

GFMD Recommendations to the Global Compact on Migration

CLUSTER 2:

ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF MIGRATION, INCLUDING ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL DISASTERS AND HUMAN-MADE CRISES, THROUGH PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY ERADICATION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

GFMD has discussed ways to address drivers of migration, be it economic, demographic and environmental factors or social and political dynamics. GFMD recommendations have put particular emphasis on the need to conduct further scientific research into the root causes of migration in order to better understand the respective drivers and tailor policy responses correspondingly. Past GFMD Summits have come up with ideas and inter-state cooperation models on how to deal with the specific long-term needs of migrants in vulnerable situations. The discussions at the GFMD recognized that there are large new groups of forced migrants who do not fall under the Refugee Convention but are nonetheless in need of assistance. Particular concern arises from the situation of large number of people whose livelihoods have or might become unsustainable as a consequence of climate change.

The [Sutherland Report](#) calls on states to expand the use of humanitarian admissions and legal migration opportunities for study, work and family reunion, to help people fleeing countries in crisis move safely to places where they can be protected.¹ When it comes to the issue of crisis migration, states must agree on how to address large crisis-related movements to save people on the move from death or suffering, but also to avoid the corrosive effect of ad hoc responses on the political institutions and the public's trust in them.²

Past GFMD discussions have come up with a significant number of recommendations around the relevant topics. These include (selection):

¹ [Report of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, A/71/278, \(Sutherland Report\), Recommendation 3.](#)

² [Sutherland Report, \(30\).](#)

(1) Addressing vulnerability and long-term needs of migrants in situations of crises and crisis recovery;

- Promote **greater coherence** at local, national, regional and international levels of policies and decisions regarding the **interconnections of climate change, migration and development**. Effects of other policies – notably trade, labor and migration policies - on development need to be taken into account.
- Involve **development actors in interventions at the very beginning of a large movements of people**, recognizing that humanitarian assistance is not an adequate answer to long-term displacement.

(2) Combatting root causes of migration

- Undertake **further research on the root causes on migration** and the types of migratory flows caused. Disaggregate data by gender and age.
- Initiate **preventive and preparatory measures that can mitigate the scope and scale of emergency response** and minimize risks and vulnerabilities.

Guiding questions for the discussion:

A number of recent UN documents, such as the [2030 Agenda](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), provide a framework – although not legally binding to states – that addresses a number of migration and development-related challenges. With this in mind:

- How can the GCM facilitate sustainable implementation of commitments in international standards and frameworks related to the topics covered by this thematic cluster?
- How can the GCM further advance relevant recommendations and good practices shared within the GFMD and affirmed in several UN documents, notably the [Sutherland Report](#), the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)³ and the latest [Report of the Secretary General on Migration](#)⁴?
- Which current challenges, if any, are not yet sufficiently covered by existing international standards and frameworks and therefore require specific emphasis by the GCM?

³ [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), A/Res/71/1.

⁴ [Report of the Secretary General on Migration](#), A/70/59.