

Call for Participation

GFMD Migration Lab Discussion Group on Wage Protection and Transnational Justice

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis have had a deep and tangible impact on migrants, businesses and economies worldwide. As a result of the pandemic, millions of migrant workers have lost their jobs, have been forced to take unpaid leave or have continued to work under reduced wages and less favorable working conditions. Semi and low skilled migrant workers in particular have been disproportionately affected.

In the rush to repatriate, insufficient attention has been paid to outstanding claims of unpaid wages and benefits. Millions of migrant workers have returned home having not received their due wages and benefits, while others have remained stranded in countries of destination countries with few options before them.

While the issue of non-payment of wages is not new in the migration context, the sheer volume of cases brought about by the crisis has posed a challenge even to the best functioning justice systems in the world.

In such extraordinary times, innovative cross-sectoral partnerships are needed to provide short-term relief to migrants, and bring about longer-term changes that could better protect migrant workers' wages and facilitate and expedite legal remedies when wages and benefits are not paid.

Objective

The GFMD Migration Lab Discussion Group on Wage Protection and Transnational Justice aims to deliver concrete multi-stakeholder partnerships that would compensate and provide relief and redress for migrant workers who, as a result of the pandemic, have not received their due wages and benefits in countries where they were employed.

This group aims to foster partnerships between governments, the private sector, local authorities and civil society in order to develop innovative ways to protect the wages of migrant workers, provide compensation, and ensure that redress mechanisms respond appropriately in this unprecedented time.

Call for Participation

The Global Forum on Migration and Development, under the UAE Chair, focusing on developing concrete multi-stakeholder partnerships and moving towards an action-

oriented agenda, is uniquely positioned to bring about global multi-sectoral partnerships that touch the lives of millions of migrants around the world.

The Migration Lab Discussion Group on Wage Protection and Transnational Justice is inviting the wide and meaningful participation from all GFMD constituents; governments, the business mechanism, private sector, the mayoral mechanism and civil society. We also invite the participation of International Organization observers of the GFMD process, to come together and find concrete solutions to the issue of unpaid wages and benefits.

Extraordinary times present meaningful opportunities for working together in solidarity towards common goals, overcoming crisis and building back better.