

GFMD 2024-2025 Colombia Chairship

Programme Update - 18 July 2024

Background and Introduction to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

Established in 2007, the GFMD is the largest existing State-led dialogue on migration and development. It is **an informal, non-binding, voluntary process** aimed at fostering international cooperation and partnerships. With the aim to reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of the topics at its centre, the GFMD involves different government agencies, civil society, the private sector, mayors, youth, international organizations and academia.

GFMD Objectives

- To provide a platform for dialogue on the contribution of migration to development.
- To facilitate the sharing of knowledge and practices among countries and stakeholders.
- To promote international cooperation and partnerships.

GFMD Achievements

- The GFMD has contributed to **lift migration onto the international agenda**, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the negotiation of the Global Compact on Migration.
- It is an important space to **exchange knowledge and practices in cutting-edge areas** at the centre of attention of Member States, based on a program that is flexibly developed by governments in consultation with a variety of stakeholders.
- It helps build shared perspectives and **forge innovative partnerships** among Member States, civil society, the private sector, cities, youth and International Organizations.

The GFMD 2024-2025 Colombia Chairship – Taking the baton from France

Before concluding its mandate in 2022-2023, France proposed to Colombia to take the Chairship of the GFMD, considering Colombia's leadership in regularization, social inclusion and integration of migrants in its territory. The government of Colombia assumed the Chairship of the GFMD on 1 April 2024. Headed by Ambassador Gustavo Gallón, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Chair of the GFMD 2024-2025, the Colombian National Task Force has launched a process of informal consultations with Member States and GFMD Observers. The consultations aim to identify the **six thematic priorities** that will be at the core of the GFMD programme in 2024-2025. Upon conclusion of the consultative process, the Chair will announce its programme in Geneva on the 3rd of September 2024 at the Ambassador's Residence. The GFMD Preparatory Process, which consists of three rounds of Troika, Steering Group, Friends of the Forum and Roundtable Consultations will start in November 2024 and will lead to the 15th GFMD Summit (calendar below).

Overview of the Consultations with Member States and GFMD Observers

Started in May 2024, the GFMD Programme Consultations have involved 52 governments, 7 International Organizations, 4 stakeholder groups and a team of academics. Regional consultations of civil society for Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa took place in July 2024.

- **Governments already engaged in consultations:** Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany (MFA and German Development Agency, GIZ), Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Italy, Korea (Republic of), Lesotho, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Samoa, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe.
- **International Organizations:** ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women.
- **GFMD Stakeholder Groups:** the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism, Business Mechanism, Mayors Mechanism, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP).
- **Academics and researchers:** The GFMD Chairs traditionally invite academics to support their thematic program. A team of academics from Columbia University was involved so far and more are going to be engaged before the finalization of the program.

New modalities and formats

The GFMD 2024-2025, chaired by Colombia, aims to refresh the GFMD dialogue space. New formats for the six thematic roundtables are going to be proposed to the GFMD community with the aim of making discussions more informal and interactive. Facilitation techniques will be introduced with the aim of promoting opportunities for networking and partnerships throughout GFMD events. The roundtable formats will be tested during the Roundtable Consultations that are part of the GFMD Preparatory Process and then fine-tuned for the 15th GFMD Summit.

A Structured Conversation

Each Roundtable Consultation will be dedicated to exploring and discussing a specific angle of the topics facilitating a logical progression throughout the preparatory phase and in the lead up to the 15th GFMD Summit:

- The first roundtable consultations will focus on **challenges and opportunities** related to each of the six thematic priorities.
- The second roundtable consultations will focus on the exchange of **policies and practices**.
- The third roundtable consultations will focus on **solutions** and **partnerships**.

At the 15th Summit, the discussions will allow participants to build on the outcomes of the preparatory process focusing on solutions and partnerships.

Thematic priorities under consideration

The program has been developed in a spirit of co-creation following an inclusive process of informal consultations held from May to July 2024.

The overarching theme for the GFMD 2024-2025 will focus on "**Regular Migration, Labor Mobility and Human Rights: Pillars of Development and Well-Being of Societies**" (working title).

The six thematic priorities that are being considered include:

1. The role of women in migration and development.
2. Children and Youth.
3. Media and culture.
4. The effects of climate: disasters, displacement and human mobility.
5. Regional and cross-border integration.
6. Digitalization and new technologies: how technology can help regular migration pathways.

How to Engage

Member States may engage in the GFMD in different ways reflecting their main areas of interest and priorities. In addition to attending the informal consultations, Member States can express interest to join the [GFMD Steering Group](#), a [Thematic Working Group](#) or by financing the process. Member States can **co-chair one of the 6 roundtables** that will focus on the thematic priorities of the Chairship (2 governments and 1 mechanism/platform if there is interest). Expressions of interest can be sent to the GFMD Secretariat at GFMD@iom.int.

Attend
consultations

Steering Group
Membership

Co-chairing a
Summit
roundtable

Take part in the
roundtables

Financing the
GFMD | voluntary
contribution

GFMD Working
Groups
Membership

GFMD 2024-2025 Preliminary Calendar of Activities

1 April 2024	Beginning of the 2024-2025 Colombian Chairship	
May - July 2024	Programme Consultations with all stakeholders	GENEVA <i>In person</i>
3 September 2024	Official launch of the GFMD 2024-2025 Programme	GENEVA <i>In person</i>
3-30 September 2024	Open Call for Roundtable Co-Chairs	EMAIL: gfm@iom.int
6 November 2024	1 st Preparatory Meetings	GENEVA <i>Hybrid</i>
7 November 2024	1 st Roundtable Consultations	GENEVA <i>In person</i>
12 February 2025	2 nd Preparatory Meetings	GENEVA <i>Hybrid</i>
13 February 2025	2 nd Roundtable Consultations	GENEVA <i>In person</i>
4 June 2025	3 rd Preparatory Meetings	GENEVA <i>Hybrid</i>
5 June 2025	3 rd Roundtable Consultations	GENEVA <i>In person</i>
Second Semester 2025 (TBC)	15 th GFMD Summit	COLOMBIA(TBC)
December 2025 (TBC)	Official end of the 2024-2025 Colombian Chairship	

Timeline for Expressions of Interest and Initial Coordination Meetings

TIMELINE	PREPARATIONS
3-30 Sept 2024	Expressions of interest to Co -Chair Roundtables
3 Sept - 23 Oct 2024	Registration for Roundtable Membership
October 2024	Coordination Meetings for the Roundtable Co -Chairs, Thematic Experts & Facilitators - Preparation of short concept notes for each roundtable (1-2 pager)
6-7 November	First Preparatory Meetings (Troika, Steering Group, Friends of the Forum) and Roundtable Consultations