



**Side event on “Ensuring Fair Recruitment for Realizing  
Human Potential and Sustainable Development”**

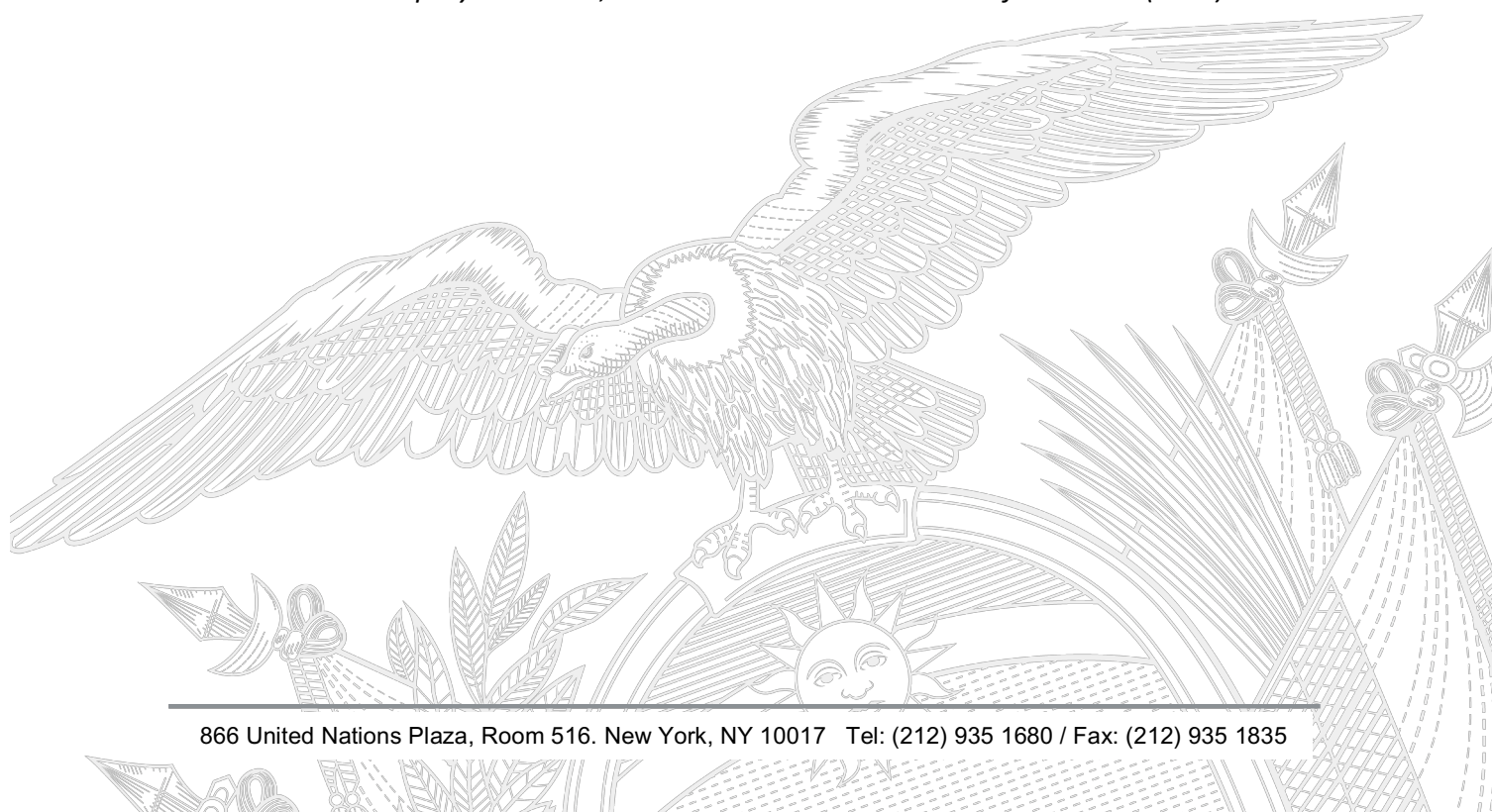
*at the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development*

New York, 27 February 2019  
Conference Room 6

**13:15 – 14:30 Ensuring Fair Recruitment for Realizing Human Potential and Sustainable  
Development**

**Speakers:**

- *H.E. Mr. Santiago Chávez Pareja, Vice Minister for Human Mobility of Ecuador, designated Chair of the GFMD 2019*
- *H.E. Mr. Evan P. García, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva*
- *Ms. Michelle Leighton, Chief Labour Migration, International Labour Organization (ILO)*
- *Mr. Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary-General, International Organization of Employers (IOE)*
- *Ms. Cathy Feingold, Director of the International Department. AFL-CIO & Deputy President, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)*





### **Talking points**

#### ***Introduction / Scene Setting***

- Excellencies, distinguished panelists, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.
- I speak today as the 2019 Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development from the Government of Ecuador.
- First of all, let me thank all the panelists, and participants of today's side event. Let me also acknowledge the International Labour Organization (ILO) for co-sponsoring this side event with the GFMD on this important global issue on fair recruitment and skills mobility. Since the GFMD was established in 2007, the ILO has been one of GFMD's closest partner agencies in developing the substantive agenda of the rotating GFMD Chairs.
- This side event takes place two months after the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and on the margins of the Migration Week in New York. It is a timely reminder that our collective work has just begun, and we should maintain the momentum after Marrakesh.

#### ***General Context***

- The topic of today's side event on fair recruitment and skills development has figured prominently in the GFMD debates over the last decade. A number of important initiatives and discussions related to this topic have taken place in various GFMD settings— in Roundtables, thematic workshops and side events, most of which have been supported by the ILO.
- As a state-led but not a state-only platform, the GFMD also engages on the issue of labor mobility and recruitment with the private sector through the GFMD Business Mechanism. Since its establishment in



2015, the GFMD Business Mechanism has focused its substantive agenda on a range of issues, such as the need for international skills mobility, fair recruitment and decent work, skills matching and certification recognition, the role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development.

- The GFMD has formulated key messages in this context that constituted an important contribution to the GCM:
  - Firstly, **protect migrant workers through the adoption of recruitment regulations**, gender-sensitive labor migration policies, with emphasis on protection migrants in vulnerable employment situations.
  - Secondly, **ensure quality of treatment and opportunities between national and migrant workers** with regard to occupational safety and health, wages and working hours; right to freedom of association and collective bargaining as well as prevention of passport, other identity document and contract retention.
  - Finally, **promote fair recruitment initiatives** by bringing together government, civil society, trade unions, business and employers' organizations, in order to document good practices and design common guidelines.
- Last year in May, a GFMD Thematic Workshop co-organized with the ILO on "Labour Migration and Skills" saw the formulation of a **"Global Skills Partnership"** as an option to promote investments in skills development in countries and anticipate demand for skills in countries of destination and origin. It was also considered as a pathway to establish credible assessment and certification systems for the recognition of prior learning and mutual recognition of skills and qualifications.
- This year, under the Ecuadorian Chairmanship, the GFMD will organize its work under the overarching theme, ***"Sustainable approaches to human mobility: Upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships"***





**and collective action.”** This is to identify concrete policy actions to address skills demand and fair recruitment for labour mobility in a sustainable manner and through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

- On March 21-22, a GFMD Thematic Workshop will be convened by the Governments of Bahrain and the Philippines on the “GCM Implementation at the National Level”. One of the panels will address the issue of “**Promoting Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Decent Work**” which will promote an interactive exchange among Member States and other stakeholders on their respective national GCM implementation plans relating to labor mobility and skills development. I hope you will all participate in it.

### Closing

- In the context of the new international migration governance, it is the Ecuador GFMD Chair’s hope that Member States and other stakeholders will continue to value the informal and non-binding nature of the GFMD to foster the exchange of relevant practices, practical and outcome-oriented discussions such as this, and partnerships to support the implementation of the Global Compact objectives.
- I trust that we will have a fruitful discussion today, which could inform the thematic agenda of the GFMD in 2019.
- Thank you very much.