

With the upcoming adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in December, the year 2018 is a watershed moment for the effective management of global migration. It is therefore an opportune time for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) to practically advance migration and its linkages with the multi-faceted areas of development, and consider how these links will affect migration policy development around the world in the years to come.

The second quarter of the 2018 GFMD process was an eventful and a highly productive period for the German and Moroccan GFMD Co-Chairmanship with the conclusion of several high-level meetings and thematic workshops. In this April – June 2018 edition of the GFMD Newsletter, the GFMD Co-Chairs are delighted to bring you the highlights and key outcomes of the 6th round of GFMD Preparatory Meetings, the 2nd GFMD 2018 Roundtable Team Consultations, three thematic workshops and a special meeting on the GCM.

Sixth Preparatory Meetings and 2nd RT Consultations 2018

2 and 4 May, UN Office at Geneva

The GFMD Co-Chairs convened the Sixth round of GFMD Preparatory Meetings with the GFMD Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum on May 2. The meeting served as an opportunity for the Co-Chairs to inform the GFMD community about the state of play of the GCM negotiations and its relevance to the GFMD, the progress of the ongoing GFMD 10-year review, and the GFMD's final recommendations to the High-Level Political Forum 2018, among others.

On May 4, six government-led Roundtable team consultations were organized with delegates from around 55 governments and 17 international organizations to prepare for the upcoming Roundtable Sessions at the Eleventh GFMD Summit Meeting in December. Mainstreaming human rights, gender perspectives and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, the six RT consultations were structured around three broad themes namely: (1) From vulnerability to resilience: recognizing migrants as agents of development, (2) Regional mobility to promote transferable learning and policy coherence, and (3) Good migration governance for sustainable development.

GCM Special Meeting

19 June, UN Office at Geneva

In view of the ongoing GCM intergovernmental negotiations, the GFMD Co-Chairs organized a special meeting on the Global Compact with the Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho of Mexico and Ambassador Jürg Lauber of Switzerland and the UN SRSG for International Migration, represented by Mr. Jonathan Prentice. The objective of the meeting was to update the Geneva-based GFMD stakeholders on the status of the GCM negotiations in New York and to prepare future actions on how the GFMD could support the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM after its adoption in December 2018.

In their separate statements, Ambassadors Lauber and Camacho affirmed the important contributions of the GFMD to the GCM process. They held the view that the migration community would not be where it is today without the Forum's contribution by providing a safe space for the exchange of perspectives and practices, as well as innovative approaches among different stakeholders. Mr. Prentice, explained the elements of the UN Migration Network which is envisaged in the GCM. He was optimistic that its adoption is a great opportunity to bring the GFMD and the UN system closer together to reach common goals and objectives.

GFMD Thematic Workshops in Agadir, Geneva and Skhirat

From April to June 2018, the GFMD Co-Chairs organized three equally relevant thematic Workshops in collaboration with various international organizations.

These workshops, as shown below, were organized to inform the current GCM intergovernmental negotiations on the issues related to sustainable development, labour and skills mobility and young people in the context of migration. They also aimed at exploring the role of the GFMD in showcasing state-led initiatives and experiences on the implementation of migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda, promotion skills partnerships and on the protection of children and young migrants.

The three workshops gathered more than 600 policymakers and practitioners in the field of international migration representing over 80 UN Member States, and international organizations, academia, diaspora organizations, media, civil society, as well as the private sector. Covering broad development areas, each thematic workshop included a number of smaller working sessions which explored specific migration issues and debates. Different panels comprised of government, civil society, private sector, and other stakeholder representatives offered multi-stakeholder perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for action in each session.

Please click the boxes below for the highlights of each workshop.

Migration for Development: A Roadmap to Achieving the SDGs

in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute
18-19 April 2018, Skhirat, Morocco

Labour and Skills

in partnership with the International Labour Organization
3 May 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

Children and Youth on the Move: Implementing Sustainable Solutions

in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund
21-22 June 2018, Agadir, Morocco

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