



From environmental concerns to cultural aspects of migration: adopting an inclusive approach to meet the challenges of and increase the opportunities for human mobility

Concept note

Project for the French Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2022-2023

ENGLISH VERSION

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INTRODUCTION

This document presents the priorities of France for its chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) between July 2022 and February 2024. It is the result of a consultation over several months involving Senegal and the various stakeholders in the Forum, namely representatives of its three Mechanisms and Youth Stakeholders Network, the working groups, and members of the Friends of the Forum. Through these exchanges, six thematic priorities were established that will be the focus of the 2022-2023 programme of the GFMD.

In order to position the Forum's discussions at the heart of 21st century priorities, and in the wake of the concerns raised by previous chairmanships, France has chosen "**the impact of climate change on human mobility**" as an overarching topic. This issue will be the central theme of the French term, and addressed with a cross-cutting approach through thematic priorities. Given the urgency highlighted in the 2022 IPCC Report, France would like to seek a united, multipartite discourse to counter the damaging effects which disasters, climate change and environmental degradation have on migration.

In light of the complexity and plurality of migration-related topics, there is a need to adopt and promote balanced, rational and documented discourse. Throughout its chairmanship, France will seek to ensure the quality and trustworthiness of the information produced and shared within the Forum as well as in other bodies. With innovation and a holistic approach to migration in mind, France wishes to add to the agenda for the first time the issue of culture in GFMD discussions, where economic, social and environmental aspects meet. This unique approach will foster discussion on the positive effects of migration, as well as means to sustain and promote them. Building on these topics, issues surrounding diasporas, human rights and labour migration will also be addressed.

Because of its multi-dimensional nature, migration is challenging for the populations, regions and States concerned. Its proper management is a crucial issue, subject in part to the political will of States and governments. This management is not self-sufficient, however; it is furthered by cooperation between various state and non-state actors. With this in mind, and keen to offer inclusive dialogue, France will take care to respect the important role of all GFMD stakeholders in all topics addressed, particularly through greater involvement in the various mechanisms (involving the private sector, civil society, local government bodies and young people). Furthermore, France will ensure that a link is established between all development and climate change actors by inviting them to discussions in the context of preparatory meetings and thematic workshops. The overlapping nature of the impacts of climate change and development and migratory issues deserve special attention in order to gain a better understanding of the areas in which they overlap.

France wishes to promote the GFMD's activities and commitments internationally, and make sure they are lasting. The aim is to help strengthen the role of the GFMD in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, particularly in the framework of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). It is also to strengthen the contribution of the GFMD in the monitoring of the Global Compact on Refugees, and in achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given its ambition to address the challenges of climate change for



human mobility, the work of the GFMD must be fully aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement commitments and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

To foster dialogue that is open to all, France is open to all suggestions and contributions. The 14th GFMD Summit, in February 2024, must be an event where all voices are heard so that we can tackle shared challenges and support the opportunities offered to all.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

True to the traditions of the GFMD, France has chosen six priorities for its Chairmanship.

PRIORITY 1: THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN MOBILITY: PREVENTIVE ACTION, HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2021, the number of persons displaced by climate and environmental disasters reached 23.7 million, compared to 14.4 million displaced due to conflicts (*Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2022*). In its report published on 21 February 2022, the IPCC stated that “in the mid- to long-term, displacement will increase with intensification of heavy precipitation and associated flooding, tropical cyclones, drought and, increasingly, sea level rise. At progressive levels of warming, involuntary migration from regions with high exposure and low adaptive capacity would occur” ([IPCC, 2022](#)). According to the World Bank, if States do not respect their commitments under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, up to 216 million people globally could be forced to migrate by 2050 ([World Bank, 2021](#)). On the other hand, if countries take action now to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, close development gaps by improving how local labour markets function and their resilience in close partnership with the private sector, restore vital ecosystems and help populations adapt, internal climate migration could be reduced by up to 80%. The GFMD, which is a framework bringing together all of the actors mobilized around migration and sustainable development issues, is a key place for continuing discussions already initiated by the international community and for jointly considering cooperation prospects.

In addition to the environmental factor, this migration generally occurs in specific contexts where other motivations of a political, economic, social or cultural order come together and intertwine. Climate change creates a knock-on effect of a negative economic risk for workers, businesses and the labour market (in particular in the most vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, the mining industry and energy) and therefore requires societies and jobs to change, which, if carried out while taking into account the risks, could be a source of positive prospects ([IOE, 2022](#)). In all cases, the plurality of causes behind migration requires the topic of the environment together with the other variables and with regard to the existing legal and institutional framework, while adopting a concerted, forward-looking approach to its adaptation and improvement. This ambition, when faced with a new phenomenon on the political agenda which is already being keenly felt, requires a lasting, collective response by taking action firstly in terms of prevention and reduction in displacement risk, and secondly through adaptation policies that aim to develop the resilience of the populations concerned, and thirdly, through support policies where displacement linked to risks is unavoidable. Finally, these policies must take into account the compounding factors of discrimination and vulnerability that certain groups are subjected to when faced with climate risk, and thereby adopt a human rights-based approach, with a particular focus on certain groups who are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. In this regard, women, children, people with disabilities, indigenous and local communities as well as people working in the informal economy and those who work in jobs and sectors on the brink of collapse because of climate change must be specifically targeted both ahead of crises and during displacement or afterwards, including when they are displaced within a region or country. It is important to note that inter-state migrations are costly, and as a result, environmentally-induced

displacements are most often over short distances. This is why local governments, private actors and civil society, under government supervision, are on the front line to tackle these challenges.

Approach and proposals for leading questions:

France wishes to invite the GFMD stakeholders to examine the migration, climate and sustainable development nexus, in order to together identify means of preventing or else better addressing climate-induced forced displacements. They will also consider how to ensure that movements take place under safe and decent conditions for those forcibly displaced internally or externally due to climate change or environmental causes. The Chairmanship will seek to strengthen available instruments enabling a better response and adaptation to the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation, and consider how the various actors concerned can develop ways to adapt the application of these instruments. With this theme, discussions will thus aim to take stock of best practices and existing legislation, and to identify innovative solutions in order to apply and adapt them pragmatically to the phenomenon of migration in the context of global warming. The discussions will also identify urgent challenges and shortcomings, as well as prospects for new synergies and opportunities for cooperation between state and non-state actors.

Objectives:

- Facilitate understanding of the links between migration, climate and sustainable development
- Bring together all parties concerned by the topics, and create a community of actors involved in the nexus to promote shared knowledge and learning
- Identify the challenges and opportunities related to the nexus and means to address the former and draw on the latter
- Propose courses of action in the form of deliverables (studies, recommendations, etc.) to international donors and decision-makers (such as the MPTF)
- Identify existing legal instruments to address the challenges raised by environmentally induced forced migrations.

Leading questions:

- Why talk about a migration-climate-development nexus, and how are these fields interconnected?
- How can we better understand and establish a scientifically rigorous definition of the concept of climate/environmental migration?
- How can synergy be developed between scientific output and political decision-making with regard to migration, climate and development?
- What is the role of the various actors in addressing migration, climate and development challenges, and how can we increase the accountability and responsibility of the various categories of actors?
- Why do the different types of climate risks (natural disasters, water stress, rising sea levels, land degradation and salinization, desertification, etc.) require differentiated political responses? How can we prepare for them, and who should be involved in this response?

- What best practices and initiatives exist to prevent forced displacements caused by disasters and climate change? Can they be replicated, expanded or built upon? More broadly, how can the causes of climate-induced forced displacements be reduced?
- How can complementarity be achieved between humanitarian action, development policy and climate change adaptation? Can diasporas and migrants play a role?
- How can we ensure that vulnerable populations can leave an environment that has become inhospitable with dignity? How can we ensure that those who migrate due to disasters, climate change or environmental degradation are well informed of their rights, the potential dangers and safe and legal migration channels throughout their migration journey? How can we better meet the specific needs for protection and support of the most vulnerable groups (women, children, young people, etc.) faced with forced displacements? Which actors are best positioned to do so?
- What impact can the migration, climate and environment nexus have on peace and international stability? What tools, frameworks and mechanisms for anticipation are needed?

PRIORITY 2: RIGHTS AND MIGRATION: WORKING TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

Migrants have rights regardless of their status (regular or irregular), in accordance with the human rights norms enshrined in customary and conventional international law (e.g. United Nations treaties). The social, economic, civil, political and cultural rights of these persons must be protected, in keeping with the principle of non-discrimination and equal treatment between nationals and foreigners. Any exception to these principles, particularly with regard to the right to political participation and freedom of movement must be founded on objective, reasonable justification based on impartial assessment of the circumstances and facts. Furthermore, this exception should take into account the need for a fair balance between safeguarding the interests of the community and respect for individual rights and freedoms.

Promoting a rights-based approach to migrant populations has multiple benefits: it enables, on the one hand, protection of the integrity and human dignity of migrants while combatting human rights violations, and on the other hand, maximizes migrants' positive contributions to their host societies and societies of origin and transit, by facilitating their social and economic integration. Lastly, it offers the opportunity to develop and build state capacities in terms of public policy, as migrants are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations, especially migrant women and girls and unaccompanied or separated minors. They are often victims of migrant trafficking, human trafficking, sexual violence, inadequate health care, and more. These vulnerable groups require specific support, based on an approach that accounts for the compounding factors of discrimination and vulnerability and which is based on human rights, which must be honoured universally.

Migrants should have access to health services under the same conditions as local communities throughout their migration process. Above and beyond purely humanitarian action, the aim is to promote health monitoring for migrant populations by incorporating this dimension into the various health and social planning tools at global level. The Global Compact for Migration and the SDGs contain provisions in this direction. The aim is to consider means of moving from intentions to operational practices.

Promoting the economic, social and cultural rights of displaced persons enables them to have access to housing, education and healthcare services, and opens up employment prospects. Access to social services improves migrants' social and economic integration in their host societies and thus helps maximize their contribution to all aspects of life in the country in question, to the benefit of all stakeholders. Migrants contribute positively to host countries' economies and must therefore be taken into consideration when drafting public policies and in the life of societies. Lastly, ensuring respect for human rights, which are inalienable, is also a means of strengthening legislation concerning the management of migration flows by the countries in question and tackling the factors of forced migration (factors undermining economic and social rights that force populations to emigrate).

Approach and proposals for leading questions: A rights-based approach should be promoted, especially when applying it to migrating populations who are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses. We must step up the fight against human trafficking, migrant trafficking and work to protect the lives and dignity of migrants across their entire migration journey. Forced and irregular migration exposes migrants to deprivation of access to basic social services, including health services. Regular migrants may also encounter obstacles in their integration process in host societies because of insufficient access to social and economic rights. Lastly, answering these questions provides an opportunity for States to improve and strengthen established political frameworks and public policies in the matter. These challenges require pragmatic collegial responses, which will come from peaceful, frank and open dialogue.

Objectives:

- Clarify key concepts: rights, protection, migrant security and safety;
- Promote a rights-based approach in the issue of migration
- Identify the shortcomings and improvements possible in human rights systems and policies to ensure that basic rights are universally respected in migration
- Propose courses of action in the form of deliverables (studies, recommendations, etc.) to international donors and decision-makers (such as the MPTF).

Leading questions:

Promoting a rights-based approach

- What is a human rights-based approach to migration?
- How can a rights-based approach be applied and strengthened in the fight against irregular migration?
- Who are the key actors in protecting human rights? How can they be brought together? To what extent and under what conditions do developing and promoting access to rights contribute to strengthening the voluntary, safe, orderly and regular nature of migrations?

Guaranteeing migrants' rights

- What lessons can be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of access to care, protection of human rights and management of migration flows?
- What mechanisms can ensure better access of migrant populations to basic social services?

- What means can be used to ensure reliable, informed information for migrants on their rights?
- How can digital technology tools facilitate migrants' access to their rights?
- How can actors, in particular the diasporas, be mobilized in the fight against human trafficking?

Guaranteeing access to healthcare

- What basic essential services are needed to ensure access to universal health coverage for migrants? How can access to care be ensured throughout the migration process, including in the host country?
- What are the requirements in human and material resources to ensure complete access to information, including means of professional interpreting throughout the healthcare process?
- What measures could be put in place to ensure mental health follow-up care and treatment for psychological trauma that migrants may suffer from?

PRIORITY 3: DIASPORAS: ACTORS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS

It is widely agreed that diasporas can play a catalyst role and support the development of their countries of both destination and origin. Thanks to their strong capacity to mobilize finance and expertise, they can be a major lever for development. Firstly, through remittances, diasporas have a considerable capacity to finance economies. The World Bank estimates that these remittances represent three times more money than official development assistance. The magnitude of this financial source led the World Bank to call for a reduction in the transfer fees practiced by private operators, as well as fairer regulations in this field. Organizations such as the African Union also advocate in this sense to better support the development of countries of origin. However, the contribution of diasporas is not limited to technical and financial transfers. Diasporas are providers of cultural, social and human gains, thus enriching their host societies. They also create links between territories by contributing to the development of interstate relations, and play a role in promoting paths of legal mobility and cooperation across all domains. That makes diasporas genuine actors in international cooperation, including decentralized cooperation between local government bodies in countries of origin and destination, through many solidarity initiatives. In all cases, diasporas can disseminate positive migration narratives, by promoting the many positive externalities that stem from migration. At the same time, the tangible experience of migration acquired by diaspora communities can also generate empirical discourse on the often negative realities and even the risks and perils of migration, especially when it takes place through irregular channels.

The expertise, knowledge and experience of the diasporas constitutes an added value that can be put to the service of economic development of the countries of both destination and origin. Young binational generations also contribute to renewing the currently established model of engagement by promoting new forms of exchange, shaped more by entrepreneurship than by non-profit organizations characteristic of earlier generations. Furthermore, the involvement of young people is an opportunity to enhance the promotion of volunteering in the country of origin, which is now crucial in maintaining attachment to the

country of origin and intergenerational ties. Lastly, the return of qualified workers to countries of origin also greatly contributes to the latter's development and economies, offering both a source of precious knowledge and expertise and an incentive for investors.

Labour migration should not lead to brain drain in the countries of origin. It is thus crucial that regions, States and international organizations ensure that the positive externalities of migrations such as remittances and knowledge transfer are maximized, migrants are resettled, and the projects of entrepreneurs and international companies are realized, by using and supporting the networking dynamics of diasporas.

Approach and proposals for leading questions:

The 14th Summit of the GFMD will form the basis for questions on how to maximize the contributions of diasporas. It is imperative to highlight that they cannot alone create a development policy. For it to work, States have to play the role of facilitator through ambitious development policies, taking into consideration the diasporas by supporting them and creating a welcoming environment for their contributions.

Objectives:

- Clarify key concepts and their recent evolution, in particular the notion of diaspora, which is rejected to a degree by second and third generation migrants.
- Reflect on the concept of dual identities via the situation of dual nationals: increasing numbers of people claim this status
- Promote the contributions of diasporas
- Identify the opportunities offered by diasporas and how they manage to forge transnational networks
- Prioritize once again the cultural and social contributions of diasporas
- Share best practices of mobilization of diasporas for the development of countries of destination and origin

Leading questions:

- How can diasporas be included in the development and productive investment of their countries of origin?
- What frameworks and structures can be put in place in the countries of origin and destination to encourage the investment of diasporas?
- How can remittances be better mobilized and structured to improve the level and efficiency of their use?
- How can the structuring of diaspora networks be improved in destination countries?
- How can ties be created between these diaspora networks and national and local authorities?
- How can the action of diasporas be promoted with a view to localization and territorialization of development cooperation?
- How can new forms of diaspora engagement be promoted and capitalized on in terms of international solidarity?

- How can the visibility and knowledge of these networks and initiatives be ensured among diasporas?
- What policies and initiatives can ensure the creation of partnerships between diasporas and local populations?
- How can the skills, expertise and experience as well as the social and cultural gains of diasporas be promoted in their countries of both destination and origin? How can the expertise of diaspora communities in terms of the opportunities, but also the risks and perils of migration be highlighted among the population of the country of origin?
- How can the return of highly qualified diaspora members to countries of origin be utilized and fostered?
- What role can diasporas play in promoting legal avenues of mobility for individuals and knowledge?

PRIORITY 4: LABOUR MIGRATION: PROMOTING THE ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

In 2019, international migrant workers represented 69% – that is, over two thirds – of the global population of working-age international migrants in 2019 ([ILO, 2021](#)). It is essential to consider the needs of the labour market in managing these migrations. In the context of labour shortages or shortfalls between the needs of employers and local labour markets, labour migration may, so long as it is suitable and relevant, offer solutions beneficial both to migrants and host societies. While climate change has the undeniable effect of driving forced displacements, migration and human mobility can also offer opportunities to address fast-paced changes in labour market needs caused by global warming, such as to ensure food security or bring about the energy transition.

In all cases, it is essential to ensure efficient and humane return and reintegration policies that also support women’s professional inclusion. Ultimately, these policies must also enable migrant workers to contribute to the development of their societies of origin, both financially and in terms of skills, knowledge and culture. Furthermore, labour migrants do not fit into one homogeneous category. There are major disparities between the social and economic statuses and profiles of migrants. Likewise, reception conditions and workforce needs vary greatly between different destination and transit countries. In view of this, it is necessary to distinguish between these different situations and adapt responses, in particular to ensure the migrants’ access to rights, promote their social and economic inclusion and accompany them on a sustainable, dignified and profitable return to their countries of origin.

It is essential to establish legal frameworks enabling migrant workers to work legally and guaranteeing their rights. These frameworks must take into account the realities of the labour market, the needs of companies and the state of the economic fabric, in order to guarantee their stability and sustainability and the benefits for both migrants and host societies. The portability of social rights is a major challenge that can, through tailored mechanisms, reduce the vulnerability of migrants and promote the economic, social and cultural benefits of regular migration. In relation to climate change, which the Chairmanship established as a priority in its programme, it is important to take into consideration the changes to the economy and jobs that the coming years will inevitably bring. These frameworks also need to enable migrants to access legal work, in order to avoid them turning to the informal economy, which undermines the situation of migrants, making them more vulnerable and complicating their social and economic inclusion.

In some cases, the potential of migrants remains unexploited due to the failure of integrating them into the formal economy, discrimination and various obstacles facing migrants in the labour market and society. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic undermined much of the progress that had been made over the past ten years concerning the integration of migrants. In a certain number of countries, moreover, the sudden increase and growing diversity in new arrivals, many of whom were underqualified, made it difficult to meet their needs. At the same time, this situation provided an opportunity to test out novel solutions in the area of integration, by including a larger pool of stakeholders. Integration policies must take these changes into account. Thus, the successful economic and social integration of migrants is a key objective for public action and cooperation with the countries of origin. Work is therefore needed on adapting legal frameworks, on ensuring the rationality of discourse and perceptions around migration, and on improving integration of migrant workers to ensure they truly benefit from labour opportunities and access their rights.

Lastly, in order to maximize the potential of migrant workers and make them a source of positive externalities for the countries of destination and origin, mobilizing all stakeholders is crucial. To promote the gains brought by migrants, host societies must create favourable conditions for their social and economic integration (the structuring of employment, perception of migration, digital tools to accompany the search for employment and training, consideration for the language barrier, bilateral recognition of qualifications and access to basic financial services, etc.). This should be done by promoting integrated, strengthened and partnership-oriented dialogue between national and local authorities, the private sector, youth organizations, social partners and civil society organizations, in particular the diasporas. Destination countries also have a role to play in terms of communication to their population, by highlighting the economic advantages of migration for the country and working to produce fairer, more balanced narratives about migration.

Approach and proposals for leading questions:

Following on from previous GFMD discussions, the French Chairmanship wishes to further discussions on labour migration, which facilitate economic and social inclusion of migrants. In that regard, the discussions will focus on existing legal frameworks and means to foster access to employment and ways to improve them, taking into account the diversity of situations between countries and local social and economic realities. Topics will be addressed from the perspective of issues related to digital technology, social and economic inclusion and access to rights.

Objectives:

- Clarify key concepts
- Work on the issue of brain drain and related questions around *brain return* and *brain gain*
- Identify best practices in legislation to attract a qualified workforce suited to the needs of the labour market
- Identify the digital tools that can provide support to migrant workers
- Share best practices to ensure the social and economic inclusion of migrants

Leading questions:

- How can the labour and skills shortage be addressed through mobility of people with knowledge and skills?
- What are the challenges and opportunities of labour migration?
- How can respect for migrant workers' rights be promoted?
- How can research results be applied to migration policies concerning the issue of labour?
- How can local authorities support migrants on the path to economic inclusion and help companies access foreign workers? How can the different actors, national and local authorities, civil society organizations, employers, trade unions, diasporas and international organizations work together to facilitate the social and economic integration of migrants?
- What are the lessons to be learned from the portability mechanisms for social rights available today? How can their benefits be promoted, developed and enhanced?
- How can digital tools support migrants in accessing training and the search for employment, and ensure better balance between the demand and supply of employment? How can governments use digital tools to develop effective migration policies and processes?
- How can the legal framework and its tangible implementation evolve to guarantee access to rights for better social and economic integration of migrant workers?
- How can governments be better supported to achieve the successful transition of migrant workers from the informal to the formal sector, in order to create healthy, balanced competition within the economy?

PRIORITY 5: IMPROVING THE PERCEPTION OF MIGRATION IN PUBLIC OPINION THROUGH NARRATIVES, CULTURE, EMOTION AND RATIONAL DISCOURSE

A complex and multidimensional phenomenon, migration is often portrayed through an emotional lens. How migration is perceived has become an issue in itself for countries of origin, transit and destination. The use of rational, responsible and therefore common discourse is fundamental to substantial and constructive international dialogue on the matter. The importance of migration narratives is a core topic for the GFMD, as shown by the creation of its ad hoc working group in February 2020 dedicated to migration narratives. France wants to continue including this issue in its programme and build on it.

Firstly, it is important to clarify the common vocabulary and come to agreement on definitions. The language used has undeniable effects on societies concerning: (i) reception and integration; (ii) respect of human rights; (iii) social cohesion; (iv) success of the migration project, and lastly; (v) public policies. The stories and narratives spread by different actors – media, press, policy-makers, civil society organizations and others – are in constant competition, thus creating confusion and leading to the spread of disinformation. It is not a matter of taking a position on the advantages of migration, but of having a balanced approach to the phenomenon based on verified and proven facts. It is also a question of combating disinformation, political instrumentalization of migration, and the rise in xenophobia and spread in prejudice and stereotypes which give rise to behaviours that can sometimes violate human rights. Better communication also enables better dialogue, which leads to finding integrated and coherent solutions to the issues brought to light by migration.

Moving forward, it seems to be important to combine issues that are frequently neglected when discussing migration, such as culture and the human and social benefits of migration. Migrants build bridges between societies. In this regard, diasporas have a key role in raising awareness in their host societies of the issues of sustainable development and international solidarity. As the embodiment of dual identity, diasporas are pioneers in new practices and forms of international solidarity. They contribute to the circulation and dissemination of knowledge and thus the emergence of a common vision. They spread migration narratives, which may be focused on positive externalities, or they may be more equivocal and take into account the risks and difficulties linked to migration. The awareness-raising campaign, *It takes a community*, led by the GFMD's ad hoc working group on migration narratives, illustrates the importance of diasporas, as well as host communities, international organizations, governments, local authorities, civil society and the private sector in generating these narratives. Promoting a balanced discourse on migration cannot rely solely on dedicated policies. An informed, well-documented public discourse is formed by opening up spaces for contact between migrants and locals and drawing on active participation of migrants in public life, with particular attention to vulnerable communities. The media as a whole, through communication, information or art, plays a crucial role in shaping narratives on migration.

Approach and proposals for leading questions:

Economic, social and even climate issues do not alone determine the perceptions of migration. In order to adopt an accurate, holistic approach to migration, France proposes to address, for the first time, the cultural issues related to migration, the mutual benefits that stem from them, and the changes in the relationships that populations have with others and with themselves. The goal is to work on discourse and give a voice to the stakeholders, including migrants themselves.

Culture is too often forgotten in discussions among the international community, and is fuelled by migration experiences just as migrants culturally and socially enrich origin, transit and destination societies. With this in mind, governments can strive to promote and highlight the cultural contributions of diasporas (art, gastronomy, media, etc.), which play a part in the sustainable development of societies. France wishes to give prominence to this topic by organizing a dedicated event at the National Museum of the History of Immigration in Paris in June 2023.

Objectives:

- Clarify key concepts
- Promote informed, well-documented and balanced migration discourse
- Share best practices for work on informed and balanced discourse
- Incorporate the cultural and social dimensions of migration in ties between migration and development
- Combat discrimination, manipulation, disinformation, xenophobia and racism
- Give a voice to migrants to tell the stories first hand

Leading questions:

Discourse and perceptions around migration

- What is the role of governments, researchers, local authorities, civil society and the private sector in ensuring a rational perception of migration? On a local scale, how can the various stakeholders in migration, institutional or otherwise, work on the perception of migration? What impact does technology have on the spread of discourse? How can digital technology be used and what opportunities does it offer?
- What is the role of the media in the public perception of migration? How can we ensure the participation of the media in disseminating informed and balanced discourse based on scientific facts concerning migratory phenomena?
- How can genuine migrant participation in public life be facilitated?
- What impact does xenophobic discourse have on societies?
- How is climate change, which causes increasing numbers of forced displacements, changing perceptions and discourse around migration?

Social and cultural benefits of migration

- Beyond economic contributions, what social and cultural benefits do migrants and diasporas bring to origin, transit and destination countries? How can these contributions be capitalized on? How can we support cultural projects as a vector for migrant integration?

PRIORITY 6: MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE: BRINGING TOGETHER THE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS FOR IMPROVED MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Migration is complex, dynamic and affects all territories. Migration must be addressed using an inclusive, partnership-based, multipartite approach that combines local, national, regional and global levels, in liaison with all stakeholders, institutional or otherwise (States, local authorities, international organizations, civil society, private sector, etc.).

At the global level, governments meet to discuss global migration governance within fora or the multilateral structures of the United Nations. The regional level concerns organizations such as the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which apply a harmonized political framework between governments. Lastly, within countries there are several levels, and through each of these are the significant stakeholders such as governments and local authorities. While national governments manage borders and visa systems, it is often local authorities who address the most pressing needs of migrants and refugees. Despite the wide diversity of legal statuses and prerogatives according to countries, these authorities represent the central government in close contact with the people concerned, or act independently to address issues and opportunities that arise in migration management. This reality has been recognized by the GFMD, and included in the SDGs, the Global Compact for Migration, the New Urban Agenda and the United Nations Secretary-General's Common Agenda. Although local authorities often do not have an official mandate to manage migration at local level, in practice they are on

the front line when it comes to addressing the needs of migrants, facilitating their access to basic services (education, healthcare, housing, jobs), facilitating economic and social inclusion and above all implementing public policies regarding migration throughout the country. This is the case in the context of climate change, where local government bodies play an important role in drafting resilience strategies for communities that could be affected by it. Without waiting for the impetus of the central government, local governments also have the ability to respond to the immediate needs of displaced persons, thanks to their powers at the local level which ensure real effectiveness, and to partnerships at supranational level.

At each of these levels, public authorities are far from being the only ones to play a valuable role. Of course, civil society is actively involved throughout the migratory process, providing support for migration management. Diaspora organizations are key actors in this respect. Comprising a wide variety of stakeholders (small and medium-sized businesses, multinational companies, employers' associations, etc.), the private sector also helps stimulate labour migration and migrants' social and economic integration.

Given the various levels of action and stakeholders, it is necessary to involve the relevant stakeholders for each dimension of the issue of migration in shaping, implementing and assessing public policy in this field. First and foremost, while respecting the work and mandate of each actor, there must be coordinated, organized management in order to achieve the political and operational goals set. The guiding principle of a comprehensive approach that rallies all of government and society, which features in the Global Compact for Migration, enshrines the concept of policy consistency across both vertical and horizontal levels. In addition to these actors specialized in migration issues, it is important for other actors in migration to be able to adopt a cross-cutting, multidisciplinary approach by cooperating and working with actors on development and environmental issues.

Approach and proposals for leading questions:

In the multilateral sphere, the frameworks and initiatives dedicated to migration are numerous and varied. As such, the GFMD is a stage for open discussion, bringing together a variety of stakeholders including States, mayors and representatives of regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, youth organizations, international organizations and regional organizations. The primary goal is to make the most of this unique framework for dialogue which includes all levels of action and stakeholders concerned with migration. The GFMD should be able to enhance multi-level migration governance by identifying challenges and seizing opportunities.

Objectives:

- Clarify key concepts
- Examine the various models for multi-level governance in the field of migration, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of the various levels of local and regional governance
- Identify the challenges and opportunities presented by multi-level governance, as well as how to meet the former and take advantage of the latter
- Examine the necessary links between the different levels to improve the effectiveness of multilateral governance in migration
- Exchange best practices and experiences regarding coordination on migration

Leading questions:

Multi-level governance

- How do national governments work with local governments to develop, implement and assess migration policies, particularly in the context of climate change and its impacts on human mobility? What are the best practices and conclusions drawn?
- What is the role of local governments in migration governance and how can we leverage their contributions in implementing the Global Compact for Migration?
- What do local governments need to best meet the challenges and benefit from the opportunities presented by migration at local level? How can national governments, the United Nations and the international community support them?
- What is the role of regional processes (Regional Consultative Processes, regional governmental institutions and UN Regional Commissions) in migration governance? In a national context, how can the regional processes contribute to defining migration policies?

Multi-actor management

- How can migrants and diasporas take part in shaping, implementing and assessing migration policies, in particular in response to climate change? What examples can be found at local and regional level?
- The GFMD has a tradition of consulting and including diverse stakeholders. How can this model of inclusion be reflected in other global and regional processes? What link should be established between the GFMD and other regional and global processes, in particular the United Nations Network on Migration?

THE 2022-2023 GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PREPARING FOR THE 2024 SUMMIT: THREE MAJOR MEETINGS AT THE HEART OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE (OTHER THAN APPROVED EVENTS)

The French Chairmanship will be punctuated by events that will inform discussions with a view to the Summit in February 2024. France will hold three major events in the course of its 21-month term.

- 1. 29 March 2023: Thematic workshop: labour migration and climate change;**
- 2. 27-28 June 2023: Thematic workshops: 1) Culture and migration and 2) Environmental displacement, in Paris;**
- 3. Autumn 2023: Funds transfers and labour migration (TBC);**
- 4. Early 2024: 14th GFMD Summit**

“CULTURE AND MIGRATION” AND “CLIMATE CHANGE AND MOBILITY” EVENTS IN PARIS

In June 2023, two events that reflect on the link between migration and culture and the effects of climate change on mobility, new key themes of the Chairmanship, will be organized in Paris. They will offer an unprecedented opportunity to expand our perspectives on these fundamental issues, together with the plurality of stakeholders concerned and involved, firstly by addressing the cultural benefits that migration gives rise to, in liaison with the role of diasporas for the development of countries of origin and destination, and secondly by adopting a forward-looking approach to climate change adaptation in the context of mobility. . These events will be an opportunity to organize several round tables dedicated to the priorities of the French Chairmanship.

14TH GFMD SUMMIT

Scheduled for February 2024, the 14th GFMD Summit will be the culmination of the discussions held throughout the Chairmanship. The goal will be to make it an important occasion for mobilization and exchange, two years after the first review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

THEMATIC AND REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND KEY EVENTS

France wishes to organize several thematic workshops in Geneva, on the sidelines of its various events or online, in order to prepare the Summit discussions. It therefore remains open to proposals from the mechanisms and working groups and will act in accordance with the Forum’s financial situation.

Following in the footsteps of former Chairmanships of the GFMD, the French Chairmanship intends to fully incorporate the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration, in particular with the African Union, the Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFOM), the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA), the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Bali Process, among others. The GFMD’s involvement in these different processes will be a powerful lever to spark collaborations and build bridges that contribute to improving the links between these processes in support of multilateral governance in migration.

VISION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

A PARTNERSHIP-BASED APPROACH

The theme decided upon for this Chairmanship enables us to (i) make voices heard that until now have been largely unheard and (ii) reiterate the importance of combining our efforts to tackle climate change and environmental degradation. While they are among the countries that produce the least greenhouse gas emissions, African States and small island States are those most affected by climate change (intensification and multiplication of climate events, rise in sea level and coastal erosion, water stress and desertification). These consequences lead to increased forced migration and instability. Some of these States or parts of their territory are even at risk of disappearing.

While governments must accelerate their action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, the responses to the challenges posed by climate change cannot come from governments alone. As climate displacement is most often internal and over short distances, local authorities play a key role given they are on the front line with regard to this issue. The GFMD's Mayors Mechanism will play a pivotal role in the upcoming discussions. Youth representatives will also have the opportunity to enrich discussions. France will ensure that participation is as inclusive as possible by giving civil society, local governments, the private sector and young people the chance to propose activities. It will also seek to ensure a gender balance, with women holding their rightful role at the centre of the discussions. Lastly, it will take care to include young people and priorities in the exchanges.

By bringing together climate actors, France seeks to drive synergy between climate discussions and migration discussions at multilateral level for increased consideration of climate issues in migration discussions and vice versa, thereby making the GFMD an important consultative framework on the migration, climate and development nexus.

A RATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

France will strive to promote the most scientifically rigorous approach possible when addressing the issues brought up at the Forum. This approach will have two dimensions:

1. The collection, analysis and sharing of the latest research in the field of the environment and the migration-development nexus: bringing together a community of practitioners and identifying investigators and producers of knowledge and ideas concerning this phenomenon. We then need to analyse the various data, interpret it and share this analysis with the relevant stakeholders.

2. A series of workshops (scenarios) for exploring future migration based on the latest data on the effects of climate change on migration, as it is important to carefully evaluate the nature and probability of migration brought about by environmental factors before asking how this phenomenon can be addressed. These exercises will also provide an initiation to the priority policy areas for the drawing up and planning of future migration policies.

GIVING THE GFMD AND ITS DISCUSSIONS A ROLE IN THE MULTILATERAL SPHERE

TOGETHER WITH MIGRATION STAKEHOLDERS

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration embodies the intersection between the GFMD and the UN system. It was adopted by more than 160 States in 2018. However, the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration did not mean the end of the GFMD's activity for several reasons.

For one, the GFMD can and should continue to enrich the Global Compact for Migration with original and external reflections as a non-UN body. This is the mission the GFMD has set with our commitment to collectively contributing to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022. This contribution will most likely be renewed beyond the 2022 IMRF. Currently, the Troika regularly discusses this subject with the United Nations Network on Migration. This alignment between the GFMD and the Network will continue during the French Chairmanship, thus enriching both organizations on the basis of complementarity. This complementarity will help identify potential avenues for cooperation, in particular thanks to the work of the Committee on GFMD-Global Compact Relations.

Certain Member States of the GFMD are not signatories of the Compact, however, and it is important not to ignore their voices in the multilateral sphere. These Member States will therefore have their full part to play in the discussions.

Above and beyond these important considerations, it should be noted that the priorities chosen by each Chairmanship contribute to achieving several goals of the Global Compact for Migration. The IMRF will take place every four years. In that regard, the GFMD could serve as an intermediary stage to assess the significant progress made by the Member States in implementing the Global Compact objectives.

TOGETHER WITH CLIMATE STAKEHOLDERS

By placing itself at the nexus between migration, climate, and development, the GFMD must liaise with climate stakeholders. The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) could be a key partner as it has already explored the link between migration and climate change in-depth. Closer ties and collaborations should be sought between the GFMD and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), UN agencies, the Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM), the Office for Climate Education (OCE) and the CREWS Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative.

VIA THE PLATFORM FOR PARTNERSHIPS (PFP)

The Platform for Partnerships (PFP) is the GFMD's tool for gathering concrete practices stemming from Forum meetings. A truly innovative mechanism created in 2010, the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships was one of the first bodies to gather data and best practices on migration policy. While there are now several systems in place to collect migration data (Migration Network Hub, etc.), the Platform for Partnerships remains extremely useful, as it provides a tangible overview of practices presented at Forum meetings. France therefore fully intends to continue enriching this platform throughout its Chairmanship.

In order to preserve its innovative nature, the French Chairmanship will continue to invest in this data collection by modernizing it and opening it up more broadly to the relevant GFMD stakeholders. As such, the platform should showcase the actions carried out by mechanisms and youth representatives of the GFMD while also moving away from the strict GFMD sphere. France intends to establish alignment between the PfP and the PDD, which compiles best practices regarding the nexus between the environment and forced displacement, but which does not have a platform of its own.