

GFMD Common Space Opening Remarks

- A personal note on the important developments of the GFMD through the years:
 - Athens 2009 was a Forum with different spaces for governments and civil society
 - In Puerto Vallarta in 2010 the first common space with Civil Society was created
 - In Istanbul in 2015 the Business Mechanisms was established
 - Finally, in Marrakesh in 2018 the Mayors Mechanism was established
- This meeting in **Quito** offers **the first Common Space to be open to all GFMD stakeholders: National governments, mayors and local authorities, civil society, and the private sector**. I am also extremely happy that **youth representatives are joining us as partners to share their point of view within this forum**.
- I strongly believe that this common space is **a very important step forward because all the stakeholders in the room have different experiences and roles to play on migrants' inclusion** and the related thematic areas that will be discussed during the day.
- We have all a role to play in taking actions within our mandates and responsibilities to:
 - Ensure the respect of the human rights of migrants;
 - Facilitate the social and economic inclusion of migrants;
 - Advocate with our constituencies for realistic and evidence-based migration policies that facilitate social and economic inclusion of migrants.
- That is why I made last year in Marrakesh a plea to the private sector to come out of the closet and advocate publicly about the positive contributions of migration and migrants in the economic development of host countries.
- That is why I also asked the Youth Forum in Marrakesh to use social media to counter the negative discourse about migrants, migration and the GCM that was circulating in social media at the time of the adoption of the GCM.
- **Promoting migrants' inclusion benefits not only the migrants themselves, but also host communities. The better integrated migrants are in a society, the more they contribute to the host communities in economic, social and cultural terms.** As discussed in roundtable 1.2 yesterday: Social and economic inclusion of migrants is also key to create and maintain healthy, peaceful and cohesive societies.

- But also, social and economic inclusion of migrants and healthy, peaceful and cohesive societies are extremely good for businesses, they contribute to generate bigger and stronger markets and create trust and hope in the future, so there is also a strong economic argument.
- As we all know **Migration also contributes significantly to achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, but in order to do so**, inclusion and social cohesion of migrants in host communities is essential. We are entering a “**Decade of Action**” toward 2030. This Common Space has the potential to contribute significantly to the acceleration of the implementation of SDGs and of the GCM.
- **Inclusion is a multifaceted concept that affects many aspects of social life and requires context-specific policies. Different parts of government, local authorities, civil society and the private sector play a role in this domain.**
- **Hosting a collaborative dialogue with such a large and diverse audience, and ensuring that the dialogue is meaningful and productive, is not easy.** To work across sectors of government, vertically and horizontally, and across different sectors of society, presents challenges.
- **Data analysis and new technologies can offer** a more solid understanding of the challenges inclusion brings, and **innovative ways** for finding solutions to the issues at stake.
- **This Common Space provides the opportunity to discuss topics informally. I encourage you to take advantage of this unique feature of the GFMD and leverage it to create a space for innovation. The world café format is innovative and promising.**
- I hope all of you use this innovative setting to
 - **identify the important issues,**
 - **connect diverse perspectives and experiences,**
 - **share discoveries on challenges and opportunities, and**
 - **Identify ways in which you can contribute to address them either individually or in partnership with others.**
- I commend the Chair’s vision for the choice of topics of this edition and for his commitment to innovate this space with a new design and a dynamic format and thank the Government of Ecuador for having invited IOM to support it.
- I wish you all interesting and enjoyable discussions throughout the day.

- **IOM is honoured to be invited to support this Common Space with two distinct roles:** As a thematic expert for the world café session which focuses on ‘Shaping narratives and combating xenophobia ’in partnership with the host for this topic, the Civil Society mechanism; and as a co-host for the sessions devoted to ‘The role of cities and other stakeholders in facilitating access to services for migrants’, with the partners of the Mayors ’Mechanism, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC). I take this chance to express my appreciation for the Mayors ’Mechanism partnership, which is bearing a lot of fruits already after only one year of joint work.