

## GFMD Webinars on the Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants, Migration and Development

Moderators and Discussants – bios

First Webinar - 28 April

Cycle 1:

*Moderator:*



**Lukas Gehrke** is the Deputy Director General of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Since its creation in 2017, Lukas is the director in charge of the Directorate of Policy, Research and Strategy where he holds the overall responsibility for ICMPD's migration policy programme, expertise development, research and policy development in all central areas of migration. In his role, he also leads ICMPD's strategy development, including External Relations, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation. As Deputy Director General of ICMPD, he is also mainly responsible for ICMPD's annual flagship event "Vienna Migration

Conference".

From 2010 to 2016, Lukas was Director of Southern Dimension at ICMPD and had the overall responsibility for ICMPD's operations in Africa, Middle East and Gulf, Central and Latin America, as well as thematic responsibility for asylum and protection, migration and development, and labour migration and integration programmes. From 2007 to 2010, Lukas established and led the ICMPD Brussels Mission.

He helped to create the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT), and has been member in various international boards, advising on central aspects related to migration. Lukas has profound experience in working with national authorities and international organisations, EU institutions, academia and civil society organisations.

Lukas has a legal background, holding both a Master of Law, University of Vienna, and a Master in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

*Discussants:*



**Ambassador Pietro Mona** is the Ambassador for development, forced displacement and migration at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). Prior to being appointed to this position in summer 2017, he was Deputy Head of the Global Program for Migration and Development at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Between 2009 and 2012 he worked as Migration and Development Expert at the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) based in Abuja, Nigeria. He started working on migration back in 2004 in Armenia before taking up the position as migration policy adviser at the Human Security Division (FDFA) in 2005.



**Roula Hamati** is the coordinator of the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants, a network of active civil society organizations in the Arab and Mediterranean Region working on issues of migrants, refugees and children on the move. She also acts as the head of advocacy and research at Insan Association, a Lebanese human rights organization working on protecting the rights of migrants and other marginalized communities. Roula's work focuses on mobilizing civil society organizations on a national and regional level, developing policy recommendations, and lobbying decision makers in order to protect the rights of migrant workers, refugees and members of their families.

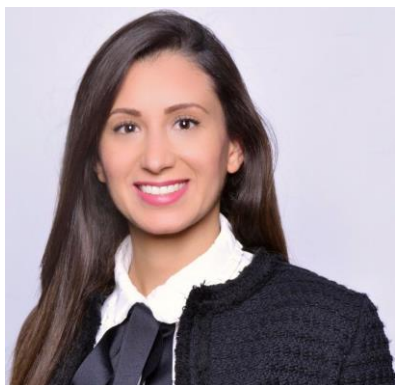
## Cycle 2

*Moderator:*



**Professor Gibril Faal** is a multi-disciplinary business and development executive. He is the co-founder and director of GK Partners specialising in socially responsible business models, sustainable development and programme implementation. He is the first visiting professor in practice at the Institute of Global Affairs, London School of Economics (LSE), vice chair of Bond (UK), and council member of Carnegie African Diaspora Program (New York). Gibril is a former magistrate, former chairman of AFFORD-UK, and the founding director of ADEPT (Brussels). He has worked as a technical expert with the United Nations, World Bank, University of Oxford and governments and institutions across the world. He served as GFMD civil society co-chair (2014) and grand rapporteur (2017), and overarching expert for the Global Compact for Migration. He has addressed the UN General Assembly several times and been appointed to various boards by UK government ministers. In 2014, Gibril was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to international development.

## Discussants



**Imen Ouardani** is the Deputy-Mayor of Sousse, Tunisia. She holds a PhD in biological sciences. She is the author of numerous publications and a book chapter in the field of environmental microbiology. She is responsible for pharmaceutical documentation in a pharmaceutical industry.

She is currently the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy-Mayor of Sousse and president of the commission for equal opportunities between the two sexes. She was in charge of the annual municipal investment programme for 2019. She is the focal point of the project "Migration from city to city in the Mediterranean MC2CM" and of the Oued Hamdoun depollution and development project.



**Menno Bart**, Public Affairs Manager at the Adecco Group. As such, he is responsible for managing the Group's relationship with global and European policy makers, and for representing the Group in institutional settings. As an expert in labour market policy, Menno regularly contributes to discussions on topics like the future of work, (youth) employability and skills.

Previously, Menno worked as a lobbyist in Brussels for the World Employment Confederation, the industry federation representing the HR services industry, and as a consultant for Russchen Consultants. Menno is a former diplomat for the Dutch government in Prague and on Aruba. Menno is currently based at the Adecco Group's headquarters in Zurich.

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## Second Webinar - 30 April

### Cycle 1

#### *Moderator:*

**Cécile Riallant**, Head, Migration and Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Cécile Riallant is a senior migration, displacement and development expert with 22 years of experience. She is currently leading the work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on migration and development as Head of the Migration and Sustainable Development Unit based at headquarters, Geneva. Previously, she was seconded to UNDP in Brussels to manage the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI), the largest

global UN programme on migration and development involving seven agencies.

She joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2000, after three years of working as a researcher. She has managed for IOM numerous programmes and projects in the field of migration and displacement with geographical scope in the Great Lakes (Africa), Afghanistan, the Balkans and Europe. She was also Deputy Chief of Mission of the IOM Mission in Indonesia, working to support populations internally displaced by the 2004 tsunami and the conflict in North Sumatra.

Ms. Riallant led the efforts to develop IOM's flagship publication, Migration and the 2030 Agenda, and was a contributor to the 2015 World Migration Report on Migrants and Cities and the OECD report Perspectives on Global development 2017. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Migration Policy Practice. She holds a Bachelor degree in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Science Po), a Master of Science in European Studies from the University of Strasbourg and a Master of Science in Social Policies from the London.

*Discussants:*



**Bitta Mostofi** is the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), New York City. Under her leadership, MOIA has created programs and policies to advance the integration of immigrant New Yorkers in to the city's civic, economic and cultural life. Bitta spearheaded the IDNYC outreach campaign, connecting over 1.2 millions New Yorkers regardless of immigration status to government issued identification, increasing access to services and a greater sense of belonging to the city. Other groundbreaking achievements include helping design the ActionNYC legal

services program, bringing immigration legal services and education to communities through partnerships in schools, hospitals and community based organizations. In a time of intense anti-immigrant rhetoric and policy at the federal level, Bitta has led New York City's efforts to ensure immigrant families have access to the services and resources they need, while fighting back against polices that negatively impact New Yorkers.

Bitta has been a passionate immigrant and human rights advocate throughout her career. After graduating law school from DePaul University in Chicago, she practiced civil rights law with a particular focus on the discriminatory impact of immigration practices on Muslim and Middle Eastern immigrants. She later joined Safe Horizon as Senior Staff attorney and continued her legal practice representing immigrant crime victims, asylees, and others in both affirmative and defensive petitions before the immigration court. Bitta led the organization's advocacy work on behalf of immigrant crime victims seeking U visas, including before the City and Department of Homeland Security.

Bitta also has a background in community organizing, increasing awareness of global human rights injustices and the plight of refugees from Iran and Iraq. Bitta is the proud daughter of Iranian immigrants.



**Mr. Austin Fragomen** is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Fragomen. Over the course of his career in immigration, Austin has served as staff counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on immigration, citizenship and international law and

as an adjunct professor of law at New York University School of Law. Austin has testified before Congress on a range of immigration issues. Most recently, he appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee's Social Security Subcommittee to discuss how to enforce immigration laws at the worksite effectively.

He also has testified before the immigration subcommittees of the House and Senate to share his knowledge on a variety of business immigration related topics, including the H-1B and L visa programs and corporate immigration compliance.

He is also the founding co-author of a renowned series of immigration handbooks that provide information on the best practices and latest developments in the field of business immigration, published by Thomson Reuters/West.

## Cycle 2

### *Moderator*



**Dilip Ratha** is the Head of KNOMAD and lead economist of the Migration and Remittances Team, Social Protection and Jobs, at the World Bank.

Dilip Ratha is a thought leader on migration, remittances and innovative financing for development, including diaspora bonds, future-flow securitization, and shadow sovereign credit ratings. His TED Talk “The hidden force in global economics: sending money home” has 1.4 million views.

### *Discussants*



**Ambassador Jose Luis Pardo Cuervo** is the Ambassador for Migratory Affairs, Office for Migratory Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation of Spain. He entered the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1993. After serving at the Directorate General for Europe (OSCE and Council of Europe 1994-1995) he was posted abroad at the embassies of Spain in Libya (Deputy Head of Mission 1996-1999), Jordan (Deputy Head of Mission 1999-2002) and Germany (Counsellor for EU Affairs 2002-2005). Back in the Central services in 2005 he was Chief Counsellor for Euro Mediterranean issues (Barcelona Process and Union for the Mediterranean) 2005-2007. From 2007 to 2014 he served as Deputy Director General for EU Foreign Action and Trade Affairs within the Secretary of State for the EU. He was appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Niger for the period 2014-2017. Since July 2017 he is Ambassador for Migratory Issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation. He participated on behalf of his country in New York negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration. He has a Law Degree (University of Salamanca

1985-1990), a Master in European Law (College of Europe Bruges 1990-1991) and a Degree on History of Art (UNED 2012-2018). He speaks Spanish, English, French, German and Italian.



**Helena Olea Rodríguez** serves as Alianza Americas Human Rights Adviser. She is a Lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Departments of Criminology, Law and Justice and Latin American and Latino Studies. Helena is an international human rights lawyer with advocacy and litigation experience before UN Bodies and the Inter-American human rights system. Helena has been a university professor for over 12 years, both in Chile and in the US.