

Concept Note

Bangladesh Side Event

On

Global Compact for Migration: Civil Society Voice

6 November 2017, 1200 hrs.

Room 4, UN ESCAP, Bangkok

The member states of the United Nations have taken a landmark step to address human mobility globally with safety and dignity through adopting the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016. The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) as adopted in the resolution A/RES/71/1 is a Member States-led effort for governing migration, by paying attention to ways of protecting the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status. The thematic consultations on Global Compact for Migration have concluded in accordance with the UNGA resolution A/RES/71/280. The State-led process is mandated by the resolution A/RES/71/280 to ensure effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities and migrant organizations in the intergovernmental conference and in its preparatory process.

Bangladesh highly values the contribution of the civil society in our society. Civil society has potentiality to provide for the crucial linkage between government and the communities they represent. They infuse policy frameworks with grassroot level knowledge. The process of their contribution therefore, strengthens government actions. States must step out for strengthening the voice of the civil society in shaping the architecture of the GCM.

Civil Society including business can bring in a holistic knowledge based platform that can clarify the economic realities embedded in the migration process. Bangladesh aspires to instil a strong multi-stakeholder, inclusive and robust participation from both migrants and business community representatives in the negotiating process of the GCM. An informative audience can better contribute in designing the GCM, which can enhance the benefits and

contribution of migrants in both countries of origin and destination. Therefore, Bangladesh believes in a strong culture of cooperation on both sides. Civil-society leadership in migration needs to be incorporated in the first step of cooperation in the run up to the GCM in a consolidated way. In order to build a sense of ownership and sustainability, Civil Society voice must be involved at every stage of the negotiation, instead of through sporadic invitation, deliberations or when governments require their temporary expertise. Civil Society has the potentiality to infuse policy debates with new perspectives and critical on-ground knowledge of what migrants need and want.

With this perspective, Bangladesh has taken the initiative to organize a event on **Global Compact for Migration: Civil Society Voice to be held on 6 November, 2017 at 1200 hrs in Room 4, UN ESCAP, Bangkok.**
