

## Meeting of the GFMD Friends of the Forum

18 November 2021, 10:00-18:00 CET

Hybrid participation modality – in person at the Novotel Geneva Centre  
and through the Zoom on-line platform

### SUMMARY REPORT

#### Agenda

**Welcome and Opening Remarks by the GFMD Troika: the UAE, France, Senegal**

**Update on the GFMD Reform Process February-November 2021, Abdulla Ali Alnuaimi, the UAE on behalf of the Troika**

**Overview of the Work of the GFMD Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations, Kristof Tamas, Government of Sweden**

**Overview on the Road to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), Jonathan Prentice, Head of UN Network on Migration Secretariat**

- **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 1: GCM Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18**  
*Chaired by Jasmine Moussa, Government of Egypt; facilitated by Stéphanie Winet, Business Advisory Group on Migration*
- **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 2: GCM Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21**  
*Chaired by H.E. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative/ Chargé d'affaires a.i., Government of Thailand; facilitated by Elana Wong, Migration Youth and Children Platform*
- **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 3: GCM Objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22**  
*Chaired by Filipa Sousa, Government of Portugal; facilitated by Stéphanie Jaquemet, ICMC*
- **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 4: GCM Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23**  
*Chaired by Jorge González Mayagoitia, Government of Mexico; facilitated by Sophie Van Haasen, Mayors Mechanism*

**Closing Remarks by the GFMD Troika**

#### Opening Remarks by the GFMD Troika

1. The UAE opened the meeting of the Friends of the Forum (FOF) by welcoming Senegal as the new incoming GFMD co-Chair.
2. France announced that its GFMD co-Chairmanship with Senegal will start in July 2022 and will last until December 2023. Such co-Chairmanship will enable to address topics of common interest, such as the overarching theme of climate change and human mobility. France highlighted the GFMD added value as an informal and pioneering space where discussions remain open and frank, its innovative thematic focus, participation also by those Member States that have not endorsed the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and inclusion of a broad range of stakeholders: the three GFMD Mechanisms (civil society, private sector, local and regional governments) as well as Youth. France and Senegal will present their GFMD vision in the coming months.
3. Senegal attaches great importance to migration and development and looks forward to working with France on climate change and human mobility. The GFMD is the ideal platform to share good practices,

create successful partnerships and address the concerns of both global north and global south countries in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

4. The Philippines expressed appreciation to the outgoing member of the Troika, Ecuador and to the UAE and confirmed its continued commitment to the GFMD. As a GCM champion country, the Philippines strongly supports the FOF program focused on providing inputs to the IMRF and looks forward to the France-Senegal co-Chairmanship.

#### **Update on the GFMD Reform Process February-November 2021**

5. The UAE on behalf of the Troika indicated that since the GFMD January 2021 Summit significant progress has been made by the Steering Group (SG) in tackling those GFMD structural and financial challenges outlined at the 2021 Summit 'Future of the Forum' session.
6. In February 2021, in the absence of a Chair country the SG had mandated the Troika to co-chair GFMD meetings until a new Chair would take over. The UAE had agreed to lead the Troika until the end of 2021; France and Senegal would take over the lead from January to June 2022, when their co-Chairmanship will officially start. Ecuador had stepped down from the Troika at 17 November SG meeting.
7. In early 2021 a Sub-Group of Member States was established to provide support to the Troika in addressing the issues identified at the 2021 Forum. The Sub-Group was composed of the Troika, Canada, Egypt, Mexico, Sweden, and Switzerland; it had identified two priorities: a) a reform agenda to ensure the GFMD sustainability, and b) consider what interim GFMD support arrangements could be put in place to provide essential secretariat services while a more permanent solution is to be found.
8. Four Committees had been formed to address the first priority, the sustainability of the GFMD:
  - a. Committee on Identifying a GFMD Chair for 2021, chaired by France: no Chair had been identified for 2021 and the Committee was discontinued.
  - b. Committee on Reforms to the GFMD Governing Structures Terms of Reference (ToRs), co-Chaired by Canada and the UAE: a first revision of the SG ToRs had been agreed at the June 2021 SG meeting. A second, more comprehensive revision was underway. Governing documents for the Chair, Troika, and Friends of the Forum (FoF) will be reviewed by the Committee by July 2022.
  - c. Committee on GFMD Long-Term Financial Sustainability, chaired by Egypt: it is considering a) the viability of a multi-annual funding mechanism and b) other options, including fundraising capacity.
  - d. Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations, chaired by Sweden – see next agenda item.
9. On the second priority, the provision of interim support services to the GFMD, an agreement between the GFMD and IOM had been reached at the June 2021 SG meeting for IOM to provide minimal support services to the GFMD until mid-2022. A long-term solution on secretariat support is currently being considered under the leadership of France and Senegal.
10. The UAE informed that the GFMD financial situation has significantly improved since January 2021: the UAE had committed to clear the 2020 deficit, and a number of Member States had renewed their contributions for 2021, including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland. Given a healthier financial situation, the ongoing re-structuring reforms and the forthcoming France-Senegal co-Chairmanship, the UAE looks forward to a more sustainable future of the GFMD.

## Overview of the Work of the Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations

*by Kristof Tamas, Government of Sweden*

11. The Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations was established in April 2021 by Sweden, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Mexico and the UAE; the three GFMD Mechanisms and the Youth platform were invited to join in May 2021. Five meetings had been held and a Concept Note had been developed and presented to the SG in June 2021. On its basis, the Committee prepared a draft Strategy Paper and a draft background paper for today's FoF meeting, in preparation for the GFMD inputs report to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) scheduled in May 2022. FoF participants are invited to submit written comments to the Troika before the draft Strategy Paper is discussed by the SG later in the year. The background paper aims to inspire the FoF discussion and serve as a draft GFMD Input Report to the IMRF. The paper would be finalized on the basis of the FoF exchanges and adopted by the GFMD SG by 31 January 2022.
12. It is suggested that the GFMD Inputs Report consist of two parts: 1) a descriptive summary referring to the sources of the recommendations, and 2) a list of GFMD recommendations around the themes of the four Roundtable of the IMRF including the 23 GCM objectives. It is suggested that the GFMD Input Report focus its recommendations on how the GFMD governance model contributes to achieving the GCM objectives and principles, in particular GCM Objective 23. The focus could be on key areas of thematic partnerships that are international or regional in scope, as opposed to national-level examples, and on the identification of challenges, opportunities and examples of good practices.

## Overview from the Migration Network on the Road to the IMRF

*by Jonathan Prentice, Head of the UN Network on Migration (UNNM) Secretariat*

13. The UNNM Secretariat appreciated being invited to the GFMD discussion on inputs to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and noted that Senegal, the incoming co-Chair of the GFMD, was also a "GCM Champion Country". The IMRF will be held on 10-13 May 2022 at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, preceded by a stakeholder consultation on 9 May presided by the UNGA President. The [IMRF Roadmap](#) had been launched on 19 October. The UNNM expects four outcomes from the IMRF 2022: 1) That it will be part of a process of continued dialogue on GCM implementation rather than an isolated event; 2) that it will manage to look back at what has been achieved and also look forward to identify priorities for the future, with a positive outlook, reinforcing the GCM as the framework for cooperation on migration governance; 3) that it will enable Member States and stakeholders to make new commitments and move forward; 4) that it will provide clear guidance for the next phase through the outcome document.
14. In the lead up to the first IMRF, the UNNM welcomes all meetings such as the FoF and any other consultation by platforms and organizations, as well as national voluntary reports or updates. A UNNM priority is to consider how to strengthen cooperation among States and all stakeholders and ensuring that the 360-degree foundation of the GCM is fully adhered to. As some GCM objectives are more discussed than others across regions, another priority is to bring attention also to those objectives which are least discussed. The UNNM is working closely with the UNGA President to prepare the IMRF and to hold events around the release of the UN Secretary General's report in February 2022. Some dialogues will be organized to prepare background notes for the four IMRF Roundtables. The UNNM Secretariat welcomed synergies between its Migration Hub and the GFMD Platform for Partnerships. The UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund has launched the first nine joint

programmes and foresees a positive trend in terms of resource mobilization (with a capitalization target of USD 70 million). The UNNM Secretariat will work with the 25 Champion Countries to strengthen cooperation within and between regions and looks forward to working with all partners including the GFMD.

15. The Philippines supported the remarks by the UNNM Secretariat on synergies and suggested that partnerships be highlighted in the report as a practical way to promote progress.
16. IOM congratulated the Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations on its work under the guidance of Sweden and welcomed the two draft papers focus on collaboration and synergies between the GFMD, the UNNM and the GCM, including the incorporation of GCM objectives in the multi-year agenda of future GFMD chairmanships. IOM would welcome the reactivation of the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM. IOM services the UNNM Hub through its Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in Berlin and it has already provided technical support during the UAE chairmanship to foster synergies with the GFMD Platform for Partnership. Given the GFMD membership wealth of expertise, the GFMD report could focus on all GCM objectives and particularly on objective 23.
17. The European Union, speaking on behalf of the European Commission and EEAS, welcomed the incoming co-Chairmanship and thanked the UAE for its leadership during COVID-19. The work of the European Commission and its External Action Service in support of the GCM is engrained in the 2020 New EU Pact on Migration. In line with the GCM, partnerships are central to the Pact, which promotes a comprehensive approach to migration governance. The Commission recognizes that the impact of COVID-19 on migration exemplifies the necessity to strengthen multilateral solutions; it is committed to supporting the UN Secretary General’s efforts on a UN-wide response and to achieve better migration governance through the IMRF.
18. Civil society welcomed Senegal and France and thanked the Troika of UAE, with Ecuador and France, for its leadership in the past challenging months. The Troika’s work had enabled the transition to the current, positive phase by overcoming extensive difficulties. Civil society was willing to play a more active role, without overstepping its mandate as a mechanism and available to co-Chair one of the Working Groups in partnership with 2 Member States.
19. The Mayors Mechanism (MM, co-steered by the United Cities and Local Governments, the Mayors Migration Council and IOM) sees the France – Senegal co-Chairmanship as a fresh opportunity to bring cooperation between the global south and global north back to the core of the GFMD. The MM looks forward to working together with the incoming Co-Chairs as it has substantive inputs to contribute to their program. The MM welcomed the focus on connecting the GFMD and the GCM and thanked Sweden for its guidance. The GFMD has been key in paving the way for the GCM and is a genuinely informal and truly inclusive space for dialogue, not only among Member States but also with the Mechanisms continued and deepened engagement. The multi-actor character of the GFMD could inspire the GCM implementation and review processes.

### **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 1: GCM Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18**

- Objective 2:** Minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.
- Objective 5:** Enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
- Objective 6:** Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.

**Objective 12:** Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment, and referral.

**Objective 18:** Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications, and competences.

**Chaired by Jasmine Moussa, Government of Egypt;  
facilitated by Stéphanie Winet, Business Advisory Group on Migration/Business Mechanism**

### **Introductory Remarks by the Chair, Jasmine Moussa, Government of Egypt**

20. Making headway on the GCM objectives at the core of Roundtable 1 requires international cooperation and partnerships among countries of origin, transit, destination and return. This roundtable aims to facilitate discussion on relevant examples and concrete practices: it is particularly important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has induced travel restrictions, lockdowns and economic downturns. The GFMD provides a unique space to discuss appropriate policy responses through informal, candid, multi-stakeholder discussions. The role of the private sector is key to achieve the GCM objectives, particularly those addressed by this Roundtable. On the objectives at the core of this session:
21. *Objective 2 - minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin:* migration should be a matter of choice, not compulsion. Yet much too often migrants embark on perilous journeys. Adverse drivers of migration include lack of socio-economic development, poverty, food insecurity, disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation. These should be addressed through socio-economic development, climate change action, disaster risk reduction, education, job creation in countries of origin, especially for the youth. Accurate data is critical to understand the causes and mechanisms of irregular migration in order to pursue solutions.
22. *Objective 5 - enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration is critical to reducing irregular migration:* this can be achieved through cooperation arrangements and skills matching programs. Where regular pathways exist, there are often barriers that prevent migrants from using them. Diversifying regular pathways including through recruitment schemes and the regularization of undocumented migrants may reduce migrants' vulnerabilities. Upholding applicable international human rights law is key. Regularization processes may be streamlined and made more efficient especially for migrants in vulnerable situations including in disaster and climate change contexts. Governments can develop regional agreements and regularization based on the principle of shared responsibility.
23. *Objective 6 - facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work:* migration policies need to be adapted to business realities and the capacities of receiving societies. The private sector plays an important role in the recruitment of migrants and by engaging in public campaigns to explain how migration makes economic sense and brings competitive advantage. Facilitated skills mobility for employment can be adopted to ensure responsible policies and practices. Lack of regular recruitment processes for migrants and unscrupulous practices often lead to labour exploitation: this is a specific challenge that needs to be addressed. Mandatory training for sponsored workers, recruitment cost indicators, bilateral labour agreements are important tools to prevent labour exploitation.
24. *Objective 12 - strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment, and referral:* irregular migration is often triggered by undeveloped migration systems and complex, slow, unclear and expensive procedures. Migration policies should be

transparent and inclusive, addressing solutions to irregular migration challenges. Reducing the cost of immigration, visa and permit procedures can empower migrants. Also important are raising awareness on regular immigration procedures, enhancing access to work and residence permits and raising awareness to facilitate the identification and referral of victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

25. Objective 18 - *invest in skills development and facilitating mutual recognition of skills, qualifications, and competences*: there is a need for bilateral, multilateral and regional arrangements for mutual recognition of skills and qualifications, validations of professional certifications and formal education degrees. Private-public partnerships are useful to facilitate access to skills and for skills recognition to meet shortages in specific sectors. Skills and qualification recognition of migrants returning to countries of origin should also be improved. More efficient use of data can improve cross-border migration, contact tracing, intra-company migration procedures, and legal pathways. Student exchange programs, language skills and cultural skills are also important, as well as digitizing procedures to make systems more accessible and less bureaucratic. These measures may help fill much needed skills shortages to support economic recovery during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
26. These different areas need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner to ensure that migration can be a vehicle for development in countries of origin, transit, destination and in countries of return.

**Introductory Remarks by the Facilitator of Roundtable 1, Stéphanie Winet, Business Advisory Group on Migration/Business Mechanism**

27. The added value of the GFMD is strongly linked to the participation of multiple stakeholders to the Forum and their organization in mechanisms articulating the different points of view of civil society, local governments, the private sector and youth. The GFMD mechanisms help showcase practical examples of partnerships that work, demonstrating how such partnerships are key also for GCM implementation.
28. The private sector was strongly engaged in the GCM negotiations. Inputs provided by the Business Advisory Board on Migration are reflected in objectives 5, 6 and 18 and in those objectives that refer to innovation, technology and in general the cross-cutting engagement of the private sector.
29. On objective 2: Investing in education and skills development, focusing on how to address skills shortages widespread across all countries and regions, and investing in environments that allow businesses to thrive, also are a means to address drivers of migration.
30. One of the action points of objective 5 (d) states: *'Develop flexible, rights-based and gender-responsive labour mobility schemes for migrants, in accordance with local and national labour market needs and skills supply at all skills levels, including temporary, seasonal, circular and fast track programmes in areas of labour shortages, by providing flexible, convertible and non-discriminatory visa and permit options, such as for permanent and temporary work, multiple-entry study, business, visit, investment and entrepreneurship'*. This is a clear commitment by the governments endorsing the GCM for migration pathways that respond to labour market needs. The private sector is well placed to partner with governments to inform what those labour market needs are.
31. On objective 6, the official position of employers on recruitment at a global level is that no worker should pay to access a job and that recruitment fees should not be borne by workers. As some jurisdictions still allow this, it is important to promote frameworks that foster responsible recruitment and regulate intermediaries.
32. On objective 18, skills are a main asset for companies to grow; lifelong learning and training for migrant workers are key to ensure that skills set respond to labour market needs; also key is the harmonization of skills recognition frameworks. The reference to the GFMD Business Mechanism in

objective 18 (f) is a recognition that the creation of institutionalized stakeholders' mechanisms leads to concrete impact on the ground. Not all countries currently have adequate channels to engage stakeholders in a way that is conducive to implementing the GCM.

33. A concrete example of a partnership reflecting these GCM objectives and the GFMD Business Mechanism is the successful partnership between the legal firm *Fragomen*, specialized in providing legal advice on immigration matters across the world and the not-for-profit organization *Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB)*, which collects and catalogues migrants' skills data to facilitate skills matching with employers. With British government support, *Fragomen* and *TBB* have joined forces to develop a displaced talent mobility scheme that provides effective solutions to businesses with skills shortages, also on a large scale.<sup>1</sup> This partnership has recently received an award as 'Best Partnership in Immigration in the EU, Middle East and Africa' and demonstrates that employers are ready and eager to hire workers no matter where they come from, if migration policies allow. Such schemes can be replicated elsewhere.
34. Ian Robinson, partner from *Fragomen* UK and Marina Brizar, *TBB* UK Director, illustrated the specificities of this non-traditional partnership. The *TBB* mandate is to lift refugees and displaced persons out of displacement by leveraging their skills, offering pathways to skilled migration programs. Candidates can register on the *TBB* Talent Catalogue. When employers looking for skills - at all levels - contact *TBB*, candidatures with the required set of skills are selected from the database and shared with employers; on conclusion of a competitive recruitment process, the immigration process starts in collaboration with *Fragomen*. This is key for the scheme to work, as it is only through the expertise of providers such as *Fragomen* that the matching and visa process can be completed. In terms of impact, *TBB* has managed to offer a significant pool of skilled candidates to the labour market, servicing companies that regularly experience shortages of skills on a large scale. The aim of this scheme is to provide equitable access to job opportunities to people in displacement situations, leveling the playing field with other workers. Predictable and flexible legal pathways are crucial for this partnership to work, for employers to fill skills gaps and for refugees and displaced persons to be able to access jobs. Objective 5 is crucial for the success of displacement talent mobility. This scheme also promotes objective 6 by providing information and raising employers' awareness, making the process competitive and fair, using technology to adapt recruitment processes at all skills levels. On objective 18, the model of the employer should be trusted to assess skills, although there are regulations for specific categories of workers. The aim is to help overcome administrative challenges for displaced populations, while keeping the process competitive.

## Discussion

35. The Philippines: on objective 2, while the draft paper indicates adverse drivers of migration, such as job loss, peace and security factors, the 'drumbeat' in the lead up to the COP 26 linked migration and climate change in a rather negative way. The Philippines does not agree with this apocalyptic narrative on migrants and migration. The GFMD input to the IMRF should highlight the benefits of migration and provide a more balanced perspective. On objective 5 - regular pathways, vaccination status has emerged as a barrier to mobility. The GFMD input to the IMRF should encourage a human rights-based approach to addressing public health security and help restore mobility to the needed level of regularity and predictability. On objective 18, the Philippines agrees that regional schemes should be set up and the partnership example provided in this session is very interesting. However, it is

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fragomen.com/insights/fragomen-and-talent-beyond-boundaries-webinar-displaced-talent-mobility.html>

necessary to recognize that unskilled workers are a major component of labour migration flow, and some form of cooperation is needed to address these workers as well. Family reunification policies are also key to discourage illegality. The Philippines and the UK have recently signed an agreement to regulate the recruitment of nurses in the Philippines, reducing abuse and meeting skills shortages. Government to government agreements are effective means of reducing abuse and meeting needs. The private sector is a very important migration factor. In the Philippines, the private sector is held responsible for the treatment of workers abroad from recruitment to return.

36. The Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD): Objective 2 is a key objective addressing climate change, environmental degradation and disaster and other factors compelling people to leave their country of origin. On objective 5, PDD would like to draw attention to two pathways: those in the context of sudden-onset disasters and pathways in the context of slow onset events and processes linked to the adverse effect of climate change. PDD stands ready to continue to share practices around these two types of pathways with the GFMD and the IMRF. On a general note, the inability to cut greenhouse gases sufficiently by the international community, increases climate change risks and, by extension, the frequency and intensity of natural hazards linked to displacement. Global warming also reduces options for adaptation, hence the risk of future increased disaster displacement, although indeed it is important to avoid misleading narratives and speculation not based on evidence and data. The GFMD has discussed practices in past roundtables (e.g. in Dhaka, Berlin, Quito and during the UAE chairmanships) and many examples can be mentioned including pathways in crises and emergencies. A recent example: PDD together with IOM and other partners are conducting a baseline mapping of policy instruments and practices within the workplan of the UNNM Thematic Priority 4 relevant for Objectives 2, 5 as well as to a lesser extent 21 and 23, with many relevant practices to share.<sup>2</sup>
37. Sweden: Enhancing the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration and facilitating ethical recruitment and decent work is very important for the Swedish government. Sweden, through SIDA, has recently co-funded the African Union flagship joint labour migration programme in East Africa in cooperation with SADC and ECOWAS, with the support of IOM and ILO. Sweden also supports IOM's Global Policy Network to Promote Ethical Recruitment and the IOM programme on Enhancing Corporate Responsibility on Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking in Asia (CREST) promoting partnerships with governments and Asian companies. Evaluating the impact of these projects is key to enable scaling and replication.
38. The Youth representative/Chief Executive/Co-Founder of *itungo Solutions*, an organization that provides upskilling pathways for migrants, affiliated with UNMGCY: *itungo Solutions* focuses on overcoming skills recognition barriers and recognizes the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation. *itungo* gathers qualifications and skills data to develop personalized career routes for people moving across countries. It is now trying to scale up its activities, specifically to help Afghans moving to the UK. *itungo* is working with UNICEF and GIZ on an online platform for African youth. The GFMD offers a space like no other to overcome institutional barriers, discuss solutions and create successful partnerships that have an impact on communities.
39. The Civil Society Mechanism held a global civil society consultation in preparation for the FoF meeting, with the International Steering Committee and the Civil Society Action Committee, the civil society representatives engaged in the GCM. The joint proposals by civil society include: On objective 5, civil society calls for a paradigm shift on migration pathways and regularization that promotes a holistic

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<sup>2</sup>[https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/resources\\_files/workplan\\_climate\\_change\\_and\\_migration\\_final.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/resources_files/workplan_climate_change_and_migration_final.pdf)

and rights-based approach to both pathways and regularization. While some promising practices were put in place during the pandemic, these have also shown limitations as temporary solutions e.g., providing residence status to migrants residing in the country to facilitate access to health and other essential services. On objective 2, there are good examples of initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change on communities displacement e.g. the Joint Management Authority established by Kenya to help prevent such crises. Compared to punitive measures, practices devoted to minimizing drivers of migration are lacking. On objective 6, decent work, governments should allow and encourage migrants to be part of unions and consider making this part of their work contracts.

40. The Mayors Mechanism echoed remarks on the importance of balanced narratives around climate change and migration. For local governments, the climate change–migration nexus is of central and urgent interest, with most migrants moving due to climate change expected to either leave from or settle in cities. Local governments have been raising awareness on this trend, including recently at COP 26 where the Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments led by ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, had a large local government delegation to press for a decentralized angle to the climate change discussions. Thanks to these efforts, important references to multilevel governance and the role of local communities were included in the final COP 26 decision. Specifically on migration, a mayoral international taskforce, co-led by the mayors of Dhaka North and Freetown launched an ambitious action agenda, calling for increased investments in urban climate adaptation for low-income countries. This work will be presented to the forthcoming co-Chairs: the GFMD will provide an excellent space for discussion following COP 26 and the IMRF, uniquely positioned to drive momentum.
41. Visadb.io, a startup that uses real time data to help fill skills gaps and shortages and promote skills matching, is a global platform for migration and talent acquisition strategies and an example of how to use technology and data in an innovative way. Funded by the EU, the governments of Poland and Chile, it was among the runners up of the first Migration Challenge – start up competition hosted by the International Organization of Employers (IOE) at the GFMD in Quito, it offers global talent migration data charts and historical migration patterns to facilitate policy decisions and source talent.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Concluding Remarks by the Chair of Roundtable 1, Jasmine Moussa, Government of Egypt**

42. During this Roundtable we heard how the partnerships between Talent Beyond Boundaries and Fragomen and the one shared by the youth representative have engaged governments, civil society and the private sector in finding cross-cutting solutions across the five objectives addressed by this roundtable. We also heard an example on how to use technology and data. This is an important complement to formal bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements and State-to-State efforts to manage migration flows.
43. On the proposed draft report to the IMRF, some important suggestions were made to enhance the report: under objective 2, the importance of focusing on positive aspects of migration was emphasized, particularly in the context of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic; and the importance of focusing on climate change mitigation, adaptation mechanisms and disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as addressing the sudden onset and slow onset impacts of climate change, linking discussions across global processes such as the GFMD, IMRF, and COP 26.
44. As for objective 5, proposals were made for more emphasis on an approach based on human rights law to enhance availability of regular pathways for migration, particularly in cases of public health emergencies and protection.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://data.visadb.io/global-skills-demand>

45. In addition, the need to take stock of existing cooperation at the bilateral, regional and cross-regional levels was raised; here one must emphasize the importance of filling the gap by amplifying examples of cooperation between and across different regions, making use of discussions from previous GFMD meetings and practices from other existing platforms.
46. Finally, one of the important messages raised is the centrality of partnerships with the private sector, civil society, local governments and youth. As the platform that brings together a range of stakeholders and promotes peer-to-peer learning, the GFMD is able to amplify such partnerships and practices to replicate them elsewhere. In this context, this morning's speakers highlighted that predictable, regular pathways and ethical recruitment make sense from a business point of view, serve the cause of development, while simultaneously protecting the human rights of migrants themselves. Amplifying these messages is important to changing the narrative around migration. We must not forget unskilled migrants and migrants in situations of vulnerability.

### **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 2: GCM Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21**

**Objective 4:** Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.

**Objective 8:** Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.

**Objective 9:** Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.

**Objective 10:** Prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international Migration.

**Objective 11:** Manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner.

**Objective 13:** Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.

**Objective 21:** Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable Reintegration.

*Chaired by H.E. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative/Chargé d'affaires a.i., Government of Thailand; facilitated by Elana Wong, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)*

### **Introductory Remarks by the Chair H.E. Virabutr, Government of Thailand**

47. Migrants are agents of development and the GFMD community have long discussed how to maximize their potential. Regular migration pathways reduce vulnerabilities for migrants and irregular migration risks. It is important to ensure access to basic services and to education irrespective of migration status. Respect for human rights of migrants should be guaranteed across all stages of the migration cycle. Through these measures, migrants can be best placed to act as agents of development and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making sure that no one is left behind. Thailand has adopted a whole of society approach in alternatives to detention for children in immigration detention by working closely with civil society and international organizations to ensure the best interest of the child, including access to education. Expertise can be drawn from the GFMD to support the effective implementation of the GCM.
48. The GFMD multi-stakeholder approach is one of the strengths it can lend to promote GCM implementation. Civil society organizations, local actors and youth are prominent first responders in addressing trafficking in persons. The business sector also plays an important role: by conducting due diligence, ensuring clean and transparent supply chains, offering reskilling or upskilling opportunities for returning migrants. GCM implementation can be pursued through stakeholder partnerships, drawing on already existing GFMD connections and experience.

49. Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) can also play an important role in GCM implementation, building on existing engagement by the GFMD with some RCPs. For example, better protection of labour migrants in the Colombo process; counter trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the Bali Process.
50. Synergies among GFMD, RCPs and the GCM can contribute to the Member States and wellbeing of migrants themselves. The GCM offers a 360-degree vision of migration and their objectives are closely linked and intertwined. Thailand encourages discussion in the GFMD on those specific GCM objectives that have not received much attention yet, on areas that can highlight the role of migrants as agents of development and promote better migrants' protection. Thailand is committed to continuing to play its role as a GCM champion country in two primary areas (1) access to health care and services for migrant communities and (2) alternatives to detention in the Immigration Detention Centres for migrant children.

#### **Introductory Remarks by the Facilitator Elana Wong, MYCP**

51. The priorities introduced by Thailand are key to ensure the protection of young migrants everywhere. Last year, in preparation for the GFMD, MYCP consulted 150 organizations in 75 countries representing 88,000 youth. Access to regular pathways and documentation for migrants were raised during these consultations as preconditions to include migrants in society and there are many good practices of how they can be achieved. Non-custodial alternatives to detention are more effective and humane; child detention should be avoided at all costs. We need to uphold all children's rights to access protection, seek asylum, remain and/or reunite with family members. Human trafficking is a huge concern for young people and needs to be tackled with information, resources and access to regular pathways. Young people have expressed the urgency to build a more just and inclusive world in continuing our discussions today.
52. The following guiding questions can help the discussion:
  - What are the good practices that GFMD Member States and stakeholders can share with respect to this roundtable objectives?
  - What are the challenges and opportunities for the future and what are the lessons learnt?
  - What is the GFMD added value and how has the GFMD played a role to advance significant and innovative partnerships?

#### **Discussion**

53. The Secretariat of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights of Migrants noted that the discussion papers suggest abstaining from contributing to GCM objectives 8, 9, 13, 14 and 22. The Special Rapporteur is mandated to continue engaging with Member States and relevant stakeholders on issues related to saving life, alternative to immigration detention for adult migrants and ending immigration detention of children, among others. The Special Rapporteur welcomes efforts by States to diversify regular pathways and regularization processes, especially for migrants with vulnerabilities. The Special Rapporteur plans to submit a report to the General Assembly in 2023 on this topic and welcomes inputs from Member States. On objective 11, border management policies should be in line with the State's obligations under international law and the human rights of migrants. Special attention should be paid to women, children and other individuals with vulnerabilities. The pandemic has highlighted globally the vital contributions migrants provide to local economies. Recognition of

migrants' contribution is an effective means to correct those misleading narratives that generate negative perceptions of migrants and migration. Migrants must be included in the economic recovery plans.

54. Civil Society's joint proposals on GFMD inputs to the IMRF, formulated at the 15 November global civil society consultation in preparation for the FoF meeting include on objective 4, legal identity and adequate documentation, the example of those local policymakers and local authorities that are frontline responders to migration flows and have opted to provide legal documents to migrants in their municipalities. More dialogue between central governments and local authorities should be fostered to promote policy coherence in this area. The GFMD provides a privileged space for such exchange and can hopefully inspire similar discussions in other spaces. On objective 10, countering migrant smuggling and eradicating trafficking, a good practice is the agreement between the UAE and Indonesia on combating trafficking. On objective 11, managing borders, a good practice is the Lampedusa Presidium Project, that provided migrants arriving by boat with medical aid, assistance, counseling and support through the relevant government services, rather than recurring to criminal enforcement measures. On objective 13, migration detention, civil society calls for a moratorium on detention as a key step towards ending immigration detention and asks for compliance with and implementation of the Committee on Migrant Workers Geneva Comment no.5 on migrants' right to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention.
55. The NGO Committee on Migration, part of the civil society delegation, endorsed the civil society statement and suggested that on objective 8, the GFMD could include in its IMRF input reference to the importance of saving lives: in fact one of the GFMD greatest achievements over the years was its impulse to the development of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) and its guidelines and practices. MICIC is a multi-stakeholder process led by the Philippines and the United States, with the support of the European Union, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and other MS as well as civil society and other actors. The process was initiated under the Swedish GFMD Chair in 2013-2014. The MICIC guidelines were presented at the High-Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants in 2016 and are cited in the GCM. It would be important to reflect this important achievement in the GFMD input report to the IMRF. On objective 13, the GFMD has focused on alternatives to immigration detention in many roundtables in the past and civil society looks forward to proposing some practices that demonstrate the GFMD added value.
56. Thailand: on objective 21, dignified return and reintegration, civil society's engagement is key and is one of the issues that GFMD can contribute to. Thailand has engaged with countries of origin on the safe and dignified return of migrants and considers the role of other stakeholders important to make reintegration sustainable in the long run.
57. NGO Committee on Migration: The GFMD provides added value because it allows informal exchanges and sharing of practices also on controversial issues such as alternatives to detention. With COVID-19, some alternatives to detention through community-based partnerships were introduced in Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom and other countries. Sharing these practices is important precisely to promote advancements also in contentious areas. Return and reintegration is also a difficult topic. The GFMD can promote an informal exchange among MS and stakeholders on return and reintegration from the development angle. During COVID-19 the issue was highlighted of unpaid wages for those millions of labour migrants who returned to their home countries during the pandemic, often with support from countries of origin and some countries of destination, e.g., the

Philippines, the United Arab Emirates. The GFMD should pick up the challenge to protect the dignity of these migrant workers.

58. Migrant Forum in Asia emphasized the long-standing need for sustainable reintegration from the perspective of partnerships. The issue of reintegration has largely been the responsibility of countries of origin. As it will take time before economies can recover, it is worth asking if there is a role for countries of destination and for development partners in sustainable reintegration. Besides, millions of migrant workers have returned home without their wages and end of service benefits. This jeopardizes any social protection and the development trajectory that they and their families were on. GFMD Members States and those supporting the GCM could look at solutions for these millions of migrant workers in the immediate term, either re-migration or sustainable reintegration.
59. Egypt highlighted two cross-regional initiatives on dignified return and reintegration: The International Call to Action “Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep them Flowing”, an initiative jointly launched in May 2020 by the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom in partnership with other countries including Egypt, the World Bank/KNOMAD, UNCDF, IOM, UNDP, the International Association of Money Transfer Networks (IAMTN) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The Khartoum Process also is scheduled to have a meeting in Geneva on sustainable return and reintegration. These initiatives are relevant not only for objective 21 but also objective 23.

#### **Concluding Remarks by the Roundtable 2 Facilitator**

60. This session brought to the fore multiple initiatives, including on some difficult topics. The good practices mentioned during this roundtable include: the UAE-led programme for combating human trafficking; the Lampedusa Praesidium project providing health and assistance services to migrants arriving by boat as opposed to pursuing criminalization ; the cross-regional initiatives mentioned by Egypt on remittances and the Khartoum Process meeting on sustainable return and integration; the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) guidelines, a States-led but not State-only practice to save lives and promote inclusive responses in crisis contexts; the call for continuation of initiatives that provide alternatives to immigration detention through community-based solutions; lessons learnt from sustainable reintegration projects.
61. Some of the good practices mentioned were introduced due to COVID-19 and should be preserved in the long term and further promoted. Among the challenges identified are the need for more consideration also of objectives 8, 13 and 21 ; the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships among local authorities, organizations and migrant communities; the call for stronger partnerships between countries of origin and destination, given the unprecedented number of returns due to COVID-19 and the impact of unpaid wages on millions of migrant workers. The continuation of the dialogue on regional cooperation and the role of the GFMD to promote regional and multi-stakeholder partnerships were mentioned as important in GCM implementation.
62. Recommendations for objective 11 include a focus on saving lives and provision of regular pathways to migrants and migrant children; the recognition of the role of local authorities to promote access to rights through the provision of legal documents; the call for stronger cooperation among local, regional and central governments; the call for an immediate moratorium on immigration detention; the need to address wage protection urgently. Migrants need to be seen as agents of development. The GFMD added value as a forum where a transparent and informal space for dialogue on difficult topics is possible was also emphasized. The uniqueness of the GFMD process rests on the trust and

partnerships built over the years, leading to cooperation between Member States and other stakeholders, unparalleled in other spaces.

### **Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 3: GCM Objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22**

- Objective 14:** Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.
- Objective 15:** Provide access to basic services for migrants.
- Objective 16:** Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
- Objective 19:** Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.
- Objective 20:** Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
- Objective 22:** Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.

*Chaired by Filipa Sousa, Government of Portugal; facilitated by Stéphane Jaquemet, ICMC*

#### **Introductory Remarks by the Chair Filipa Sousa, Government of Portugal**

63. Portugal presented a brief introduction of the GCM objectives covered by this session. Objective 15 addresses two core areas of human development: health and education. Local and regional authorities can play a role in terms of urban planning, partnerships with civil society and the private sector. Objective 16 requires investment in fostering social and economic inclusion of migrants in host communities. On objective 19, diasporas can contribute to the development of countries of origin through the transfer of remittances, skills and knowledge. On objective 20, in the context of reduced global remittances due to the pandemic, this challenging situation can be counterbalanced through improved policymaking.
64. Portugal remains firmly committed to GCM implementation. The national implementation plan is based on a whole of government and whole of society approach. Portugal has a Council for migration involving key actors in the migrant integration process. It is proud to be a GCM champion country.
65. The government of Portugal has recently 1) granted temporary residence rights to all immigrants and asylum seekers to enable their access to social and health benefits; granted temporary extension of documents' validity to allow immigrants to have access to health, housing, social security and employment stability; 2) provided universal access to the COVID-19 vaccination plan, including for irregular migrants and refugees, enabling half a million immigrants to be part of the national immunization plan. In addition, Portugal in collaboration with IOM, aims to develop a labor migration management framework to ensure integration and protection of migrant workers while enabling employers to address labor shortages and skill gaps. Portugal co-organized a webinar on labor mobility with IOM in September and is currently negotiating bilateral labor migration arrangements with key partner countries. Portugal has contributed to the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and has provided unearmarked contributions to the UNNM Secretariat.
66. Regarding integration and inclusion, Portugal has been developing migration policies for more than 20 years to better integrate migrants into society. Its long tradition of welcoming migrants is anchored in a policy of integration of proximity. With the creation of the local centres to support migrant integration in 2003, it has developed a proximity service allowing migrants to co-shape their own

integration process. There are currently three national support centres and 109 local support centres across the country providing support with documentation, language courses, housing and education.

### Discussion

67. IFAD: Objective 20 on remittances should have its deserved space in the GFMD agenda this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated the vital role remittances play for the wellbeing of hundreds of millions of families in LMICs who otherwise would have struggled to survive the current health and economic crisis, and IFAD stands ready to support the incoming co-Chairs on this topic. Although the initial World Bank estimates had predicted a decrease in remittance flows of more than 20 percent, recent WB data indicates that remittances totaled USD 540 billion in 2020, declining by only 1.6 percent compared to 2019 figures, and that they are expected to grow by 2.6 percent in 2021. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, this is an unprecedented opportunity for the global remittance market. Migrants increased the use of regulated and digital channels along many corridors and the use of digital channels in many cases brought down the costs of transactions. However, the use of digital channels is heavily dependent on sound infrastructure, still lacking in many regions. Countries with low financial inclusion rates and low levels of digitalization suffered the most, especially their rural populations. Therefore, digitalization must be addressed effectively to improve the resilience of remittance markets.
68. IFAD highlighted the following initiatives undertaken in response to the Covid-19 crisis: 1) The [Remittance Community Task Force](#), with the release of a set of immediate, short- and medium-term measures, which served as the basis for the creation of several policy actions on remittances, including the UNNM policy brief on remittances, the menu of policy options for “Heads of State and Government of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond” initiative, and the formulation of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) 2021 work plan with the revision of the G20 National Remittances Plans; 2) in 2021, under the Italian Presidency, G20 member countries adopted a new template for their National Remittance Plans Update; 3) the G20 GPFI commissioned IFAD and the World Bank to compile a report on “[Resilience in the market for international remittances during the COVID-19 crisis](#)”; 4) through its [Financing Facility for Remittances](#), IFAD is currently implementing the IFAD-EU joint [Prime Africa Programme](#), through which it set up six National Remittance Stakeholder Networks in Africa, launched six National Calls for Proposals for innovative partnerships with the private sector on remittances, and undertook in-depth data gathering and analysis [publicly available on the RemitSCOPE web-portal](#). The 2021 edition of the [Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development](#) was organized on 16 and 17 June. The 2020 and 2021 editions of the campaign on the [International Day of Family Remittances](#) focused respectively on “building resilience in times of crisis” and on “recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion”.
69. MYCP: some effective methods that have successfully helped migrant and displaced youth access basic services include: 1) The *Program yoUr Future* (PUF), which has developed educational learning games and apps that can be accessed from anywhere around the world and in any language without the added cost of a Wi-Fi connection, in order to address the migrants’ challenge of lack of access to hardware technologies and reliable internet. 2) Educational technologies, including virtual reality course materials as well as tailored robot building and programming games to create a personalized learning experience. With these tools and mentors, young migrants have been able to unlock their potential to achieve stronger employable skills. Additionally, through cross regional partnerships with both the private sector and governments, PUF has been able to bring career preparedness

opportunities directly into classrooms, providing students with early career exposure through internships, mentorship and a supportive community. By celebrating diversity, these programmes are positively influencing public narratives, reducing xenophobia and discrimination.

70. Egypt: commenting on objective 15 and objective 16, Egypt informed on an innovative platform launched by the government in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR, which seeks to increase inclusion and social cohesion for migrants and refugees in Egypt and promote partnerships with donors and other international actors to help achieve these objectives.
71. The Mayors Mechanism: local governments uphold the strong responsibility of safeguarding human rights such as ensuring universal access to basic services for all regardless of status, and to foster socio-economic inclusion of all residents, including migrants. With regards to migrants in an irregular situation, local governments can play a central part in avoiding that this group is exploited and discriminated against. Two examples were illustrated on how local and regional governments are working to achieve socioeconomic integration and service delivery: 1) In spring 2020, the City of Sfax reached out to IOM and “Terre d’Asile Tunisie”, a local civil society organization, to coordinate support for vulnerable populations. The joint crisis response allowed officials to correctly assess the number of migrants living and working in informal environments and in dire need of assistance. An initial assessment of the data gathered indicated that the population living in informal conditions came from a more diverse geographic background than expected and that at least 50 percent were women and girls. This newly acquired knowledge is instrumental for the city to tailor gender-sensitive support and uphold the rights of children in crisis management and recovery efforts. 2) In October 2020 the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund announced financial support for a joint project to build local capacity in Santiago de Chile and Mexico City, and seek to improve migrant workers and refugees’ access to decent work and sustainable livelihoods by ensuring their employability, access to employment opportunities and social protection programs.
72. The MM also outlined two challenges and some key messages it had brought forward at the closing of the January GFMD Summit. The first challenge is policy coordination. Restrictive legal frameworks, national-local policy incoherence and limited mandates and resources often limit local governments capacities to grant an equal access to services to all residents and they may indirectly exacerbate existing inequalities. With lack of information, false expectations can arise and local governments face confusing guidelines to provide support. Multilevel and multi-stakeholder coordination among all spheres of government, civil society, and the international system is the best way forward to improve migration governance across the board. Including cities as relevant and acknowledged actors within the UN processes in clear recognition of their mandate, is still a persisting challenge. The second challenge is access to financing. Local governments need better access to international funding to scale up the actions they are carrying forward. The Global Cities Fund is a good example of city financing led by the Mayors Migration Council in partnership with the United Cities Local Governments and IOM, UNHCR and UN Habitat. This fund just started a new iteration dedicated specifically to climate migration. The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund is also a welcome structure providing local government cities with direct funding for migration governance, yet it is still not enough to meet the existing demand; in addition to Mexico City and Lima, the MM hopes to see more cities access this Fund.

73. France reflected on objectives 16 and 19 and shared a good practice example. In partnership with Senegal, France developed a Support Program for Solidarity Initiatives for Development (PAISD)<sup>4</sup>. It is a mechanism for mobilizing and supporting solidarity actions and economic initiatives by the Senegalese diaspora for the benefit of the country of origin. The mechanism has the financial support of Senegal, the European Union and the French Development Agency. It targets Senegalese living in France, Belgium, Spain and Italy; it supports and subsidizes up to 80% of the local development initiatives by the diaspora associations in the country of origin; it valorizes the savings of the Senegalese diaspora by supporting its business creation initiatives in Senegal; it undertakes relevant studies in a prospective approach; and it mobilizes highly qualified expertise and youth from diaspora communities for short term missions to Senegal. The program has been a success with great potential to be scaled up in the future. This partnership not only demonstrates the fruitful cooperation between States in bilateral discussions, but also with the migrants and diaspora communities, the actors to be included in migration policymaking.
74. On objective 15, the Civil Society Mechanism called for attention to the lack of access to justice faced by migrant workers. A safe and secure community requires peace and justice for all members of the community, regardless of migration status. It also called for equal and free access to vaccines regardless of migration status, a proven strategy to reduce infection rates. On objective 19, migrants involvement in decision-making processes is vital and benefits not only their community but every stakeholder involved in migration governance.
75. The Business Mechanism presented an example deriving from a partnership between the Government of Egypt and the private sector, where the Federation of Egyptian Industries works with its members to identify skill gaps in the Egyptian labor market and reach out to existing migrant communities in Egypt to address these. Another good practice is from Chile, where the government has supported the creation of an online platform open to the migrant community to help migrants locate job opportunities. Similar platforms and other technical tools that can link employment with migrant workers should be encouraged. The BM proposed the possibility of hosting a GFMD technology competition or hackathon on the margin of the IMRF in New York. The IOE has presented three startup competitions at the last two GFMD Summits and during the “It Takes A Community” global campaign and stands ready to facilitate such activity should there be interest within the GFMD.
76. Migrant Forum in Asia pointed to the importance of mentioning in the GFMD report to the IMRF how civil society and migrant communities play a significant role in the realization of objectives 14, 15 and 16, often together with local governments, youth volunteer organizations and missions. Regarding objective 14, there are numerous examples of how social workers from migrant communities, regardless of their nationalities, play a key role in supporting the work of consular services, particularly in times of crisis, for example during the pandemic. Their help ranges from providing information, personal protective equipment to humanitarian support. On objective 15, migrant communities and civil society play a key role in providing services on a free basis, including education, health and counseling. On objective 16, migrant communities and civil society help migrants on jobs, safe accommodation, languages and skills development in countries of destination. On objective 22, the pandemic has shown how the portability of social security is a key issue for migrant workers.
77. Senegal echoed France on the successful PAISD initiative. It mentioned also that migrants in Senegal have access to public schools and have the same rights and obligations as Senegalese workers in terms

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<sup>4</sup> <https://paisd.sn/>

of social security. Senegal has ratified many ILO fundamental conventions and works with the EU on a programme on governance, migration and development assisting Senegalese migrants return home and start up their economic activities. The diaspora is one of the 15 priorities of the Government of Senegal. There is also a diaspora representative in the Parliament. Portability of social security is another area Senegal plans to work on further.

**Concluding Remarks by the Facilitator of Roundtable 3, Stéphane Jaquemet, ICMC, Civil Society Mechanism**

78. The discussion had highlighted two strong links: one between objectives 15 and 16, access to basic services, inclusion and social cohesion. This was illustrated with the best practices shared by Member States, Observers and the Mechanisms. The other link is between inclusion and social cohesion or integration on one hand and the issue of narratives on the other. Inclusion can only occur in an environment where governments proactively fight against xenophobia and anti-migrant narratives. The whole of society approach as well as the whole of government approach were highlighted by participants. Access to services, including access to vaccines and access to justice, is a critical issue to address. The role of cities as frontline providers of services, as well as the role of civil society as providers of basic services, in particular for irregular migrants, were emphasized. Technology needs to be considered as a tool offering migrants more opportunities. Also mentioned were governments' good practices during the pandemic to ensure migrants would not fall into irregularity.

**Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 4: GCM Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Objective 1:</b>  | Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies                          |
| <b>Objective 3:</b>  | Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration  |
| <b>Objective 7:</b>  | Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration   |
| <b>Objective 17:</b> | Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration |
| <b>Objective 23:</b> | Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration                |

*Chaired by Jorge González Mayagoitia, Government of Mexico, facilitated by Sophie Van Haasen, Mayors Mechanism*

**Introductory Remarks by the Chair Jorge González Mayagoitia, Government of Mexico**

79. The next six months leading up to the IMRF are critical to build momentum around the GCM and ensuring that the first-ever IMRF yield meaningful results.

80. Mexico attaches great importance to these five GCM objectives. For objective 7, much concerns reducing migrants vulnerabilities so that they can enjoy their human rights regardless of status, minimizing migration risks and maximizing its benefits. On objectives 1 and 17, the GCM aims to balance the narrative on migration and migrants to prevent misinformation, stigmatization, xenophobia and hate speech. This effort would be meaningless without better data and evidence to inform both policies and narratives. On objective 23, the GCM recognizes the need for international cooperation and for countries and stakeholders to work together in the spirit of solidarity and responsibility sharing.

**Introductory Remarks by the Facilitator of Roundtable 4, Sophie Van Haasen, Mayors Mechanism**

81. The MM facilitator introduced the work of the GFMD Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration in line with objective 17 and highlighted the GFMD essential role in promoting a truly multi-actor and international partnership, including a diverse group of local authorities from Johannesburg, Mechelen (Belgium), São Paulo and Dublin. Information sharing and peer learning is central to what the GFMD can do to foster partnerships. The Working Group's campaign #ItTakesACommunity<sup>5</sup> has achieved concrete results also thanks to local governments contributions and in turn it has been instrumental in ensuring local governments offer equal access to services for all residents. The MM expects the campaign to gain more traction leading up and during to the IMRF.
82. On balancing narratives, the MM acknowledged the Roundtable 1 remarks on the importance of promoting evidence-based migration narratives in light of the impact of climate change on migration, an area the GFMD and the Working Group could pick up.

### Discussion

83. On objective 17, Canada highlighted how it co-leads the #ItTakesACommunity campaign through the GFMD, in close partnership with Ecuador, IOM and the GFMD Mayors Mechanism. The campaign aims to spark conversations and share meaningful stories that showcase the many ways in which migrants and migration can enrich communities around the world. The GFMD Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration has leveraged the GFMD's unique multi-stakeholder composition by taking a whole of society approach to the campaign implementation. Specifically, the Campaign has co-opted several partners, including cities, civil society groups, businesses and youth leaders and their respective unique perspectives on the benefits of migration illustrated through a series of dynamic videos, images and live virtual events hosted on social media. The mid-year assessment conducted in August has shown significant results: between its official launch in March and the end of July 2021 the campaign generated over 6.4 million social media impressions. Currently, the Working Group is exploring opportunities to extend the campaign into 2022 as a key GFMD initiative and a concrete way in which it continues supporting GCM implementation, leading up to the IMRF.
84. IOM underlined that objective 23 is key to achieving all other GCM objectives. One important consideration is how the GCM relates to other global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda, which includes target 10.7 *"Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."* GCM implementation through international cooperation, can have a positive impact in achieving the SDGs.
85. MYCP stressed the need to ensure that public narratives are evidence based in order to change the conversation on migration, as per objective 17. During the Youth takeover of the #ItTakesACommunity campaign, MYCP created a community of over 1,800 engaged young leaders and reached over 5 million people with its account and content. More than 100 young leaders used the platform to share stories and advice on how to empower other youth in changing their communities' views of migrants. Beyond the outreach and engagement already obtained, the key benefit of this joint campaign is that Youth has been able to work together across sectors and leverage each other's strengths. For instance, Youth provided fresh content when it took over the campaign while IOM provided the platform to amplify and give visibility to youth-led projects worldwide. Canada has provided MYCP with valuable insights and expertise on how to get youth-led organizations to become campaign supporters themselves, while the three GFMD mechanisms have extended their support in connecting content to their audiences.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.iom.int/it-takes-community>

86. MYCP organized workshops with the Youth community to identify youth projects on shaping narratives and supported eight initiatives with seed funding. These initiatives have grown to implement or scale up their own projects. For example, one of the winning initiatives has managed to reach over 200,000 people with a podcast on sharing migrant experiences.
87. MYCP believes this is a great example of what the GFMD can bring as a platform, merging the expertise, energies and audiences of such a diverse group of stakeholders with already very promising results. The multi-stakeholder nature of this collaboration is a perfect example of the added value of the GFMD. The Youth group is happy to be part of this and thankful for the trust in its role.
88. The Civil Society Mechanism reiterated that on objective 3, it is important to support the agency of people who are considering moving by providing clear and detailed information to support their decision. This is particularly true when it comes to climate migration. Access to digital tools and connectivity should be facilitated as these provide migrants with key information and services. On objective 7, migrants in vulnerable situations need particular attention, as many have found themselves in an irregular situation due to the sanitary restrictions induced by the pandemic. On objective 17, racism and xenophobia should be actively countered. The #ItTakesACommunity campaign initiated by the GMFD Working Group, provides an excellent example of cooperation among the GFMD mechanisms in favour of a more balanced narrative on migration. Civil society echoed the earlier remarks by the Philippines and PDD on the importance of narratives regarding climate change and migration. On objective 23, GCM commitments and guiding principles should be embedded into regional and other multi-State mechanisms. States that have signed on to the GCM should work to incorporate these principles and objectives into other multi-lateral and regional mechanisms as a means of popularizing these objectives and binding those States that have not signed up to the GCM to these same standards. Implementation of the migrant and refugee compacts should be harmonized.
89. As for the GFMD as a process and space in the new era, the Civil Society Mechanism wants to ensure that its informal character is retained, facilitating exchanges among governments and with other stakeholders, identifying solutions while safeguarding migrant well-being and protection. Without the initial space provided by the GFMD, the GCM may not have been realized. At the same time, while the IMRF is to take place every four years, the GFMD will continue yearly, providing an informal space for dialogue to help create an environment conducive to progress. Its annual meetings are indispensable if the agenda on migration is to progress from one IMRF to the next. Though the GFMD is State-led, it retains a wide and meaningful stakeholder engagement. These partnerships need to be developed further rather than being abandoned, to avoid losing such unique and critical multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue on which all have worked so long hard and which are highly valued. Like on climate, there are migration issues which could not be thoroughly unpacked at the initial GCM negotiations. There is much more to be done since it is a new born baby who needs to be nurtured. The GFMD allows for the necessary informal space to do just that.
90. For the UAE, objective 23 is particularly valuable in considering regional and global consultative processes contributions to the international governance of migration. The UAE has made significant contributions to both regional and global processes over the last decade and chaired both the GFMD and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) in 2020/21. The recent 6th ADD Ministerial Consultation agreed to submit a short report to the IMRF on how the ADD has contributed to meeting objective 23; this is also a critical objective for the UAE national report and the GFMD's Input Report. Partnerships have always been central to the ADD. They have become increasingly important also for the GFMD, as seen

in the recent the German Moroccan co-Chairmanship, during which the first Migration Lab was launched. This trend continued under Ecuador as Chair - and in 2020, when the UAE Chair convened a Migration Lab, launching its results at the Open Space of the January 2021 Summit. The two key benefits in partnership facilitation are 1) the direct outcome, whether focusing on skills mobility, recruitment, or access to justice; and 2) trust building among the parties involved; creating connections, sharing knowledge, and working together.

91. The UAE shared three key lessons learnt: 1) Successful partnerships require a multi-year agenda. Whereas fora such as the ADD and the GFMD typically work over a one or two-year cycle, with incoming Chairs setting out priorities for that timeframe. Finding ways to enable partnerships to continue and report back over longer timeframes is therefore important. This is something that the ADD and the GFMD Steering Group have begun to address. 2) Aligning the interests of all partners in a partnership is crucial. Fora such as the ADD and the GFMD are often very good at creating consensus on political priorities. But solutions often require hard choices to be made and political capital to be expended. For voluntary global and regional platforms to take the next step in placing partnerships at the centre of their agendas, they will need to find ways to align and coordinate participants in doing so. 3) Predictable funding is crucial. Platforms can play an important role in linking donors with implementing partners. This was part of the UAE aspiration for the Open Space at the GFMD January 2021 Summit. To be noted, in particular, is the success obtained by Switzerland in cooperation with the IOE on the Seedstars model, awarding seed funding to young entrepreneurs for their innovative solutions to migration challenges. Another good example was the Youth Award. The UAE looks forward to learning more on the UNNM administration of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund.
92. Sri Lanka presented on its own assistance to migrant workers during the pandemic. A nation-wide network is being used to assist returning migrant workers. Through its consulates overseas the government supports repatriations and sponsors quarantine and health facilities for returning migrant workers. It also provides a vaccination programme for prospective migrant workers and a booster vaccine is provided for those actually departing. In addition, the State Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotions and Market Diversification and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment run special support programmes for returning migrant workers to take on economic and social activities once back home.
93. Sweden shared two examples related to objectives 1 and 23. Sweden is supporting partners linked to both the Agenda 2030 and the GCM, through a regional program to improve migration statistics in Africa, funded by SIDA and coordinated by Statistics Sweden, in collaboration with IOM and the African Union Statistical Institute. The project aims to enhance Regional Economic Communities capacities to describe intercontinental migration, harmonize concepts and methods, strengthen the availability and awareness of gender sensitive migration data and coordinate migration statistics. This project will help Regional Economic Communities to identify regional indicators that can illustrate the contribution of migration to economic growth, integration and development within the regions. Sweden co-funds the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund for GCM implementation and this year's contribution has increased over the last year's. Sweden's focus on GCM implementation is in partner developing countries, where there is an overall need for capacity building and support.
94. Sweden referred to the added value and lessons learned outlined in the GFMD Ten Year Review, produced in 2018 as an input to the preparatory work for the GCM. A survey conducted for the Review indicated that 77 GFMD Member States ranked networking as the biggest added value of the GFMD. The second most valued item was partnerships, as 72 percent of the respondents replied that they

had gained new insights and deepened their knowledge on the interest and priorities of partner countries, even those they would usually work with. Several governments also underlined the value they attached to the interaction with the GFMD Mechanisms and stakeholders. Almost 80 percent of the State respondent confirmed that the GFMD had been topical and relevant, including on responses to newly rising issues. Sweden agrees with earlier statements on the higher frequency of GFMD meetings being of added value- these points could be shared with IMRF participants.

95. Egypt shared examples and good practices related to objectives 1, 7 and 23. On objective 1, Egypt is keen on data and evidence, on which it has hosted international and regional conferences. In 2017 it established the Migration Data Analysis Unit at the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, which addresses migration data gaps and supports the development of evidence-based policy to enhance migration governance. A national expatriates database was launched to guide decisions on migration governance and enhance the integration of Egyptians abroad into national development efforts. On objective 7, along with the remarks it made under objective 15 and 16, Egypt noted migrant vulnerability to smuggling and human trafficking. In 2016 Egypt established a comprehensive legal framework and a national strategy to eliminate irregular migration from its coastline: it is a revolutionary approach in that it criminalizes smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and it provides support and protection to victims. Egypt recalled how objective 23 was based on a proposal by the African Group and it is key to implementing the GCM. Egypt is a party to five Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration, in addition to the GFMD. It also has numerous bilateral agreements in place as illustrated in its GCM voluntary report.
96. Egypt believes international cooperation is absolutely essential to address the drivers of irregular migration, including through stepping up ODA and FDI and reducing the transaction costs of migrant remittances. More needs to be done to encourage partnerships to respond to conflict and insecurity, to remove obstacles to trade and to address the impacts of climate change. More needs to be done also to build on and implement existing frameworks for migration governance, including at the regional level through a 360-degree approach that focuses on all pillars, including the development aspects of migration, addressing root causes, promoting regular pathways, migrant return and reintegration and combating trafficking and irregular migration.
97. For Egypt migration management requires a whole of society and whole of government approach bringing together different stakeholders to ensure migration acts as a transformative force for societies to achieve sustainable development. Egypt reiterated the importance and its support to the GFMD, which allows for multi-stakeholder engagement and exchanges that can feed into the IMRF.
98. Saint Lucia values the GFMD for its information exchange and peer learning opportunities. It is also a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)/IOM Working Group.
99. The NGO Committee on Migration referred to the linkage between objective 7 on addressing and reducing vulnerabilities and objective 5 and 15, which provide solutions in practice. Both 1) robust COVID-19 practices of providing access to services, vaccines, treatment and testing irrespective of migrant status and 2) increasing regular pathways and regularization should be key message to the IMRF.
100. The Business Mechanism reaffirmed its support to the GFMD and thanked the UAE for flagging the IOE Migration Challenge as a partnership example. In addition to the idea of a GFMD technology competition / hackathon on the margins of the IMRF, it proposed a GFMD multi-stakeholder video to showcase the global narratives campaign as a potential kick off the IMRF.

**Concluding Remarks by the Chair of Roundtable 4, Jorge González Mayagoitia, Government of Mexico**

101. Mexico had five reflections: 1) On narratives and data, participants highlighted that evidence-based migration narratives are key to shifting perceptions on migrants and migration and to combat and prevent xenophobia. The GFMD Working Group on Narratives as a space to provide guidance and tools to craft and disseminate such narratives is continuously referred to. The #ItTakesACommunity campaign was mentioned as a clear example of partnership among different stakeholders. 2) On international cooperation, participants reiterated the essential role of international cooperation in effective global migration governance and GCM implementation. The importance of partnerships was also mentioned to develop trust and to achieve tangible results. The GFMD Migration Lab was flagged as a space to allow the identification and fertilization of initiatives and partnerships. The UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund was mentioned as a financial tool to promote capacity development and to assist States in the implementation of the GCM. 3) On vulnerabilities, there was a recommendation to connect objective 7 with other GCM objectives that provide useful policy recommendations to prevent and reduce vulnerabilities, specifically objectives 5 and 15. 4) On policy coherence, recommendations include: a) ensure coherence between the GCM objectives and principles with different regional and sub-regional mechanisms and platforms, b) ensure coherence and complementarity between the two global compacts, c) connect the GCM with the 2030 Agenda to ensure support to the implementation specifically of SDG Target 10.7. Finally, 5) on the value of the GFMD, there were many strong and positive messages acknowledging the GFMD as a valuable space for discussing migration governance. These discussions can feed into other relevant mechanisms, specifically the IMRF and also the regional review processes. The GFMD provides a meaningful space for all stakeholders to participate and learn from each other and allows the Geneva community to contribute to the discussions to be held in New York at the IMRF.

**Closing Remarks by the Troika**

102. The UAE thanked all participants and the Chairs and Facilitators of the four IMRF Stocktaking Roundtables and reiterated its commitment to the GFMD through its active role in various governing and working groups.
103. France was confident that the discussions will meaningfully inform the GFMD inputs to the IMRF and appreciated the commitment and contribution from Member States, Mechanisms and Youth. France is honored to co-Chair the GFMD with Senegal, succeeding to the UAE and Ecuador and it is committed to making it a truly open, informal and fruitful platform for discussion on migration and development.
104. Senegal thanked the UAE and Ecuador and stressed its commitment to a successful co-Chairmanship. It would present the GFMD Chair's vision with France early next year and will count on the support of all Member States and stakeholders.

*A total of 180 delegates from 81 GFMD Member States, three GFMD Mechanism, Youth and 25 organizations attended the meeting either in-person or online.*

*Prepared by the IOM GFMD Team*