

**Global Forum on migration and Development**  
**Friends of the Forum, 22 November 2022**

***Statement by Switzerland on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Impacts of Covid-19 on Migration and Development***

On behalf of the Co-Chairs (Indonesia, Switzerland, and the GFMD Business Mechanism), we'd like to give concluding remarks on the works of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Impacts of Covid-19 on migration and development.

The Working Group was set up in spring 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic had hit the globe with full force. The pandemic has had considerable impact on the lives of millions of people and put a strain on health systems worldwide. It has heavily impacted the lives of millions of migrants, who sometimes found themselves without job, stranded in a country, and limited access to health care. The larger socio-economic effects continue to be felt today.

Through setting-up the Ad Hoc Working Group, the GFMD has shown that it can act quickly and with flexibility to a global crisis.

The Working Group brought together a multi-stakeholder community of states, local governments, businesses and civil society groups to work on sharing experiences and lessons learned with regards to the impact of COVID-19 on migrants, migration and development.

In the Summit of UAE in 2021, the group presented a paper to show paths to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogues in tackling Covid-19.

In the paper, the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Spain shared their experiences as sending and receiving countries.

The GFMD mechanisms – be it business, civil society, local authorities or youth – also shared their views.

Through a survey, the Working Group gathered lessons learnt, practices, policies from GFMD constituents. They are also reflected in that paper.

Dear colleagues, we are all aware that the Covid-19 pandemic is not over. It continues to endanger the lives of many and to have a negative socio-economic impact.

Nevertheless, we believe that there is no need to extend the mandate of this working group. The world faces multiple crisis that intersect and that enhance the vulnerability of many migrants, with Covid-19 being one of them. We are convinced that in the future work of the GFMD, the stakeholders will always integrate reflections on Covid-19 and its impact into the work.

We hence consider the work of the ad hoc working group concluded.