

**“Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”**

**Final Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2017-2018 GFMD-Co-Chairs, Dr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General of the Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco**

**I. Introduction**

Germany and Morocco assumed the GFMD Chairmanship in January 2017, following in the excellent footsteps of the past Chair Bangladesh, after the outcome of the UN General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016 that affirmed the need for a UN resolution as outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. This declaration also highlighted the importance of the GFMD process in asking for its contribution to the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM).

In addition, the GFMD Co-Chairmanship coincided with the German Presidency of the G20 process. Both processes created synergies in addressing policy practices for the fair and effective labour market integration of regular migrants and recognized refugees as well as mechanisms to respond to drivers of migration.

In its eleventh year culminating in the Tenth GFMD Summit, the GFMD now more than ever holds a very important role in advancing migration and development policy on an international level.

**II. GFMD’s Priorities in 2017-2018**

Consistent with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the GFMD is geared towards contributing to the global dialogue and collaboration, and to the intergovernmental negotiations on the GCM, through the coordination of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) for International Migration. The Co-Chairs are working towards providing substantive inputs and political support for the ongoing work within the UN on improving global migration governance, specifically through the work on the GCM. The compact is expected to be approved in an intergovernmental conference in 2018. The interactions between GFMD and the UN have been and will continue to be maintained through regular consultations by the GFMD Co-Chairs with the UN Secretary-General, the SRSG, the Global Migration Group (GMG), and other relevant UN bodies.

Thus, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship intends to add the accumulated expertise gathered within the GFMD framework to the relevant global compact international consultative processes.

Germany and Morocco are determined to prioritize the needs of the international regular migrants in search of new economic, educational, and social opportunities and ensure protection of the rights of

migrants in vulnerable situations, especially women and children. There must be a shared global responsibility to create opportunities for safe, regular and orderly migration in order to discourage irregular migration.

The German-Moroccan Co-Chairs propose that models of consensus could advance a global regulatory framework for migration issues, based on the quest for a fair balance of interests for all stakeholders. In this way, national and international efforts can create the framework conditions to ensure a triple win situation – for the countries of origin and destination as well as for the migrants and their families. We have, therefore, set out to address the benefits of circular migration as well as making better use of existing legal pathways of migration. Training programmes in the context of Global Skills Partnerships can be one instrument to enhance brain gain and prevent brain drain in countries of origin, and also prepare skilled migrants to make better use of legal pathways into the labour markets of countries of destination. At the center of discussion in this context will be lowering the cost of remittances and facilitating ways for returning migrants including good reintegration perspectives upon return to their countries of origin. Furthermore, the GFMD discussed the need for mainstreaming migration related SDGs in national action and development plans. To this end, Germany and Morocco also brought human mobility linked to climate change into the discussion and addressed the drivers of migration including the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.

### **III. Roundtable Outcomes**

This year's Tenth GFMD Forum Meeting had three broad themes – Enhancing the Effectiveness of Domestic Policies through National Strategies, Creating Perspectives for Inclusive Development through Multilateral and Bilateral Partnerships and Finding Strategies beyond the State. Roundtable discussions were framed with regard to the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals and the forthcoming global compact on migration. Roundtable discussion were guided by the GCM themes in order to maximize the GFMD's contribution to the development of this compact.

#### **Roundtable 1.1: Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence – Finding the right policy mix to balance different interests and objectives**

- Working towards policy coherence is a process which needs to be monitored continuously and approaches need to be adjusted. Remaining flexible and approach actors with an understanding that they have their own interests.
- A whole-of-government approach is the first step, working towards a whole-of-society approach through inclusion of civil society and private sector.
- The public perception was identified as a strategic area to work towards policy coherence. Tools should be developed to operationalize the link between policy coherence and public perception as well as sharing information with the public on the complexities involved in migration to also manage expectations towards domestic migration policies.

#### **Roundtable 1.2: From Global Agenda to Implementation – National Action Plans for migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- The implementation of the SDGs at national level is a multi-stakeholder task, including the private sector, and it is necessary to further develop this approach, with a view that gives necessary relevance to both south-north and south-south migration.

- The SDG 10.7. target is an umbrella that needs to be developed together with most or all of the targets of the 2030 Agenda, for national implementation and international cooperation, and, of course, as a basis, together with several other international instruments, particularly those related to human rights, for the negotiation of a Global Compact on Migration.
- National consultations are necessary, as a requirement for effective international consultations.

**Roundtable 2.1: Moving beyond emergencies – Creating development solutions to the mutual benefit of host and origin communities and displaced persons**

- It should be recognized that displacement is a development issue and not only humanitarian. Well managed migration and good responses to displacement can leverage development dividends.
- Governments in affected countries must take the lead in planning and responding.
- The International community must provide necessary support for development solutions and prioritize inclusion and self-reliance, in consultation with the affected population.

**Roundtable 2.2: Fostering the development impact of returning migrants**

- Return must be managed in a safe, humane and dignified manner.
- Strong government ownership and leadership are fundamental but wide partnerships with international organisations, the civil society (including diaspora organisations) and the private sector (e.g. service providers) are also needed.
- The country of origin and the country of destination need to closely collaborate at all stages. Bilateral agreements are necessary frameworks and dialogue is the centrepiece of all partnerships. Beyond partnership, there is a need to build trust and understanding between countries of origin and destination.
- There is a need to improve data collection and disaggregate facts to have a clearer picture of the profile and needs of migrants and host communities and better tailor programmes.

**Roundtable 3.1: Raising the Global Talent Pool – Harnessing the Potential of the Private Sector for Global Skills Partnerships**

- The Whole of Government approach needs to go beyond the government to include employers and workers' organizations at the national level. Coordination should be expanded globally which means that international cooperation needs to ensure that all actors or stakeholders are included. There is also a need to deepen policy interactions between international organizations.
- National and regional dialogue, including Regional Consultative Processes and Regional Economic Communities, with the private sector needs to occur to identify skills needs, gaps, shortages, and to plan skills development and the architecture of migration policies and programmes. Instead of building new institutions, Global Skills Partnerships should reinforce existing institutions.
- Safeguards need to be in place for countries of origin, destination and the worker. For origin country, against negative effects of migration; for the destination country, against negative effects on local workers; for migrants, protection from exploitation and unfair treatment. The GCM should encourage implementation of international standards in this area.

### **Roundtable 3.2: Strengthening Cooperation – Enabling Civil Society Contributions in Migrant Integration**

- National and local authorities, CSOs, and employers should have clear, distinctive and coordinated responsibilities, tasks and roles with a view to contribute migrants' integration efforts and to achieve successful integration policies and practices.
- Countries should adopt multi-stakeholder, participatory and whole-of-society approaches coupled with multilevel governance approaches to integration in order to make integration work to the benefit of all and boost development.
- States should assume their responsibilities as guarantors of migrants' human rights and should plan and implement well-informed, pertinent and successful integration policies ensuring that migration can foster development in source, transit and destination countries and can contribute to the wellbeing and the living together of both migrants and natives.

#### **IV. The Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM)**

Germany and Morocco are committed to continue the previous Chair Bangladesh's excellent work and will provide the GFMD recommendations to the GCM as outlined by the New York Declaration of 19 September 2016.

The mandate of the ad hoc GFMD Working Group on the 2030 Agenda was extended to include the GCM at the GFMD summit meeting in Dhaka. It was subsequently tasked to draft a report outlining GFMD's contribution based on three work streams. To this end, and following the initiative taken under the Chairmanship of Bangladesh with a first Dialogue event on 14 November 2016 in New York, two GFMD / GCM Dialogue Meetings were held on 2 February and 6 April 2017 in Geneva. Policies and practices relating to three GCM thematic clusters – *rights of migrants, contribution of migrants and diasporas and irregular migration and legal pathways* – were drawn from a decade of GFMD recommendations. Special GCM rapporteurs were following the debates at Roundtables, the Platform for Partnerships, Business Mechanism and Common Space with regard to their respective outcome relevant to the GCM, with a special focus on migration-related SDGs.

A Thematic Workshop on GFMD's contribution will be held on 6 September 2017 in order to consolidate the different work streams and develop a common understanding of as well as collect feedback on the draft report. The Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum will be asked to endorse this report at the respective meetings to be held in November 2017.

The Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco will jointly hand over the report to the SRSB and present the GFMD contribution to the GCM at the stock-taking conference to be held in Mexico at the beginning of December 2017.

#### **V. 2030 Agenda**

The Co-Chairs contributed to the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda by making recommendations on the interlinkages between the migration-related SDGs and their various targets and indicators providing the High Level Political Forum with the GFMD's recommendations on SDGs. The report was drafted by the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM under the co-chairmanship of Bangladesh and Germany and endorsed during the 5 April 2017 meetings of the Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum. It gives detailed recommendations on how to

implement migration-related SDGs with a view to the HLPF's theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The report will be presented by the Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco at a GFMD side event in the margins of the High Level Political Forum on 12 July 2017.

The Co-Chairs recommend that the GFMD continues to give its expertise on the implementation of migration-related SDGs to the HLPF and to draft the concurrent report for the HLPF 2018 through the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM.

## **VI. Future of the Forum**

The GFMD Co-Chairs led the discussions of participating Heads of Member State Delegations during the Future of the Forum session, which was co-chaired by the SRSB. The Co-Chairs reported on the progress that has been achieved, both in terms of substance and process. The added value of the GFMD was affirmed as the singular and biggest global process that offers an informal and inclusive space, multi-stakeholder engagement and substantive debates, as well as concrete policies and practices on migration and development. Member States held a unified view that the added value offered by the GFMD will be needed beyond the current phase of consultations leading up to the inter-governmental negotiations in 2018, and for the follow up and implementation of the Global Compact after its adoption.

While upholding the GFMD's relevance and continuity, Member States, however, pointed out that there is a need to revisit the existing modalities, mechanisms and supporting structures of the GFMD, so that it becomes fit for the purpose of serving the objectives of the Global Compact and the continued follow up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, Germany and Morocco as Co-Chairs will come up with operational recommendations for consideration by the GFMD Troika and Steering Group at a later stage of the Co-Chairmanship.

This collective decision must be supported by financial means to ensure the Forum's sustainability. Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United States have so far offered or pledged financial contributions to the GFMD budget for 2017 work programme.

## **VII. Civil Society and the Private Sector**

A Common Space and a Business Mechanism meeting in Berlin ensured an interactive and constructive dialogue between and among civil society, business actors and government representatives. The different stakeholders' interaction and collaboration is of supreme importance to the Co-Chairs. One day was dedicated to the exchange with the Civil Society during the Common Space. In widening the scope of the first Business Meeting during the Dhaka Summit in 2016, an entire afternoon was dedicated to discussions between the private sector and the government representatives.

The Co-Chairs took note of the recommendations put forward by the Civil Society this year, which cover a range of issues, including the development of National Plans that include goals, timelines and means of implementation, children on the move, regular pathways for human mobility, women's agency and protection, ethical recruitment, decent jobs and labour mobility, return and reintegration, non-criminalization and alternatives to detention, firewalls and access to justice, participation and mobilization, and drivers of forced displacement. Some of these issues will require more in depth discussions among governments, and between governments and the Civil Society, as

we continue working together within and outside the GFMD, and particularly in the broader framework of the GCM process and the SDG agenda. The Civil Society may rest assured of Germany and Morocco's support for a sustained constructive dialogue and deeper collaboration on some of these controversial issues.

Germany and Morocco deem corporations important partners in designing and assuring that migrations systems address skill shortages and are implemented in a predictable, transparent and timely manner. Therefore, the Co-Chairs encourage close cooperation with the private sector when drafting migration policies as employers can be a valuable partner in identifying skills needs and establishing frameworks for assessing foreign qualifications. Coordination among all stakeholders is crucial to ensure that national law is compatible with the elements of fair and ethical recruitment and to facilitate businesses' ability to fully utilize migrant talent. Germany and Morocco are convinced that the private sector can make a positive case for migration by elevating the discourse around migration by highlighting how skills mobility promotes opportunity and publicly committing to fair, responsible, and compliant migration. The Co-Chairs recommend more investment in studying and understanding immigrant and returnee entrepreneurship to aid the policy process, and ultimately improve economic performance in this arena.

The Co-Chairs recommend further deepening the collaboration between the Civil Society and the Business Mechanism. Both initiatives should be supported by providing ample amounts of time during GFMD Summit Meetings for exchange between all stakeholders, while maintaining the primacy of government-led Roundtables.