



Observance event

“International Day of Family Remittances: Supporting one billion people reach their own SDGs”



International Day
of Family Remittances
16 JUNE

Friday, 14 June 2019 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York

Concept note

Overview

Over the past two decades, remittances have emerged as an important contribution to the well-being of migrant families and the development of communities of origin.

In 2018, migrant workers transferred US\$529 billion in remittances to their families in developing countries¹, representing more than three times the annual flow of official development assistance (ODA) and exceeding foreign direct investment (FDI) for the first time. In 2017, the global number of international migrants was estimated to have reached 258 million.² Remittances are a private source of capital which should not to be equated with other international financial flows.

Remittances help to lift millions of migrant families out of poverty, touching the lives of up to **one billion people**, either as senders or recipients. Remittances, the “human face of globalization”, allow migrants and their families to improve their access to health, education and housing, thereby helping to achieve their own **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

¹ World Bank Group. [Migrant and Development Brief #31](#), 2019

² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. [Population Facts. No. 2017/5](#), December 2017

It is in this context that one of the 2019 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) thematic priorities of Ecuador, Chair-in-Office, seeks to address the issue of remittances in the context of sustainable development, particularly by analysing the effects of remittances for development and transformation of rural areas.

The International Day of Family Remittances

In resolution 72/281, the General Assembly proclaimed 16 June as the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR).³ The IDFR aims to raise awareness about the important contribution migrants make to sustaining their families in country of origin and the transformative impact of remittances across the SDGs.

Building on the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**⁴ and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**,⁵ the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** contains in Objective 20 an ambitious agenda to promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and to foster financial inclusion of migrants.⁶

The IDFR encourages the public and the private sector, together with civil society, to create a more favourable environment to maximize the impact of remittances and diaspora investments on the achievement of the SDGs.

Objectives

On the occasion of the 2019 observance of the International Day of Family Remittances, the 2019 GFMD Chairmanship, the Permanent Missions of Algeria, Canada, Ecuador, Guatemala, Madagascar and the Philippines, IFAD, IOM and UN-DESA, are hosting an event aimed at highlighting the contributions of migrants to sustainable development through remittances and investment.

The event will provide a platform to exchange good practices that can guide Member States, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of Objective 20 of the Global Compact for Migration.

The meeting has five main objectives:

1. To celebrate the International Day of Family Remittances and recognize the critical role of migrants and remittances for sustainable development.
2. To exchange practical examples and strategies of successful initiatives at national, regional and global level aimed at maximizing remittances and migrant investment for sustainable development and promoting financial inclusion for migrants and their families.
3. To explore the role of private sector entities involved in the remittance market as well as central banks in promoting the implementation of relevant goals and targets of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SDGs as well as Objective 20 of the GCM.
4. To promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop practical solutions for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the GCM.

³ [United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/281, adopted on 12 June 2018](#)

⁴ [United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/313, adopted on 27 July 2015](#)

⁵ [United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, adopted on 21 October 2015](#)

⁶ [United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195, adopted on 19 December 2018](#)

5. To “explore options for policy makers at national and local levels to enhance positive and mitigate negative effects of migration and remittances in the transformation of rural areas” in response to the 2019 GFMD Roundtable 3.2.

Structure

The meeting will tap into the first-hand experiences of the international community, private sector entities, local and national authorities, practitioners and experts.

The meeting will open with brief welcoming remarks by the organizers. The opening will be followed by two multi-stakeholder panels, each of which will feature interactive discussions. A live discussion will engage the audience before closing the event.

The meeting will be in English and webcast on [UN Web TV](#).

Contact

Please RSVP to the GFMD Support Unit at support.unit@gfmd.org and to Duygu Celik at d.celik@ifad.org.

For substantive queries (if any) please contact Deepali Fernandes at dfernandes@iom.int. IFAD’s Remittances Team (remittances@ifad.org) remains at your disposal for any questions and/or concerns.

Draft agenda

10:00 – 10:40	<p>High-level observance of the International Day of Family Remittances: migrant contribution to development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message from H.E. Santiago Chavez Pareja, Vice Minister for Human Mobility, Republic of Ecuador, GFMD 2019 Chair • H.E. Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN • Remarks by H.E. Claro S. Cristobal, Consul General of the Philippines in New York • Remarks by H.E. Marc-André Blanchard, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN • Paul Winters, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD • Remarks delivered on behalf of António Vitorino, Director General of IOM, by Marina Manke, Head, Labour Mobility and Human Development Division, IOM <p>Format: Brief statements</p>
10:40 – 11:30	<p>Session 1: Partnerships to address challenges and opportunities towards achieving the 2030 Agenda</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the role of remittances in achieving the 2030 Agenda including in the context of the Financing for Development process and what has been achieved so far? - How can cooperation and partnerships (i.e. public-private, civil society-public, South-South, etc.) contribute leverage the contribution of remittance to development (use of technology, fintechs, postal networks, financial literacy, etc.)? - What actions should be taken in the regulatory sphere to facilitate competition in remittance markets and to mitigate the negative consequences of AML/CTF measures?

	<p>Moderator: Deepali FERNANDES, Senior Migration and Economic Development Specialist, IOM</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Omar Lisandro Castañeda Solares, Deputy Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UN • Matu Mugo, Assistant Director Bank Supervision Department, Central Bank of Kenya • Barbara Span, Vice President, Global Public Affairs, Western Union • Shari Spiegel, Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, UN-DESA <p>Format: Interactive panel discussion</p>
11:30 – 12:20	<p>Session 2: GCM Objective 20: Making it happen</p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the determinants of costs and how can stakeholders such as central banks, private sector and international organizations contribute to making remittance transfers faster, safer and cheaper? - What specific initiatives or PPPs can lead to maximizing the impact of remittances? - Why are financial services linked to remittances one of the greatest opportunities to address the needs of remittance receiving families? <p>Moderator: Pedro De Vasconcelos, Manager, Financing Facility for Remittances, IFAD</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN • H.E. Mohammed Bessedik, Ambassador, Charges D’Affaires, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN • Killian Clifford, Director of Policy and Advocacy, GSMA • Patrice Kiiru, Group Associate Director, Diaspora Banking and Remittances, Equity Group • Harish Natarajan, Lead Financial Sector Specialist, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank Group <p>Format: Interactive panel discussion</p>
12:20 – 12:55	<p>Open discussion and interaction</p> <p>Interventions from Permanent Representatives supporting IDFR and other stakeholders</p> <p>Format: interactive Q&A session</p>
12:55 – 13:00	<p>Closing remarks</p>