

14th GFMD Summit

Side Event: The workforce for the future: international skills partnerships for the green and just transition



Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Timing: 12h30 - 14h00

Room: CCV – Genève

Lead organizations

International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Enabel - Belgian Development Agency

Co-organizers:

International Organisation of Employers (IOE), African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – Development Centre, Center for Global Development (CGD) and LaMP.

Member Countries: Australia, Belgium

Format and language

This side event will take the form of a hybrid, interactive set of short presentations animated by two moderators, followed by a question-and-answer period from the audience. The focus will be on the presentation and discussion of effective practices and relevant policy approaches by several countries, regional and international organisations, civil society as well as the private sector. Speakers will present in English and French.

GFMD Summit: From environmental concerns to cultural aspects of migration: adopting an inclusive approach to meet the challenges of and increase the opportunities for human mobility

Brief description

The transition to a low carbon emissions economy is a global task of unprecedented scale and speed, still only in its early stages. The scale, pace, and global simultaneity of the green transition present both considerable opportunities and immense challenges. Few governments' plans for attaining net zero carbon emissions incorporate skills in sufficient depth. Very few have begun to consider the potential of, or need for, green-skilled labor mobility.

Filling skills gaps domestically for some countries of destination is likely to be challenging. Partly because many of the jobs required – such as in solar panel installation, or insulation retrofitting – may be unattractive to nationals. More importantly, demographic shifts due to ageing populations will see increased retirements from existing workforces and smaller numbers entering key sectors at a crucial time. On the other hand, in some countries of origin, a lack of trainers and a lack of investment in the systems necessary for training green-skilled workers will likely result in a scaling up of skills development too slowly to meet transition needs.

In this context, recent tools and frameworks from Enabel, IOM, IOE, CGD, OECD and others have highlighted the potential for migrant workers to contribute to the green and just transition. By prioritizing green skill anticipation, recognition, development and transfer it is possible to create a global workforce for the future. This hybrid side event will highlight innovative interventions, tools, and frameworks to address the skill challenge and boost the green transition in both countries of origin as well as destination.

The event also aims to shed light on the critical role of labor mobility in addressing the challenges of climate change adaptation. The event will run for 1 hour 30 minutes, featuring a dynamic group of experts and stakeholders from international organizations, government agencies, and practitioners, discussing concrete initiatives involving public, private sector and civil society actors that serve as catalysts of economic growth and drivers in the green transition. Special attention will be given to small and medium enterprises which are building innovative green entrepreneurial skills. This event directly contributes to the strategic priorities of the 14th GFMD Summit, 1, 3, 4 and 6.

Provisional Programme / List of Speakers

Activity	Speaker	Time
Welcoming remarks	IOM (TBC)	12:30-12:35
How skills-based mobility can contribute to green transition	Fabio Jiménez, IOM (moderator)	3 minutes
Presentation 1: IOE - Skills for the green transition and labour market needs	Lucile Uhring, Union of Metallurgical Industries and Trades (UIMM)	7 minutes
Presentation 2: OECD Development Centre - the benefits and challenges of integrating development objectives in skills mobility schemes, including green skills	Jason Gagnon, OECD	7 minutes
Presentation 3: World Bank – how to make global skills partnerships sustainable and effective	Pablo Acosta	7 minutes
<i>Key takeaways</i>	Fabio Jiménez, IOM (moderator)	3 minutes
Progress and lessons learned from the field	Arturo Biglia, Enabel (moderator)	3 minutes
Presentation 4: LaMP - how international collaborations can effectively leverage skills and talents to accelerate the green transition	Salvatore Petronella	7 minutes
Presentation 5: Bond’Innov - practical experiences and insights on the PEM (Pilot for Entrepreneurial Mobility) program in Senegal	Ninon Duval	7 minutes
Presentation 6: ANAPEC - Moroccan perspective on labor mobility and its role in addressing climate change	Salima Bensalem	7 minutes
<i>Key takeaways</i>	Arturo Biglia, ENABEL (moderator)	3 minutes
Interactive Q&A session and Wrap-up	Helen Dempster, CGD (moderator)	10 minutes
Closing Remarks	Ambassador Hugo Verbist, Special Envoy for Migration, Belgium	13:40