

GFMD 2020 UAE Chairmanship Roundtables

Theme 5: Discussing Approaches to Prevent Irregular Migration

Proposed Agenda of the RT Session

Wednesday, 20 January 2021 12h30 to 15h30 CET

Co-Chairs: Spain, Venezuela

RT Session Rapporteur: Netherlands (TBC)

Thematic Lead (and penholder): Kathleen Newland

RT Team Member States: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Netherlands, Peru (Observer), Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom

GFMD Mechanisms: Civil Society, Business, Mayors

Observers: ICMPD, ILO, IOM, OECD, OSCE/ODIHR, SELA, UNICEF, UNMGCY, KNOMAD / World Bank

12h30 – 12h40 Opening Statements by the RT Co-Chairs

- *Ambassador José Luis Pardo*, Ambassador for Migratory Affairs, Spain
- *Ambassador Héctor Constant Rosales*, Permanent Representative to the UNOG, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

12h40 – 12h50 Overview of the RT Background Paper

- *Ms. Kathleen Newland*, Thematic Lead and penholder

12h50 – 13h35 Focused Session I

Guiding Question 1: What actions or processes lead to a decline in irregular migration? What role does policy play?

Moderator: Spain

- Opening comments: Venezuela
- Discussant 1: *Mr. Ferenc Dancs*, Deputy State Secretary for Migration Challenge, Hungary
- Discussant 2: *Ms. Michelle Levoy*, Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) (Representative of Civil Society)
- Open discussion

13h35 – 14h20 Focused Session II

Guiding Question 2: What is the relationship between increased opportunities to migrate through regular channels and the prevalence of irregular migration?

Moderator: Venezuela

- Opening comments: Spain
- Discussant 1: *H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen*, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
- Discussant 2: *Mr. Gary Slaiman*, Lewis & Bockius LLP (Representative of Business)
- Discussant 3: *C S Akhil*, Youth Speaker
- Open discussion

14h20 – 15h05 Focused Session III

Guiding Question 3: What characteristics of national migration laws and practices encourage irregular migration? How can these be changed?

Moderator: Kathleen Newland

- Opening comments: *Ms. Kathleen Newland* (5 minutes)
- Discussant 1: *Ambassador Ramses Cleland*, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations in Geneva
- Discussant 2: *Ms. Laura Gonzalez-Murphy*, Director, Immigration Policy and Research and Assistant Research Professor, UAlbany, New York State, USA (Representative of Mayors)
- Open discussion

15h05 – 15h20 Summary of the Roundtable Discussion

- *Mr. Joost Klarenbeek*, Special Envoy for Migration, Netherlands

15h20 – 15h30 Concluding Statements by the Co-Chairs