

From January 1, the Government of Morocco has been leading the second year of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, with full support from the Government of Germany.

2018 is a pivotal moment for the global governance of migration, as the year will be capped off by the Eleventh GFMD Summit Meeting on December 5-7, and an intergovernmental conference to adopt the first-ever Global Compact for Migration (GCM) on December 10-11 in Marrakesh. Under the leadership of the GFMD Co-Chairs, Dr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme and Mr. El Habib Nadir, the GFMD continues to accompany the GCM process and follow up on the implementation of migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the last three months, the GFMD Co-Chairs have organized several events and participated in high-level events to reinforce GFMD's linkages with the GCM and the 2030 Agenda and maintain its relevance as a thought leader and knowledge broker in the international migration and development scene. Another momentous achievement was the inclusion of the GFMD in the GCM Draft that is being negotiated in New York.

## GFMD References in the GCM Zero Draft (Plus)

Coinciding with the 5<sup>th</sup> GFMD Preparatory Meetings was the release of the GCM [Zero Draft](#) by the GCM Co-Facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland. The GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs welcomed the content of the Zero Draft, which recognizes that the GFMD helped pave the way for the New York Declaration, through which Member States committed to elaborate the first-ever Global Compact.

The Co-Chairs also took pride in the fact that over 50 policy options and options for practical action proposed in the [GFMD Thematic Recollection](#) have been included in the Zero Draft (see [Comparative Overview](#)). More importantly, the draft invites the GFMD to provide a platform for sharing of good practices on policies and cooperation and provide data, evidence and recommendations that relate to the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Preparatory Meetings & 1<sup>st</sup> RT Consultations 2018

5 February, UN Office at Geneva

The year kicked off with a highly productive 5<sup>th</sup> GFMD Preparatory Meetings of the GFMD Troika, Steering Group (SG) and Friends of the Forum (FOF), marking the launch of the GFMD work plan and thematic priorities in 2018. The FOF meeting saw the participation of around 130 delegates representing over 100 Member States and GFMD Observer organizations.

The overarching 2018 theme of the GFMD Co-Chairmanship is *Honouring international commitments to unlock the potential of all migrants for development*. It serves as a continuation of the discussion held at the 10<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit in Berlin and signals the imperative to translate commitments to concrete actions in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and GCM. The broad GFMD community welcomed the [GFMD 2018 Concept Note](#) which outlines the six roundtable themes, the activities leading to the 11<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit in Marrakesh and the GFMD reflection on the ways forward.

### GCM Multi-stakeholder Hearings

21 February 2018, UN Headquarters, New York

The GFMD Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco represented by Mr. Jens-Michael Bopp and Mr. Ahmed Skim respectively, participated in this year's first informal interactive GCM [multi-stakeholder hearing](#) on *"Facts instead of perceptions: Promoting an evidence-based discussion on migration."* As the largest multi-stakeholder platform on migration and development outside the UN, the Co-Chairs intervened in all four panels of the whole day hearing, highlighting the migration topics that have figured prominently in the GFMD debates in the last years. Their interventions focused on the importance of quality and disaggregated migration data, role of media in shaping migration narratives, whole-society-approach in policy-making, and the crucial role of the GFMD in the post-GCM context.

### GFMD Reception on the occasion of 16th Annual UN Coordination Meeting

15 February 2018, UN Plaza, New York

On the occasion of the 16th Annual UN Coordination Meeting on International Migration organized by the UNDESA, the GFMD Co-Chairs hosted a reception to mark the launch of the Global Forum's thematic priorities and work program in 2018 before the New York community. Ambassadors Jürgen Schulz and Omar Hilale of the Permanent Missions of Germany and Morocco, respectively, welcomed representatives from Permanent Missions of UN Member States and Observers and other relevant stakeholders based in New York.

Mr. El Habib Nadir, Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, addressed the participants and shared that the focus of the Co-Chairmanship in 2018 remains on strengthening the linkages with the GCM and the 2030 Agenda processes, as accentuated in the "GFMD Thematic Recollection 2007-2017."

### GFMD-GMG Side Event on Migration and Rural Development

26 March 2018, UN Headquarters, New York

On the margins of IOM's 2018 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), the GFMD Co-Chairs and the Global Migration Group (GMG) Co-Chairs, IOM and FAO, jointly organized a side event entitled *Migration and Rural Development: Sharing Experiences and Fostering Partnerships*. The [event](#) highlighted the complex relationship between migration, agriculture and rural development, and discussed best practices in harnessing the development potential or rural migration. After a panel discussion, an interactive Q&A session followed which served as a platform to share successful experiences and tools to prevent forced migration through agriculture and rural development in the context of climate change.