

GFMD Summit Digest

Day 3 Highlights

2017 Common Space

The final day of the 10th GFMD Summit Meeting was dedicated to the [Common Space](#), co-organized by the GFMD Co-Chairs and the civil society coordinating office as a platform for direct interaction between states, civil society leaders and other stakeholders. The 2017 Common Space theme “*Mechanics for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,*” reflected civil society’s resolute will, shared by the GFMD Co-Chairs, to contribute to the development of a Global Compact on Migration.



During the opening session of the Common Space, **Ms. Wies Maas**, Chair of the Civil Society Days (CSD) 2017, conveyed [10 recommendations](#) that came out of the CSD—advocating for a Global Compact that is more focused on implementation by including goals and timelines that are ambitious but achievable and with accountability measures. [Mayor Armand Roland Pierre Beouinde](#) of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on the other hand, echoed the [Declaration](#) that emerged from the Global Mayor Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development last 26-27 June, underscoring the significant role that cities play in shaping migration processes both at the national and grassroots level.

Framing and Focus Sessions

Following the opening session, three simultaneous framing sessions debated on the meaning of “safe, orderly, and regular migration” in various contexts. Participants reflected on their shared interests and understandings from the prism of their own experiences.



Framing Session A looked at “safe, orderly, and regular migration” in the context of *children on the move, women and migrants in other vulnerable situations*. The session emphasized that the Global Compact should not promote ‘securitization of borders,’ nor become a ‘vehicle for forced returns and deportations; instead, it should ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants and establish peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms that balance different concerns. Framing Session B focused on the context of *people moving across borders for work*. There was a consensus that the Compact should establish legal pathways that adhere to the UN frameworks on labour mobility and facilitate fair recruitment practices. Finally, Framing Session C discussed the context of *people compelled to flee across borders from conflict, persecution, climate change or family reunification*. Participants pointed to the need for alternative legal pathways for these people to move, combined with robust social inclusion programmes in order to prevent ‘irregular migration.’



After the three ‘framing’ sessions, seven ‘focus’ sessions were held for a more in-depth exchange and to enable government and civil society delegates to identify concrete mechanisms for safe, orderly and regular migration for migrants in different contexts. The objective was to submit such mechanisms as inputs for the Global Compact process.

All in all, the sessions concluded with a strong call to ‘walk the talk’ and ensure that the Compact is buttressed by political will and commitments from all concerned stakeholders, including the migrants themselves.

Closing Plenary of the Common Space and Summit Meeting

Synthesizing the discussions of the Common Space was Grand Rapporteur **Mr. Gibril Faal** of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform, assisted by **Dr. Kathleen Newland** of Migration Policy Institute. They reported that the discussions across the sessions were rich and constructive, although there was a notable inconsistency in understanding certain concepts, such as “safe migration” and “best interest of a child on the move”. They cautioned against being over-principled and underperforming, and urged participants to be practical and tactical in considering the key elements of the Global Compact.

In closing the 2017 Common Space on behalf of the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, **Amb. Omar Hilale**, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the UN in New York, noted the vibrant voice of Africa and praised the GFMD for successfully bringing together the governments, the civil society, and the private sector – all critical actors who must play their respective roles in promoting the success of the Global Compact.



The Common Space was immediately followed by the closing of the Tenth GFMD Summit Meeting. **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme** delivered the [Chair's Conclusions](#) that comprehensively outlined the achievements of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship after Dhaka, both in terms of substance and process. **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, for his part, expressed the Moroccan Co-Chair's commitment to strengthen existing partnerships, introduce thematic priorities that are aligned with the Global Compact and 2030 Agenda frameworks, and implement the commitments that have come out of the Tenth GFMD Summit.

To all Summit Participants and Friends of the Forum, Danke schön!



The GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs, together with the German and Moroccan GFMD Task Force and the GFMD Support Unit, wish to thank you for joining us in Berlin. We hope that the three-day Summit has served as a fertile ground for the emergence of concrete policy recommendations and fostered partnerships towards a global social contract on migration and development!

*This Summit Digest is one of the three digests prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
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