



Geneva, 30 March 2019

H.E. Ms. Mona Juul
President
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
United Nations

Excellency,

As Chair-in-Office of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the United Arab Emirates has the honour to refer to your invitation, dated 10 February 2020, for the GFMD to provide a focused input to the 2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), to be convened under the auspices of ECOSOC at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 to 16 July 2020.

It is a privilege to attach herewith the GFMD's report, which addresses the theme ***"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"***. As in previous years, the GFMD's Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration – co-chaired by the Governments of Germany and the United Arab Emirates – has coordinated the preparation of this report. GFMD Member States, GFMD Observers and GFMD Mechanisms have subsequently endorsed it.

This report outlines the distinctive and innovative role of the GFMD in the multilateral governance framework of migration, and highlights some key policies and measures, including multi-year thematic discussions, the creation of an informal space to allow the discussion of difficult issues, and the promotion of peer-learning between and among state and non-state stakeholders.

Through this report, the GFMD community seeks to share the knowledge and insights it has accumulated on how best to accelerate actions needed to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the GFMD's key objectives is to ensure that the contribution of migration to development can be fully realized, and that migrants are included in the vision of the SDGs to "leave no one behind".

This report offers a number of recommendations, drawn from the substance of GFMD discussions, which are relevant to the theme of the 2020 HLPF, namely:

- *Pursue a whole-of-society approach*
- *Emphasize the links between migration and development*
- *Foster partnerships to make more rapid progress towards the SDGs*
- *Promote a balanced, fact-based narrative about migrants and migration*
- *Empower migrants to make a full contribution to development*
- *Recognize the opportunities that migration creates for rural development*
- *Take into account South-South and regional mobility*
- *Prioritize the collection and analysis of high-quality migration data*
- *Strengthen the governance of international migration*

Complementing these recommendations is a set of relevant projects, policies, and programmes selected from submissions sent by Member States and GFMD Observers, which you will find in the Annex to the report.

On behalf of the GFMD community, allow me to extend my thanks to ECOSOC for the invitation to provide input to the HLPF this year, and reiterate the GFMD's readiness to submit contributions to future HLPFs, in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Nasser bin Thani Al Hamli
Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation
United Arab Emirates
GFMD 2020 Chair

