



E-BULLETIN

Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration (BDUNNM) SEPTEMBER 2022



Key guests engaged in an open discussion while launching the Taskforce. © IOM 2022/Md Sariful Islam

Bangladesh launches Migration Compact Taskforce

The **Bangladesh Migration Compact Taskforce** was launched on 05 July 2022 in Dhaka. The Taskforce aims to provide a platform to ensure full support and cooperation from all relevant stakeholders through a 'whole of government' approach for the implementation, follow-up, and review of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**.

The Taskforce comprises representatives of 15 Ministries, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as Coordinator of the Bangladesh United Nations Network on Migration (BDUNNM) as an observer. It is Co-Chaired by the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. The launch event was attended by senior officials of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and representatives of the BDUNNM.

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary and Co-chair of the Taskforce, reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to prioritize the issue of migration in its diplomatic engagements at the bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels. **Dr. Ahmed Munir Saleheen**, Secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) and Co-chair of the Taskforce, recognised the significant contribution of Bangladeshis living abroad. He hailed the launch of the Taskforce, noting it would "provide a consultative space for policy and decision-making coordination, information exchange and peer review."

Other keynote speakers at the launch were **Gwyn Lewis**, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh; **Abdusattor Esoev**, IOM Bangladesh's Chief of Mission and BDUNNM Coordinator; and **Professor Shahidul Haque**, IOM Bangladesh Senior Advisor and Former Foreign Secretary.

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Bangladesh Convenes Pre-IMRF Consultations

In the run up to the **International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)**, the GoB in collaboration with the BDUNNM convened a preparatory consultation on 30 March 2022 bringing together more than 60 representatives from government and civil society to discuss the progress, identify gaps, and challenges in the implementation of the GCM. Given the country context, participants prioritized the areas of pathways to safe and regular migration; protection of rights; climate induced migration and migration governance. The **outcomes** of the event supported the GoB in the lead up to the IMRF which took place in May 2022 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Dr. Ahmed Munirus Saleheen, the Honourable Secretary of MoEWOE in his statement acknowledged the pioneering role of Bangladesh in the formulation and implementation of the GCM and reiterated on the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches for GCM.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of Multilateral Economic Affairs **Farida Yasmeen** reiterated the need to address the challenges associated with the victimization of migrants through inequalities and xenophobia. In addition, she also added that as a strong proponent of migration governance, Bangladesh places high importance on the implementation of the global compact on migration.



Speakers and participants at the Pre-IMRF consultations held in Many 2022. © IOM 2022/Id Sariful Islam

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Bangladesh's road to the IMRF

Since the adoption of GCM, Bangladesh has shown continued commitment through its efforts as the **'GCM Champion' country**. These efforts were displayed through various consultative, including the GCM regional review and IMRF.

Bangladesh co-facilitated the drafting of the Progress Declaration at the recent IMRF, the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Progress Declaration on June 7th also by consensus indicates a welcome step in the maturing of migration multilateralism in the UN and grounded in human rights.

Bangladesh pledged to contribute to, among other things, the **Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF)**, operationalize the Bangladesh Migration Compact Taskforce, develop a Diaspora Policy and GCM National Action Plan.



BOOKLET LINK

IOM and WARBE Sign Memorandum of Understanding

In June 2022, Abdusattor Esoev, IOM Bangladesh's Chief of Mission, and Syed Saiful Haque, WARBE Development Foundation (WARBE DF) Chairperson, formalized the ongoing cooperation of the two organizations by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Based on the MOU, the organizations will further collaborate in areas of advocacy, research and consultations supporting the migration agenda in Bangladesh.

The partnership also includes enhanced collaboration between the Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development and the BDUNNM, to which WARBE DF and IOM provide secretarial support respectively.

From the Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development, its Chairperson **Hon. Br. Shameen Haider Patwary**, Secretary General **Hon. Mahjabeen Khaled, MP**, and Caucus Member **Tanvir Shakil Joy MP** were present at the signing event and reaffirmed their support for the betterment of migrants.



Abdusattor Esoev, IOM Bangladesh's Chief of Mission, and Syed Saiful Haque, WARBE Development Foundation's Chairperson exchanged the signing document. © IOM 2022/Md Sariful Islam

IOM Deputy Director-General Meets BDUNNM

During her visit to Bangladesh in July 2022, **Ugochi Daniels**, IOM's Deputy Director General (DDG) for Operations, met with the BDUNNM and its Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Counter Trafficking in Persons and Labour Migration.

DDG Daniels hailed all members of the network and its TWGs for their work so far particularly in the areas for Joint Programming and COVID-19 Response; Strengthening Partnerships and consultative processes and various advocacy initiatives. Daniels highlighted the **contributions of the network in supporting the GoB as a GCM 'champion country'**. She noted the leading role of Bangladesh in the IMRF particularly in co-facilitating the drafting of the Progress Declaration. She further appreciated the pledges made by Bangladesh and is hopeful that all commitments would be fulfilled with the continued support from the BDUNNM.



Members of the BDUNNM joined the meeting with IOM's DDG Ugochi Daniels. © IOM 2022/Md Sariful Islam

Dublin Declaration for Enhanced Diaspora Engagement

In April 2022, delegates at the **Global Diaspora Summit 2022** committed to prioritize diaspora engagement for development in countries of origin, transit, and residence. The Summit underlined global commitment to the advancement of Objective 19 of the GCM to “create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries,” and of **Agenda 2030**. At the Summit, States reiterated the importance to create sustainable opportunities and mechanisms to learn and contribute, and the relevance to keep fostering innovative solutions and programmes tailored to the interests and skills of diaspora members.

The outcome of the GDS is the **Dublin Declaration**, a plan of action for diaspora organizations to institutionalize and operationalize diaspora capitals across policies, programmes, and partnerships in a coherent and consistent framework. The delegation from Bangladesh was led by **Mr. Imran Ahmad**, Honourable Minister of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment. The Minister reiterated the importance of strengthening protection and safeguarding rights, security and welfare of migrants and diaspora; including by combatting discrimination, xenophobia, social exclusion, and racism and by reinforcing the role and capacities of the consular services to support and nurture diaspora - particularly more vulnerable members - recognizing their needs as well as their potential to contribute to development.



Imran Ahmad, Minister of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment, delivered his speech at the diaspora summit.

GLOBAL DIASPORA SUMMIT 2022

Bangladesh commemorates World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

On 30 July 2022, a national consultation marking World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was held in Dhaka. The consultation was hosted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs and BDUNNM**. Participants called for a robust, rights-based approach in the prevention of exploitation by trafficking networks.

In his remarks, Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister of Home Affairs, noted that “Trafficking in person is a serious human rights violation and the government has zero tolerance policy on this.” **Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, affirmed Bangladesh’s strong commitment to various frameworks including the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol); and counter trafficking-in-persons provisions of the GCM (Objective 10).



Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered his speech during the national consultation. © IOM 2022/Nusrat Sultana

The event focusing on the theme ‘**Combating Human Trafficking in the Context of Technology use and its Abuse**’, was attended by over 100 participants, including government officials, BDUNNM and its TWGs members, members of the diplomatic community and media.

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BDUNNM Celebrates Three Years

The Network celebrated its **3rd anniversary in July 2022** with renewed commitments to support the GoB for GCM and broader migration objectives.

In his message to mark the occasion, **Abdusattor Esoev**, IOM Bangladesh's Chief of Mission and Coordinator of the BDUNNM, congratulated the GoB for its continued commitment to serve as a 'champion country' for GCM. He also thanked members of the network for continued cooperation and work towards a common goal.

Mahdy Hassan from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Chair of the Counter Trafficking in Persons TWG in his message to mark the 3rd year of the BDUNNM and its TWGs, highlighted some of the progress of the namely the revision of the National Action Plan on Trafficking and support to vulnerable groups during the pandemic. UN Women Country Representative **Gitanjali Singh** during her message, highlighted how the group supported the GoB for drafting of the reintegration policy for migrants. She added that going forward, key priorities would be joint resource mobilization and taking a more coordinated approach to advancing gender responsive migration.



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BDUNNM¹ was established in July 2019 and currently includes members from 10 UN agencies. It also comprises two Technical Working Groups on Counter Trafficking in Person (CTIPTWG) and Labour Migration (LMTWG) whose membership includes UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, and others. The BDUNNM and its TWGs works towards supporting the GoB for implementation and review of GCM and other migration related interventions.

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