



Statement of Bangladesh in the General Debate of the 109th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, 27-30 November 2018):

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Let me commence by welcoming your Excellency the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia for assuming the Chair of the IOM Council. We deeply appreciate your country's proactive role in global migration discourse and firmly believe that your leadership in the Council would be precious, especially during this critical juncture in the history of multilateral proceedings on internal migration. We also welcome newly elected other bureau members. We also thank the Director-General for his deliberation. Bangladesh also welcomes Uzbekistan's membership to the IOM as well as new observers.

Mr. Chair,

The Director-General, in his statement, has pointed out that intercontinental demographic disparity, difference in economic condition among nations, and environmental degradations due to climate change would continue to act as major drivers of migration in coming decade. This is important that a positive narrative of the migrants, based on data-based evidences, is upheld in global, regional, national and local levels. We must take into account the humanitarian and developmental dimensions of international migration in source, transit and destination countries. Migration governance is essential in today's world, not only for the sake of ensuring orderly trends of global migration, but also to ensure that people-centric policies are undertaken and well implemented at international and national levels, so that the development dividend of migration can be shared by all, including the migrants themselves. This is indeed important prerequisite for creating a prosperous world. We must admit, as stated at the beginning of Sutherland Report, that as development advances over the coming decades, more people will want to migrate, and will have more options to do so. He further stated that States have obligations towards migrants and refugees under existing international law and need to have sound policies to protect migrants; to give them the chance to migrate legally and safely; and to ensure that, once arrived, they can play a full part in the society and economy that they have joined. These points are equally relevant today.

Mr. Chair,

The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) would be adopted in Marrakesh in two weeks. The document is the outcome of long, sometimes pain-sticking negotiations. Bangladesh believes that the member states, despite commendable efforts of

many, could not fully succeed to capture the whole spirit of the New York Declaration (NYD) in the GCM. However, despite limitations, we consider the document as a historic achievement, especially due to the fact that this is the first ever international instrument, though non-binding in nature, on international migration. This is also frustrating to see the failure of few countries to endorse the GCM, as this might deeply undermine the cause. At this critical moment, this is important that member states and all stakeholders demonstrate reinvigorated political will and proactiveness to adhere to the spirit of the New York Declaration, which was indeed a momentous turning point in multilateralism.

Mr. Chair,

We consider that the GCM as the beginning of a journey, not the end. There are areas where we need further consensus and cooperation, and an effective follow-up mechanism can only ensure that. Needless to say, sincere support and engagement of Governments, international organizations and stakeholders are crucial for this. Also, as the coordinator and secretariat of the UN Migration Network, IOM's role will be critical in successful implementation of the GCM at all levels. Such central role of the IOM in the implementation and follow up of the Global Compact is a hard-earned accomplishment for many of us, to say the least. However, as we mentioned in the recent SCPF session, in order to pursue its leading role, IOM would need a substantial upgradation of its capacity of policy formulation and implementation. This is important that IOM demonstrates high capability to continue relevant policy discourse with other organs of the United Nations system in the field of international migration. We believe that The IOM's two International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) every year are important platform for developing ideas for migration policies. But there is clearly further scope to take forward the discourse. This warrants, among others, adequate allocation of resources for the required upgradation of the core structure as well as for ensuring necessary coherence with other relevant UN organs and agencies.

Mr. Chair,

At the same time, we also underline the importance of maintaining the operational character of the IOM, as its worldwide operation is crucial in international migration management. This is particularly important that the growth of global migration in recent years is addressed adequately, and IOM is best placed to do so. Therefore, the growth in its operational activities in global, regional and national levels should be continued to be supported by adequate planning and budget.

Mr. Chair,

For major source countries of international migration like Bangladesh, effective governance of international migration is of ample importance for millions of our people. We firmly believe that ensuring a human-rights-based approach in the treatment of migrants, especially those who are in vulnerable conditions including women and children, in transit and destination

countries is key in ensuring that the spirit of the New York Declaration is upheld. This is also of paramount importance for the successful implementation of relevant goals and targets of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The history of human civilization clearly asserts the strong nexus between migration and development. We believe that safe, orderly and regular migration can only be ensured through sustained political stability and homogeneous economic progress in the whole world, leaving no one behind. Today's undertaking, therefore, is needed to be a wholistic and cross-cutting one. One can not enjoy serenity of one's garden while neighbour's house is burning. Thus, international cooperation based on the values of compassion and fraternity is important for ensuring our collective progress, and the treatments of migrants are indeed an important building block in this process.

Thank you.