

Closing speech of the GFMD

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Directors of Intergovernmental Organizations; Ambassadors;
Parliamentarians; Distinguished delegates, representatives of the
governments of international organizations, the civil society, the private
sector, academia and the media;
Ladies and gentlemen;**

In this closing session of the Moroccan-German co-presidency of the GFMD, which is held in Marrakesh, an imperial city of the Kingdom, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the participants for the excellent exchanges that we had throughout the different sessions and side events.

I am pleased with the enthusiasm generated by this edition, as evidenced by the large number of participants, you are more than 2000 delegates from 135 countries, including more than 300 civil society actors and 100 representatives of the private sector. We are also proud to welcome 45 Ministers, high dignitaries and representatives of 40 international organizations.

I am sure that during these three days you have been able to expand your networks and forge new partnerships.

During this year of Moroccan-German co-presidency, a crucial year in every respect, we conducted several activities throughout 2018. Sides Events were organized in the context of major international meetings (at IOM's IDM, at the annual meeting on migration and development organized by UNDESA, at the HLPF). Similarly, we held three thematic sessions, the first on the migration-related SDGs, the second on labour migration and the third on children in migration. We also held a dialogue on the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration. This year was also characterized by openness to the local dimension with the inclusion of local authorities in the different sessions of the GFMD. We also convened events that were conducted with the valuable assistance of high-level experts including personalities who have already chaired the GFMD.

Ladies and gentlemen;

It is not necessary to remind you of the enormous challenge of the migratory phenomenon, probably the most important issue of the 21st century. The 11th edition of the GFMD gave us the opportunity to take stock of migration issues that concern us all, countries of origin, transit and destination. Together with our German friends we took on the challenge to organize the Forum at a historic turning point in the global governance of migration.

We have responded favorably to the expectations of the international community, in particular the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum, which in the past two years has asked the Forum to submit a report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to migration.

Similarly, we have been asked to contribute to the international effort to develop the Global Compact on Migration, and we have submitted a thematic compendium of practices and policy options for the Compact.

The Kingdom of Morocco attaches great importance to this Forum and is convinced that it can play a significant role in monitoring the implementation of legal instruments related to migration, including the two texts I mentioned earlier.

In the process of drafting the pact we advocated for strengthening this process to foster new forms of cooperation among the various actors around the world, including governments, civil society, international organizations, the private sector, and local authorities.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Human mobility is a global phenomenon, those who think that migration can be stopped by repressive means, are mistaken. Most governments have understood for many years that migration must be a basis for development. Migration should be an opportunity for all parties concerned, including host countries, countries of origin and transit, as well as for the migrants themselves.

Instead of erecting barriers to mobility, build bridges between civilizations and cultures.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Finally, I wish to reiterate my thanks to all participants representing all stakeholders.

I would like to thank Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme and his team for the excellent relations maintained and the concordance of views on a range of issues. This co-chairmanship has created synergies and friendships between the Moroccan and German teams.

I also thank the panelists, the moderators, the co-chairs of the round tables, the experts and all those who enriched by their ideas the course of this edition of the Forum.

My thanks also go to IOM for its valuable assistance throughout the preparatory process.

My gratitude also goes to Louise Arbor, Special Representative of the Secretary General, who gave us her valuable advice.

I am also grateful to the donor countries that helped fund the operation of the process, through their generous contributions were able to carry out several activities at a pivotal time in the history of migration. I would like to thank in alphabetical order: Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Germany, France, Mexico, Holland, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates.

To conclude this list, I would like to thank the Support Unit for its unwavering support. And I take this opportunity to thank Minister Benoutiq for his daily involvement. I would also like to congratulate the Ministry staff, the media, the security services, the local authorities of the city of Marrakech and the interpreters.

Ladies and gentlemen;

At this solemn moment we will pass the baton from the African continent to Latin America, and more precisely to the Republic of Ecuador, a country known for its natural and cultural wealth, and which is also very much involved in the

issues of international migration. I am convinced that our Forum is in good hands.

I wish them every success in this endeavor, which on a personal level has brought me a lot during these two years, I have been able to meet friendly people from all continents and all walks of life, with whom I exchanged and learned a lot about the multidimensional realities of migration.

I wish good luck to those who will remain with us for the Intergovernmental Conference for the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and wish those who will be leaving us following the end of this edition of the Forum a safe journey to their respective countries.

I thank you for your kind attention.