

Concept Note
John K. Bingham Commemoration
2024 GFMD Summit

Date: **25 January 2024** (Thursday)

Time: **16:45 – 17:00**

Venue: **CICG (Amphitheatre D)**

Co-organizers: **Business Mechanism, Civil Society Mechanism, Mayor's Mechanism, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP), the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

Background:

John K. Bingham, who tragically and suddenly passed away on 26 July 2022, was a key figure in the GFMD, contributing through various roles and in various ways to it for almost 15 years.

Beginning in 2006, as the incoming Director of Policy at ICMC, John first began his engagement with the GFMD as a member of the Holy See's delegation in the early formation of the GFMD's Friends of the Forum (FoF). He then served on the advisory committees of the Civil Society Days (CSDs) of the 2007-2010 chairmanships. At the same time, he spearheaded the call for an independent and self-organized CSD, resulting in the eventual mandating of ICMC to serve as the Coordinating Office for the CSD under the Swiss chairmanship in 2011 onwards. For almost a decade after that, John directed the CSD Coordinating Office, overseeing the growth of civil society engagement in the GFMD, including the formation of the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) as a form of implementation of GFMD outcomes between the summits, the expansion of civil society participation in the Common Space of the GFMD, as well as extending the self-organizing and coordination of civil society engagement beyond the GFMD into the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, and the 2016 UN High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants, using the GFMD model as a template.

For the 2017-2018 Germany-Morocco co-chairmanship of the GFMD, John drafted the GFMD 10-Year Review Report. John then served as a special consultant to the UAE chairmanship of the GFMD, and served as a penholder for one of that chairmanship's themes. Trusted by all stakeholders, John was also asked to step in to lead at interim the Secretariat of the GFMD Business Mechanism leading to the UAE Summit in 2021.

John was a bridge builder, a driving force in the GFMD family.

In recognition of John's lifelong contributions to the GFMD, the GFMD community presents this commemoration to his family to appreciate and celebrate John's GFMD contributions and his life.

Format:

16:45 video montage of John

16:46 presentation remarks by Alia Ibrahim Mohamed Abdulrahim, UAE

16:49 presentation of award to Bingham family

16:50 acceptance remarks by Bingham family member

16:55 end session