



Friends of the Forum intervention - GFMD Civil Society Mechanism

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Thank you M./Mme Chair. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

The Civil Society Mechanism welcomes the updates shared by the French Chairmanship in this meeting. We wish to reiterate our active engagement in this upcoming GFMD process, and express our full support to the French Chairmanship. We thank you for this opportunity to share some updates on our mechanism's activities and needs.

- Civil society is actively preparing itself for a **robust and representative engagement in the entire GFMD Process**, in all of the proposed activities and roundtables.
- To this end, we have just held an **initial review and strategic planning session** last 3rd and 17th November, with our International Steering Committee (ISC) - *which guides civil society's engagement in the GFMD*.
 - The primary conclusion of this initial session was for us to form a **sub-group** in our ISC to develop a **comprehensive GFMD workplan for the year**. This will include active participation in all of the GRTs (and possibly co-chairing one of the GRTs as appropriate) and in all of the events and preparatory sessions presented.
 - Our workplan will also include an all-encompassing **preparatory agenda and full participation of up to possibly 200 civil society delegates** in the Summit. These will represent a **broad cross-section of civil society networks from around the world**, working on a range of migration issues, and from a range of communities *including and especially migrant, diaspora, refugee, and grassroots communities*.
- Moreover, we welcome all the **thematic priorities**, and you *can count on the engagement of our expert members from around the world* in each of the

government-led roundtables. You can already expect that we will be pushing for *realistic, but ambitious* outcomes in all of them. At the same time, we will be prioritising a few, namely climate, diaspora, and labour migration. We look forward to **close cooperation** with governments and our fellow non-state mechanisms throughout the process.

- As defined in our strategic meeting, we will focus on ensuring **robust preparation** throughout the entire Chairmanship. This will ensure the most representative and best civil society participation in all the GFMD activities, and in the summit in particular. Those who *will* be attending GFMD activities will be civil society *leaders and practitioners* with experience and *strategic thinking*, and representing broader communities and civil society networks. Their contributions to the GFMD will thus encompass the results of a **rigorous process of discussions and broad preparatory consultations** with their respective constituencies.
- We also hope to bring a *small civil society delegation to each of the events leading up to the Summit* (ex. Launch, Culture etc.), so that key experts and practitioners can contribute to these discussions as well.

- Now regarding our **budget**, we share a draft budget for civil society engagement in this GFMD chairmanship process (show slide). This is based on, *as we have described*, a full and robust civil society participation in all the GFMD activities and GRTs, and up to possibly 200 civil society participants in the summit itself.
 - First of all, we would like to thank France for their support and the good initial discussions about their possible financial contribution and partnership, especially for the summit.
 - However, we still have outstanding resource **gaps**, especially to ensure civil society participation from the global south and under-represented communities, particularly women, migrant and diaspora groups. Our total budget for the entire Chairmanship is around 548'000 euros (five hundred forty-eight thousand). In addition to the sponsoring of around 100 participants, it includes human resources, logistics, interpretation, etc.
 - We are hoping to engage your support, from other members of the Friends of the Forum, to **partner with us**, in order to realise our goal of fair and representative civil society participation and engagement. We are looking to both States who have previously supported us - assuming it was a good outcome! - but also those who haven't had the chance to do so. We invite you to consider **investing in such partnerships with us to ensure strong**

contributions from civil society, and strong whole-of-society outcomes, in this GFMD Chairmanship.

- Our detailed budget is available upon request. We will share it with the GFMD Secretariat in case of your interest. Of course, we are also available to discuss this bilaterally at any time.
- Finally, we would like to reiterate our **enthusiasm and hopes** for this Chairmanship, and for the GFMD going forward. *The GFMD has always been a critical multi-stakeholder space for open dialogue on migration.* We are convinced that – *without the GFMD* – global migration governance would be at risk of retreating from the gains realised in the past two decades. This is why we remain hopeful that we can work together to achieve new heights in this chairmanship, and we urge other Member States to also take leadership for its future.

We commit to continue to support the process in the highest degree appropriate for a non-state mechanism. We look forward to working together with all of you in the coming months. Thank you.