

“Honoring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of all Migrants for Development”

All GFMD 2018 Summit delegates are invited to attend the following side events, to be held at the Palmeraie Conference Center on 6 to 7 December 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco. These side events will be held upon the initiative of their respective organizers. While the topics to be discussed may be relevant to GFMD themes and roundtable discussions, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs and Taskforce, as well as the GFMD Support Unit, are not directly involved in the organization of these side events.

For registration and/or any question, please contact the organizers directly.

Date and time	7 December 2018, 14h00 – 15h15, Roseraie Room
Title of side event	Safe and Dignified Return and the Economic, Social and Developmental Impact of Sustainable Reintegration
Organizers	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs – The Arab Republic of Egypt (A.R.E) League of Arab States International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Contact person(s) / email address(es)	Dr. Amr Nasr El Din (Ministry of Foreign Affairs – The Arab Republic of Egypt (A.R.E)) E-mail Address: amrnasr@aucegypt.edu Mrs. Enas El Fergany (Director of Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department- General Secretariat of the League of Arab States) E-mail Address: enas.fergany@las.int Ms. Lobna Azzam (Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department- General Secretariat of the League of Arab States) E-mail Address: l.azzam@las.int aemigrant.dept@las.int Mrs. Carmela Godeau (Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa, International Organization for Migration) Email Address: cgodeau@iom.int Ms. Kristina Mejo, Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, Middle East and North Africa, International Organization for Migration Email Address: kmejo@iom.int
Background materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the attached Concept Note.
Logistical Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data show. • 2 Wireless Microphones • Interpretation setup (booth and equipment) • Side table for the publications

Brief description

Migratory movements have long shaped countries in the Arab region, which are for the most part countries of origin, transit and destination for migrants. In 2015, more than 26 million individuals from Arab countries, including registered refugees, were living outside their countries of birth.¹ Equally in 2017, a total of 11,829 migrants from the Arab region returned to their countries of origin with IOM's support.²

Return migration can be defined as the process through which a migrant goes back to his or her country of origin. It can either happen within the territorial boundaries of a country, such as in the case of Internally Displaced Migrants (IDPs), or between a country of destination and a country of origin for international migrants. Return migration can be either forced or voluntary. This can mean that migrants can be forced to return to their countries of origin because the destination country has found them not to be in need of international protection and/or they are forcibly removed due to their administrative status. Alternatively, return migration can be initiated by migrants who voluntarily decide to go back in a spontaneous and independent manner.

When return takes place in a safe and dignified manner and is accompanied by comprehensive reintegration support taking into consideration the needs of the individuals, their communities and the structural conditions where the return takes place, it can be a potential driver of development and change in countries of origin. Reintegrated returnees can bring new sets of skills and participate in reshaping their countries' labor market and economy. Similarly, when managed appropriately, return migration and sustainable reintegration can also bring positive economic, social, and developmental change to countries of origin.

This is no more evident than today as we are faced with the greatest amount of human mobility the world has experienced. Effective and proactive policies need to be considered as a whole of government and whole of society approach to help promote successful return migration. As such, officials from origin and destination countries, academia, the UN and the World Bank will provide their perspectives in walking through critical issues of concern that impact societies at large today.

The session will be conducted in an one-hour panel discussion in Davos style format. Introductory remarks will be made by each of the co-organizers for two (2) minutes each. Key experts will then address, through short interventions (8 minutes), some conceptual and practical questions related to the safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration through the lenses of political, economic, social, and development impact on countries of origin and destination. Discussants will have the opportunity to discuss have the floor to ask questions, share good practices and key messages in order to share with policy makers and practitioners and learn from ways in which global negotiations may impact States at the international, regional and national level. These presentations will be followed by an open discussion with Member States and other stakeholders for 20 minutes.

On the auspicious occasion of the 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2018, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the League of Arab States and the International Organization for Migration propose a side event to provide a forum for government representatives, UN entities, civil society organizations, academia, and migrants to discuss the topic of safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration. The main objective of the side event is to discuss the economic and social and developmental impact of safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration. This side event is in line with the following:

The side event is expected to attract wide audience that could include, but not limited to, government officials, experts and academics and representatives from the international civil society. It will take place in a form of a panel discussions/forum. The organizers expect an audience of around 70 persons.

¹ IOM, ESCWA (2017) Situation Report on International Migration Overview of Migration Trends in the Arab Region

² IOM (2018), Key Highlights: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration. Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/avrr-2017-key-highlights.pdf

Provisional Programme / Panelists

(Joint Event: Egypt, League of Arab States and IOM)
(Topic: Return Migration – Total Duration: 1 Hour)

- **Introductory note** by the Arab Republic of Egypt
H.E. Ambassador Ehab Fawzy, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2 minutes)
- **Introductory note** by the League of Arab States
Mrs. Enas El Fergany, Director, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department (2 minutes)
- **Introductory note** by the International Organization for Migration
Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General (2 minutes)
- **Expert Intervention** by the International Organization for Migration
Mr. Nicola Graviano, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration, Senior Specialist, IOM Geneva (8 minutes)
This presentation will discuss the modalities for dignified return and sustainable reintegration.
- **Expert Intervention** by the World Bank
Mr. Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD and World Bank Lead Economist for Migration Practice, World Bank (8 minutes)
This presentation will focus on the economic impact of return and reintegration in the region.
- **Expert Intervention** by an Academic from the Arab Republic of Egypt
Dr. Jackline Wahba, Professor of Economics, University of Southampton (8 minutes)
This presentation will provide a Country of Origin overview on return and reintegration.
- **Expert Intervention** by the Federal Republic of Germany (GFMD co-chair)
H.E. Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Morocco and the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany in the GFMD co-chairmanship (TBC) (8 minutes)
This presentation will provide a Country of Destination perspective on return migration.
- **Discussions** with Member States and Participants (circa 20 minutes)
- **Conclusions and Key Messages** (2 minutes)