

GFMD SUMMIT DIGEST

Day 1 Highlights

Inaugural Session

Berlin, Germany — The first day of the 10th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit Meeting gathered around 450 participants, comprised of policymakers and practitioners from 140 states, as well as international organizations, the civil society and the private sector.



Welcoming the participants was **Dr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, German Ambassador for GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, who underscored the global significance of the Summit in light of the current debates around migration and development. **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, Secretary General for the Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, meanwhile emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogue on migration and development. According to him, the ongoing Moroccan-German co-chairmanship is an excellent example of cooperation between the North and the South that creates bridges between civilizations.



Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and **Mr. Gerd Müller**, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development articulated Germany's longstanding commitment to the migration-development nexus. Minister Müller explained that having become a 'migration country,' Germany needs strong legal institutions to address migration-related issues that have a strong integration component. Minister Gabriel, on the other hand, held the view that every country in the European Union, not just Germany, should live up to its commitment and share the burden in dealing with refugees and other vulnerable populations

that cross its borders. Minister **Mr. Abdelkarim Benoutiq**, Minister Delegate in Charge of the Moroccans' Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, shared that since 2013, Morocco's GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chair, has adopted migration policies that are based on a global, humanistic and responsible ideology.

For more information about the opening session of the Summit, read IOM's Special Edition of the Migration Newsdesk:

<https://www.iom.int/newsdesk/20170628>

<https://www.iom.int/news/10th-global-forum-migration-and-development-opens-berlin>

UN Leaders and Representatives at the Summit

The inaugural session of the Summit was attended by several heads of international organizations and representatives of the United Nations. Speakers included the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration (SRSG), **Mrs. Louise Arbour**; the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), **Mr Filippo Grandi**; the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); **Mr William Lacy Swing**; the Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO), **Mr Guy Ryder**; and the Rector of the GMG 2017 Chair of United Nations University, **Dr. David Malone**.

These leaders recognized the invaluable contribution of the GFMD in advancing the discourse and cooperation in international migration. They affirmed their support for the continuity of the Global Forum, and shared their plans on how, through their personal commitment and the contributions of the organizations they represent, they can work with the GFMD in achieving common goals, and in seizing the momentous opportunity presented by the Global Compact to make real differences in the lives of migrants and their families.



Arbour, UN SRSG



Grandi, UNCHR



Swing, IOM



Ryder, ILO



Malone, UNU

Roundtable (RT) Session Highlights

After the opening session, six simultaneous roundtable discussions were held which were framed with regard to the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the forthcoming Global Compact on Migration, under the overarching theme: *"Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development."*



Policymakers, academics, government leaders, business and civil society representatives, offered multi-stakeholder perspectives in tackling the session themes, which centered on policy coherence, implementation of international agreements at the national and local levels, maximizing benefits of migration for both host and origin communities, exploring the potential of private sector for skills partnerships, as well as enabling civil society contributions in migrant integration. Some roundtables held breakout sessions to go in depth on information sharing and policy discussions.

A number of policy recommendations emerged out of the roundtable discussions which are critical for the elaboration of the Global Compact on Migration. For example, in RT Session [1.1](#), it was highlighted that policy coherence at the national level should start with a clear articulation of national goals and priorities at the highest political level and be guided by a strong legal framework. RT [1.2](#) highlighted the need for comprehensive national action plan in the implementation of migration-specific SDGs. RT [2.1](#) pointed to the “Leave No One Behind” principle of the Agenda 2030 as the guidepost in ensuring the protection of the rights of migrants and displaced persons. Support from local institutions and labour markets, on the other hand, were identified as necessary elements for assisting returning migrants in RT [2.2](#).



RT [3.1](#), meanwhile, urged that partnerships with the private sector should be very specific and negotiated at a bilateral or regional level. Finally, RT [3.2](#) identified the need for a platform for innovation sharing, and for defining and agreeing on standards for integration.

The outcomes of these six roundtable Summit sessions are envisaged to feed into the ongoing Global Compact process, as well as the follow up and implementation of migration-related commitments in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Snapshots of Summit's First Day

If you miss the opening session and roundtable discussions, some of the highlights are posted on our social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Youtube](#).

Photos are now up on the GFMD Mobile App ([Android](#) | [iOS](#)) for download and sharing! Don't forget to tag us @GFMDprocess and use the hashtag: #GFMD10

*This Summit Digest is one of the three digests prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
[Digest Day 2](#) / [Digest Day 3](#)*