment in 174 countries. Our migrant workers are contributing in the recent continuous growth of about 8%. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment is committed to ensure migration of 1000 youth from each upazilla or sub-district of Bangladesh. More than 3.38 million youths are given skill development training in 55 trades of 70 training centres during the period 2009-2019.

In terms of SDG 10.7.1 of facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration- to achieve the target, a National Steering Committee, headed by the honorable Prime Minister, is guiding, and monitoring the activities. It has prioritized the issues related to overseas employment and migrants' welfare. All the stakeholders are involved in the National Labour Migration Forum. they are work closely under whole of the government and whole of the society approach.

Therefore, activities on achieving the 23 specific GCM objectives are also going on full swing. The G2G migration procedure shows a great success in low-cost migration. For example, 53,315 female workers got job in Jordan and migrated in only BDT 17,715. 100% of the total migrant workers in 2019-2020 are given BMET smart card and orientation training related to safe migration. The Government is working closely under Bangladesh-UN Network on Migration (BDUNNM) to develop a roadmap for implementation of the GCM.

The COVID pandemic is an added challenge in attaining the GCM objectives. At the same time, COVID-19 situation shows how important it is to follow the GCM. I would like to mention of few activities of Bangladesh that has immense effect on combating COVID pandemic challenges.

- (a) In 2019, Honorable PM of Bangladesh inaugurated compulsory insurance activities for all aspirant migrant workers. The Wage Earners' Welfare Board provided more than 50% of the premium which ensure an insurance of Tk. 200,000 (approx. 2350 USD). The insurance is doubled into Tk. 400,000 (approx. 4700 USD) with the same contribution in the part of the migrant workers. Our migrant workers are very much benefitted with such insurance.
- (b) In line with the SDG 10.C of lowering remittance transaction cost, Bangladesh has introduced 2% incentives for remittance sent in legal channel. The World Bank predicted a global downward trend of remittance after the COVID pandemic. Instead, remittance inflow of Bangladesh is continuing in a high pace. Remittance inflow of 18.21 billion USD was 10.87% higher than the previous year. As opposed to the World Bank forecast, about 92% of the last year remittance is achieved in the 1<sup>st</sup> eight month of the fiscal year 2020-2021.
- (c) In order to minimize migration cost, the Government of Bangladesh working intensively. The Government has already fixed the maximum cost of migration for 16 major countries of destination. As per requirement of ethical migration, the cost needs to be bear by the employer. We want a combined voice of all the members to ensure this.
- (d) We have also taken measure to combat irregular migration. Supports of country of origin, transit country and country of destination are required to achieve the target.

Bangladesh appreciates the formulation of ‘the guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders on implementing the GCM’ as a good initiative. The UNNM Core Working Group 2.2 has done intense activities to develop the guidance. In order to make the guidance effective and efficient, the following observations are given:

- (a) Already 23 objectives under the GCM have made the process a little bit complex and hard to follow for the government officials and other stakeholders. The GCM is formulated in such a way that none of the objectives can be left behind and must continue with others. Therefore, the guidance needs to be shorter.
- (b) The six-step process for GCM implementation looks more academic. It will make the review of the GCM more complex. The effort of achieving the GCM may be shifted onto too much paper works.

Based on such observations, we propose for a simplified, short and easy to follow version of ‘Guidance for governments and all relevant stakeholders.

Bangladesh is committed to achieve SDGs. Combined effort is required specially in the global migration issue. We are hopeful that together we will be able to implement the GCM and ensure orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration.

I thank you Madam Chair.