

Interventions of the GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team at the 5th Annual Meeting of the United Nations Network on Migration

A GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team was formed in December 2023 with the aim to identify key highlights during the GFMD 14th Summit relevant to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team

Mr. Jorge Gonzalez Mayagoitia, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN in Geneva

Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, GFMD Civil Society representative

Mr. Gary D. Slaiman, GFMD Business Mechanism representative

The Rapporteurs shared key highlights during at the 5th Annual Meeting of the United Nations Network on Migration during the following panels:

Panel 1: Maximizing the Development Promise of Migration, Mr. Gary D. Slaiman, GFMD Business Mechanism representative.

Panel 2: Protecting Migrants Rights and Saving Lives, Mr. Jorge Gonzalez Mayagoitia, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN in Geneva.

Panel 3: The Future of Migration - Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, GFMD Civil Society representative.

The Rapporteurs arguments are reported below.

Panel 1: Maximizing the Development Promise of Migration - Statement by Mr. Gary D. Slaiman, representative of the GFMD Business Mechanism on behalf of the GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team

‘Your excellencies and colleagues I’m sorry I cannot be there in person to join you for this report on the almost weeklong GFMD summit under the excellent stewardship of the French chair. On behalf of the business mechanism which I represent, I hope I can begin to adequately convey the energy and action-oriented nature of our meetings.

Among the many **challenges** cited were climate change, demographic deficits in some countries and demographic dividends in others, crisis, war, globalization, and other pressures creating large, migrant and refugee flows worldwide. My comments will focus on development and the **opportunities** before us. You will hear shortly from my rapporteur colleagues on the deep engagement needed to protect human rights and meet the needs of migrants and the internally displaced alike.

As IOM DG Pope noted, people on the move are a given, but with planning and partnership the legal frameworks on migration and human mobility are tools to achieve our goals, including many SDGs. The key is to implement plans and policies to enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration per GCM Objective 5. It was widely agreed that the GFMD is a unique and effective forum for sharing experiences and building on these **practices and procedures**.

Among the many examples shared, was (1) the Pacific islands compact between Australia and Tuvalu to provide regular migration pathways for an area facing the limits of adaptation. (2) The adoption of global skills partnerships between governments, business, and other stakeholders (per objective 18 to invest in skills development) in order to address skills shortages, including for the 7 million job gap for the green economy that is expected by 2030. This can have a huge developmental impact given that the training includes the local population for local jobs. (3) With regard to climate, individuals, and local and medium sized businesses (for which people work and depend for their livelihoods and goods and services) face potentially vast disruptions and risk. Yet again, the focus of the discussion was how to use migration as an opportunity to fill new jobs unmet by the local labor force to build the resilient infrastructure required by adaptation and to meet the demands of a changing environment and an economy driven by ever quickening innovation. (4) An example from Morocco where underwater welders and installers of high-altitude equipment was brought into the country from outside with the result that Morocco acquired skills by opening its job market to migrants who could transfer knowledge to Moroccans. (5) And the benefits of the diaspora, both in terms of returning remittances and knowledge to the home country while away and in enhanced abilities when they return.

Among the many **recommendations** discussed and offered was the need to bring development expertise and financing into the migration space, particularly about climate change. In that regard, the World Bank has reorganized and is implementing a new vision which will support a livable planet and environmental sustainability with an emphasis on investing in regular pathways for migration. The UNDP as well will play a significant role. Additionally, effective and wise use of technology and digitization were often cited as essential tools which must be deployed. Tech startups in emerging markets have the potential to be game changers.

I would be remiss to leave the impression that all this action will be easy in this often-charged political environment marked by xenophobia and fear. Much attention and discussion were spent on the multi-year contributions of the GFMD Working Group on **Narratives**. It was agreed that both in the past and going forward, partnerships are essential to improving the perception of migration per Objectives 16 on social cohesion, Objective 17 on public discourse and, of course,

Objective 5 on enhanced availability of regular migration pathways. Talent Beyond Boundaries, which has identified among the refugee populations those with the skills necessary to move on regular migration pathways, was cited repeatedly as an inspiring example of the private sector, civil society and government working together. The stories of integration and contribution by refugees provide powerful stories from the workplace.

This last point is an excellent example of the vibrancy and change oriented nature of the GFMD. It is in the informal exchanges between government-both national and local, civil society, the private sector, and youth that the value of such innovations are explored and adopted.

Virtually all the speakers at the Closing Ceremony noted the essential role of the GFMD as a gathering place for the various mechanisms. I would particularly like to recognize the International Organization of Employers as the coordinator of the Business Mechanism.'

Panel 2: Protecting Migrants' Rights and Saving Lives – Looking Forwards: Strengthening Advocacy and Global, Regional and Local Levels - Statement by Mexico on behalf of the GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team

'Mexico is honored to deliver this intervention on behalf of the GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team. I take the opportunity to thank the French Chairmanship for entrusting us with this task.

During the three-day GFMD Summit, we heard several challenges that threaten migrants' safety and dignity, and the enjoyment of human rights. This includes factors that compel people to leave their countries of origin, like climate change; risks that migrants encounter in transit, especially when using irregular channels; as well as barriers that migrants experience in destination countries, in areas such as access to services, protection of labor rights or vis-à-vis an increasingly hostile public narrative. Some of these challenges have a differentiated impact on the most vulnerable.

Participants recognized that in order to maximize the contributions of migration to development, migration policies and practices must put migrants at the center and ensure that all migrants, without discrimination, can enjoy their human rights. This vision is embedded in the GCM, a framework anchored in international human rights law, that champions the people-centered, human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive approaches as cross-cutting guiding principles.

A number of good practices were shared, aimed at protecting migrants' rights and saving lives.

- For example, consistent with Objectives 5 and 7 of the GCM, various countries, including Colombia, Ecuador, Thailand, Argentina and Spain have implemented regularization programs and other forms of legal stay for vulnerable migrants and persons displaced by disasters, an effective tool to protect rights.
- In line with Objectives 1 and 17, Canada and other countries have put in place initiatives to promote balanced migration narratives to dispel myths and showcase the positive

contributions of migrants to development, an effort that prevents and addresses xenophobia, racial discrimination and hate speech.

- During the pandemic, a number of countries, such as Portugal, El Salvador and Egypt, included all migrants, without discrimination, in COVID response plans, in order to uphold migrants' right to health, which reflects Objectives 7 and 15 of the GCM.

In looking forward, various participants recommended strengthening the dialogue and collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing the need to protect migrants' rights under a whole of route approach. Others highlighted the critical role of partnerships between all actors of society in protecting rights and saving lives, reflective of the whole-of-society approach that is necessary in managing migration.

These elements constitute a rough summary of some of the key issues discussed at the 14th GFMD Summit, which we hope to elaborate further in the upcoming written report.

We trust that these elements will be useful to inform this year's regional reviews of the GCM and prepare the groundwork for the second IMRF in 2026.'

Panel 3: The Future of Migration - Statement by Ms Paddy Siyanga Knudsen representative of the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism on behalf of the GFMD-GCM Rapporteur Team

It is a pleasure to share in this session where we have heard about the future that migrant workers want to see, migrant and young's people needed space, the importance of evidence-based narratives, needed capacities for states, and we also see how critical foresight data, thinking in talking about the future of migration. In my role representing the GFMD rapporteur team, wearing a civil society hat, I take the opportunity to share initial reflections drawn from plenary sessions, GRTs, side events of the GFMD summit held last week.

Two considerations for the future of migration stand out:

1. Meaningful engagement space within the dialogue processes for the diversity of civil society and the importance of self-mobilization of non-state actors. The absence of member states and empty seats should not be the entry point for CSOs participation.
 - a. We are pleased in this GCM setting - annual meeting - to have heard from the new chair and civil society from various parts of the world and in our diversity look forward to responding to their call for Open dialogue, innovation and contributing our inputs in the co-creation of the priority areas. We also heard today about the meaningful participation of migrants, diaspora and those that represent them.
 - b. We are pleased with the continued call in this space for flexible funding and non-marked funding for civil society, not only in the MPTPF discussions but also remind us of the need for alternative CSO financing in this session as we look forward to

the future of migration. Financing: Loss and Damage fund is not adequate in scale, anticipation and access.

2. Critical concern on limited progress on addressing human rights for migrants. We heard from civil society on social costs of migration linked to families left behind, understanding that vulnerability is perpetuated by externalization, border controls that lack a human-rights based approach, ignoring the rights and needs of migrants in crisis and in transit.
 - There was a call for a narrative shift: Migrants rights as human rights: What stood out was the need to humanize the rights of migrants and reimagine how we look at migrants' rights. In addition to all best practices that were shared from enabling policy space, programs, affirmative actions on integration and inclusion, there was a call for more empathy from the state authorities.
 - There were voices raised on women not being an afterthought or add on to policies as well as well as an intersectional approach on gender in migration governance.

What do we see as **key challenges** in relation to global processes:

1. Importance of GFMD-GCM link: I am glad to have heard from previous chair French and current chair of GFMD Colombia on thematic migration issues that they consider key and their role in leading a dialogue process which is needed for GCM.
 - a. The GFMD is a dialogue space, led by states, where the various stakeholders organized neatly and working effectively through 3 mechanisms on private sector, local government, and civil society. The infrastructure for conversations is there, the people are there, the topics are there. But is there the spirit of dialogue?
 - b. For many who are in the room, we all know that GCM and GFMD are complementary, but we need to be intentional in seeing the connecting opportunities in-between. There is no competition between the GFMD and GCM. There is a social responsibility placed on the framework and dialogue space to address, their respective capacities, issues critical to the lives of migrants and their families and the wider community.
2. Refine our focus and attention on Narratives of migration from various perspectives.
 - a. Culture as a game changer: self-confidence and changing of migrants' image is key with role of diaspora as influencers on positive narrative; soft power of culture (music, poems, language, art) all conveying messages across borders and generations.
3. Ensuring that the thematic areas and GCM actions are dealing with the pertinent issues on the ground:
 - a. A resounding call on GCM on ensuring regular pathways should be flexible and human right centered, to reflect the labour migration dynamics (careful not to neglect the needs of migrants in decent work and social protection as well as the fact that climate induced mobility is not linear and composed of mixed movements. Tied to this is the twin objective of regularization.

- b. Looking to the future: we have an opportunity to manage challenging and difficult migration concerns in a constructive manner. We need to heal the disconnect between what's pressing in the GCM and how that is brought to the GFMD space for further deliberation.
4. Monitoring of the GCM came up predominantly in GFMD discussions and here with the persistent call on robust monitoring linked to limited set of indicators but also recognizing the need for a variety of tools and processes for civil-society led monitoring.

What do we see as **opportunities which can form recommendations** for the future of migration?

- Considering a more equitable partnership is critical from the dialogue to implementation as well a monitoring space using the GCM as mechanism.
- Humanize the narrative on migration, noting the stories and dreams to shape positive perception on migration.
- Growing desire to find a cross-cutting approach to address:
 - The intersectionality of gender, youth, children, and race.
 - International processes that sometimes overlap and create duplication in their implementation strategies, notably: the SDGs, the GCM and the GCR, pushed by member states and civil society.
- Communication, participation, and mobilization - use of the power of diaspora intercultural community and network, leading to a community action plan which they put together.