

**GFMD Friends of the Forum Meeting
Geneva, 22 November 2022**

GFMD Business Mechanism – priorities and roadmap

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Preparatory notes for speech

- Thank you for the invitation to share the GFMD Business Mechanism’s priorities and roadmap at this steering group meeting.
- Our Executive Committee has met in October and decided on its 2023 workplan, with concrete deliverables to be presented at the GFMD Summit in Paris. The implementation of the workplan will now very much depend on available funding and we are most grateful for your potential interest to partner with us on one or several of our planned activities.
- Our methodology is based on three pillars:
 1. Research/Data
 2. Advocacy/Promotion
 3. Innovation
- **RESEARCH/ DATA:** We aim at producing three position papers, which will feed into the GFMD priorities:
 1. **Position paper on the impact of remote work on mobility:** We find ourselves at a crossroads—the COVID-19 pandemic has collided with immigration requirements, resulting in the rise of innovative immigration pathways, including the Digital Nomad programs. We are at a crucial moment, as companies and governments prepare for growing Digital Nomad opportunities. Many countries have already put forth special regimes and visa programs to attract skills—and these are expanding at a rapid rate. As the remote work and hybrid work revolution continues to take hold and becomes the new normal, what is the employers’ position with regards to these innovative legal pathways? What are the implications of remote work for employers (in terms of tax, of global mobility programs etc). What are good practices/innovative approaches that governments have put in place?
→ this would feed into GFMD priority 4 (labour migration)
 2. **Position paper on climate change and migration from an employers’ perspective.** Climate change brings the issue of Just transition – how could this be integrated in our work? What is the impact for employers? How could governments include migration pathways in their adaptation plans? IOE played an active role at the COP last week, with a dedicated private sector pavilion. Through this paper, we could leverage our expertise in the field, coupled with the migration angle.
→ GFMD priority 1 (climate change)

- 3. Further develop the business case for migration from a viewpoint of employers based in countries of origin.** The importance of reintegration programs, of skills passport for the recognition of skills, of tapping into the skills of nationals leaving abroad. What incentive could the governments put in place to attract skills back? This would also entail work permits for foreign spouses for example. Also how to change the perception that opportunities are better abroad? Employers in countries of origin can sometimes provide jobs for the young generation, avoiding them to take irregular routes.
- GFMD priority 4 (labour migration)
- In addition, we commit to actively **contribute to the GFMD working group on Public Narrative**, co-chaired by the Governments of Canada and Ecuador, as well as the Mayor's Mechanism. And in particular in the It Takes a Community Campaign.
 - GFMD priority 5 (public narrative and cultural dimension)
 - **ADVOCACY/PROMOTION:** Our belief is that impact and change will happen through better understanding of the various stakeholders' realities. Since the inception of the GFMD Business Mechanism in 2016, various public-private dialogues at global and regional levels were led, bringing together employers and governments representatives to discuss and identify solutions on how to improve migration frameworks and legal pathways conducive to regular migration. We believe in the importance of these open dialogues, and we will continue to facilitate these exchanges between representative voices of employers and policy-makers. On our side we can bring one part of the dialogue, we need you to bring the other part.
 - This year, thanks to the funding from the SDC and to partnerships with ILO, we have led such dialogues in four African sub-regions. Both the participating employers' and Government participants benefitted from these exchanges and continue now the conversation in their national context to identify solutions.
 - **INNOVATION.** AI, Blockchain and other tech tools, can enhance migration management. We strive to showcasing concrete innovative solutions through tech start-ups working in the field. Since the GFMD Summit in Quito in 2020, we have organized four start-up competitions, including a Hackathon that we have brought to the IMRF in New York, thanks to a partnership with the tech giant Oracle. The governments of Kenya, as well as Enabel were very supportive of the initiative and co-chaired a side event with us at IMRF. At IOE we now have good experience in putting together these competitions, bringing forward innovation and technology-based solutions, which will be an asset for the French GFMD chairmanship. In case of interest, we can discuss such a program to be included in the Summit.
 - Let me address my last point: **BUDGET.** You, the members of the GFMD Steering Group, decided to create a separate Mechanism to engage businesses at the GFMD. IOE was designated as the House/Secretariat of the GFMD Business Mechanism. As a non-for-profit employers' membership organization, IOE's core budget comes from its members and is limited in nature. Therefore, over the years, external funding was sought for to run the GFMD Business Mechanism Secretariat and its work. Since 2016, we were able to count on the IOE

core budget contributors, The Coca Cola Company, PMI, Fragomen, Bertelsmann Stiftung, the Governments of Switzerland, UAE and Qatar, to name of few among our financial donors.

- As we start 2023, all our partnerships have come to an end. If we want to deliver on any of the deliverables mentioned above, we will need to seek for partnerships. And we count on you, as leading voices of the GFMD, to support this important stakeholder at the GFMD. We therefore invite you to think about which concrete activity (research, regional public-private dialogue, start-up competition) your government would be interested in partnering with us on and for us to showcase together at the GFMD Summit. To this effect, we will submit a detailed budget proposal to the Chair.
- Mirela Stoia who will replace Stephanie Winet as the Head of Stakeholder Development Ad Interim until June 2023 stands available to discuss more concretely bilaterally.
- Finally: on the GFMD program: The Business Advisory Group on Migration will support the GFMD chair in its best of ability in implementing its ambitious agenda by providing input to background papers where and when needed, in particular on roundtable 4 on labour migration. Our Group has expressed interest in co-chairing Roundtable 4, shall two governments volunteer as well. We remain available and open for discussion.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to have us today and we look forward to a fruitful 2023 GFMD program.