

27 March 2019

Dear Friends of the Forum,

RE: April 4, 2019 Consultation on the relationship between Global Forum on Migration and Development and Global Compact for Migration.

The Government of Ecuador assumed the Chairmanship of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) at around the time that the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) was adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh in 2018. The adoption of the GCM has been accompanied by different perspectives of the Member States. **It is a priority of the Chair to ensure that, irrespective of the GCM, GFMD, as a state-led, voluntary and inclusive process, remains open to all Member States** and that the discussion remains inclusive to other actors concerned.

GFMD was launched in 2006 as an informal space for dialogue on critical aspects of migration and development. It has been able to bridge different perspectives in many areas through results-oriented voluntary cooperation, fostering a multitude of international partnerships.

The public discussion on migration in recent months in many parts of the world shows us that there is continued need for GFMD to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on migration matters.

The preamble of the GCM acknowledges the contributions of the GFMD as it paved the way for its elaboration. The Global Compact explicitly invites the GFMD to provide a space for annual informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and to report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

With the negotiation of the modalities and organisational aspects of the IMRF imminent, under the co-facilitation of Spain and Bangladesh, we recognise that it is important that GFMD can undertake the role afforded to GFMD, under the terms of the Global Compact.

It is the understanding of the Chair, and in line with the relevant clauses of the GCM that implementation, follow-up and review must be state-led processes. We

understand that the two co-facilitators have envisaged the IMRF intergovernmental consultation and negotiation process to conclude by end June 2019, with a view to adopting a final text in July. It is incumbent on GFMD, therefore, to share with the co-facilitators our views on a number of key issues relating to GFMD's relationship to GCM, ahead of the presentation of the zero draft.

Accordingly, we propose **holding an informal consultation on 4 April 2019 in Geneva, with a view to using the outcome of the consultation to articulate a letter by the Chair to the co-facilitators establishing broad parameters for the relationship.**

This one-day consultation will be open to all Friends of the Forum. The Chair proposes that participants consider a set of framing questions presented in a non-paper (annex) in anticipation of the consultation. These questions are accompanied by points of potential consensus that participants may find useful when preparing their positions. Participants are welcome to submit written comments to the Support Unit (support.unit@gfmd.org) to further inspire preparation for the discussion.

The Support Unit will follow up with organisational details. We look forward to discussing at further length on 4 April.

Ambassador Santiago Chavez Pareja
Vice Minister for Human Mobility
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador
GFMD 2019 Chair