

The activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) from July to September 2018 have been a promising lead-in to the "Migration Week" taking place at the end of this year in Marrakesh, Morocco. With the Eleventh GFMD Summit Meeting (December 5-7) and the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) (December 10-11) fast approaching, the third quarter of the 2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship signaled a busy and dynamic period for the Forum process.

In the past three months, the GFMD has contributed to the 2018 follow-up and review of the Agenda 2030, reflected on its role in supporting GCM implementation, and progressed in the preparations of the Summit. Most notably, the GFMD community warmly welcomed Ecuador as incoming 2019 Chair. As the second GFMD Chair from Latin America since 2010, Ecuador will lead the Forum in the first year of GCM implementation. In this context, the below events marked new milestones and afforded the GFMD concrete opportunities to reflect and plan for the future.

## GFMD Side Event at 2018 HLPF

13 July 2018, German House, New York

On the margins of the 2018 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the GFMD Co-Chairs convened a side event on "GFMD Perspective on Migration for Sustainable and Resilient Societies" at the German House. Attended by more than 100 participants, the side event was an occasion to present and reflect on the findings of the GFMD Recommendations to the 2018 HLPF report submitted to the ECOSOC in April. The report analyzes the interlinkages between the SDGs in focus of this year's HLPF (i.e. Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation; 7 on affordable and clean energy; 11 on sustainable cities and communities; 12 on responsible consumption and production; 15 on life on land; and 17 on partnerships) and migration, and explores the explicit and implicit references to migration in the 2030 Agenda.

Chaired by Mr. El Habib Nadir, Moroccan Co-Chair, and moderated by a renowned development expert, Ms. Marta Foresti, the panel offered insights from a broad range of stakeholders led by the Office of the SRSRG, including UNDP, the World Bank and Open Society Foundations. They shared their perspectives on the huge potential of migration in creating sustainable and resilient societies, while also pointing to challenges. They further provided suggestions on the way forward, encouraging the involvement of a range of stakeholders and cooperative approaches.

## 7th Preparatory Meetings and 3rd GFMD RT Consultations

3 and 5 September 2018, Palais des Nations, Geneva

As the year ramped up towards the Eleventh GFMD Summit Meeting in Marrakesh in December, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs hosted the Seventh GFMD Preparatory Meetings in Geneva. The September 3 consecutive meetings of the GFMD Troika, Steering Group (SG) and Friends of the Forum (FOF) marked the first global gathering of migration stakeholders since the historic agreement on the final text of the GCM on July 13. The meetings were future-oriented, focusing on -- Ecuador's GFMD Chairmanship in 2019, the "Migration Week" in Marrakesh from 4 to 11 December, policy implications of the preliminary findings of the GFMD Review exercise to be completed in early November, and the Forum's prospective role in GCM implementation after its adoption.

These meetings were followed by the final Roundtable Team consultations on September 5, which gathered inputs from over 70 participating Member States and 20 non-state partners in the development of the six RT background papers that will inform the Summit discussions. The topics in the RTs include harnessing the capital of migrants and engagement with public services; South-South mobility; regional mobility and policy coherence; governance and drivers of migration; and leveraging migration's impact beyond remittances.

## GFMD Dialogue on GCM Implementation

4 September 2018, Palais des Nations, Geneva

As part of GFMD's efforts to accompany the evolving GCM process and encourage Member States to develop their perspectives on international cooperation on migration, the GFMD Co-Chairs convened a GFMD Dialogue on GCM implementation. After the finalization of the intergovernmental negotiations on July 13, the dialogue provided the first opportunity for over 200 representatives from member states, and other stakeholders to reflect on how the GFMD could concretize GCM commitments.

Member States and non-state participants appreciated the added value of the GFMD as a multi-stakeholder space with a decade-long expertise on migration and development that could contribute to the Compact's implementation, follow-up and review. The dialogue considered how GFMD could enhance its institutional and thematic linkages with and beyond the proposed UN Migration Network. Keynote speeches from Ambassador William Lacy Swing, IOM Director General, and Ms. Louise Arbour, the UNSRSG for International Migration, enriched the discussions and emphasized the GFMD's critical role in strengthening the momentum of the GCM, while maintaining its identity as the largest state-led informal process for dialogue and cooperation on migration and development.

## GFMD community welcomes Ecuador as GFMD Chair for 2019

On September 3, the Government of Ecuador's bid for GFMD 2019 Chairmanship was warmly welcomed by the GFMD community following the endorsement of the GFMD Steering Group. Ecuador steps into the role at an important moment, assuming the responsibility for leading the Global Forum as the global migration community moves forward with the adoption and implementation of the Global Compact, and reflects on the Forum's future role.

Ecuador's assumption of the 2019 Chairmanship bodes well for the continuity of the GFMD process. A long-standing and active member of the GFMD, Ecuador has served in the Steering Group and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, and also participated in the GFMD Review and Migration Laboratory. Following GFMD Chairs from Asia, Europe, and Africa in recent years, it was high time to bring the Co-Chairmanship back to Latin America after Mexico's Chairmanship in 2010. As a leading voice on migration in Latin America and the world, Ecuador will draw from its wealth of knowledge and experiences as it helps sustain the GFMD process and leads efforts towards supporting the implementation of the Global Compact.