GFMD 2020 UAE Chairmanship Roundtables

Theme 5: Discussing Approaches to Prevent Irregular Migration

Proposed Agenda of the RT Session
Wednesday, 20 January 2021 12h30 to 15h30 CET

Co-Chairs: Spain, Venezuela
RT Session Rapporteur: Netherlands (TBC)
Thematic Lead (and penholder): Kathleen Newland

RT Team Member States: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Netherlands, Peru (Observer), Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom

GFMD Mechanisms: Civil Society, Business, Mayors


12h30 – 12h40 Opening Statements by the RT Co-Chairs
• Ambassador José Luis Pardo, Ambassador for Migratory Affairs, Spain
• Ambassador Héctor Constant Rosales, Permanent Representative to the UNOG, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

12h40 – 12h50 Overview of the RT Background Paper
• Ms. Kathleen Newland, Thematic Lead and penholder

12h50 – 13h35 Focused Session I

Guiding Question 1: What actions or processes lead to a decline in irregular migration? What role does policy play?

Moderator: Spain

• Opening comments: Venezuela
• Discussant 1: Mr. Ferenc Dancs, Deputy State Secretary for Migration Challenge, Hungary
• Discussant 2: Ms. Michelle Levoy, Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) (Representative of Civil Society)
• Open discussion

13h35 – 14h20 Focused Session II

Guiding Question 2: What is the relationship between increased opportunities to migrate through regular channels and the prevalence of irregular migration?

Moderator: Venezuela
Opening comments: Spain
Discussant 1: H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
Discussant 2: Mr. Gary Slaiman, Lewis & Bockius LLP (Representative of Business)
Discussant 3: C S Akhil, Youth Speaker
Open discussion

14h20 – 15h05  Focused Session III

Guiding Question 3: What characteristics of national migration laws and practices encourage irregular migration? How can these be changed?

Moderator: Kathleen Newland

Opening comments: Ms. Kathleen Newland (5 minutes)
Discussant 1: Ambassador Ramses Cleland, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations in Geneva
Discussant 2: Ms. Laura Gonzalez-Murphy, Director, Immigration Policy and Research and Assistant Research Professor, UAlbany, New York State, USA (Representative of Mayors)
Open discussion

15h05 – 15h20  Summary of the Roundtable Discussion
Mr. Joost Klarenbeek, Special Envoy for Migration, Netherlands

15h20 – 15h30  Concluding Statements by the Co-Chairs