GFMD Thematic Workshop "Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration at the National Level"

21-22 March, 2019
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Final Report

Introduction

Following the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in December 2018 in Marrakesh, the focus of international migration governance actors should turn to the implementation of the GCM's objectives and commitments. As such, Ecuador GFMD 2019 Chair hosted a thematic workshop on 21-22 March 2019 in Geneva, co-convened by the Governments of the Philippines and Bahrain, to initiate a dialogue on the implementation of the Global Compact at a national level, with particular focus on Objectives 5, 6 and 23 (regular pathways for migration; fair and ethical recruitment and decent work; and international cooperation and global partnerships, respectively).

The workshop convened around 190 participants from 89 UN Member States and over 40 representatives from civil society, private sector and international organizations.

Concretely, the workshop aimed to:
- Advance efforts to implement and operationalize the GCM;
- Provide guidance and examples for States in formulation of their national implementation plans on the GCM;
- Explore how the GFMD could support member states in developing national implementation plans and sharing good practices;
- Engage and promote an exchange with the UN system as it defines its future activities; and
- Generate input to the report of the UN Secretary General on international migration.

In line with the recommendation of the GFMD Ten-Year review to explore new formats for more interactive GFMD meetings, the two-day GFMD thematic workshop featured a combination of "Knowledge Café"-style thematic sessions as well as traditional panel discussions. These thematic sessions allowed the multi-stakeholder participants to discuss issues and share practices in a more focused, informal and interactive manner than in traditional meetings. These sessions yielded a rich discussion, and feedback received from participants indicated that it was perceived as a useful format for future GFMD workshops.

Opening Session

The first session of the workshop was opened by a video message from **Ambassador Santiago Chávez Pareja**, Vice Minister for Human Mobility of Ecuador and GFMD 2019 Chair, in which he thanked the co-conveners of the workshop and highlighted the important role of the GFMD as a space for discussion on GCM implementation, including by promoting dialogue between different stakeholders and augmenting partnerships. Ambassador Pareja also introduced the new, more interactive 'Knowledge Café'-style thematic sessions. **Ambassador Emilio Rafael Izquierdo Miño**, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UNOG, provided a brief context for the upcoming discussions, highlighting the need for multilateral dialogue on national implementation given the GCM's reaffirmation of the sovereignty of States and simultaneous recognition that no state can address migration on their own.

The representatives of the co-conveners, the Philippines and Bahrain, then offered their welcoming remarks. **Ms. Sarah Lou Arriola**, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Philippines, outlined that the workshop aimed to promote ways in which countries are concretizing the GCM and formulating implementation plans, with a focus on objectives 5, 6 and 23 of the GCM as a springboard for implementation. **Mr. Ausamah Al Absi**, Chief Executive Officer of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in turn, reinforced the need to cooperate in bringing about safe and orderly migration throughout the migration cycle. Both co-conveners also mentioned the need to use spaces for dialogue to engage with those who have expressed reservation regarding the GCM and to address push-back in the migration debate.

In her keynote address, **Ambassador Laura Thompson,** IOM Deputy Director General, emphasized that in order for the international community to realize the vision of the GCM, it is vital to move the collective focus from its historic adoption to implementation. She acknowledged that this implementation will not always be easy and will require cooperation, solidarity, perseverance, and support from all actors involved. She highlighted three possible approaches to implementing the GCM:
1. **The systemic and robust approach**. Favored by the IOM as leading to the most meaningful implementation of the Compact, this would involve following the four-year GCM review cycle, adopting a whole-of-society approach, investing in capacity building, and undertaking internal follow-up and voluntary reporting at the regional level.
2. **A selective approach**, in which governments would match their existing priorities and national migration strategies to the Global Compact objectives.
3. **The 'business as usual' approach**, in other words, to do nothing at all in the first few years. Ambassador Thompson questioned whether any participants would agree that this is an acceptable approach.

Ms. Thompson also noted that there is no "one size fits all" model for the GCM implementation, and every state will need to determine for itself what steps to take. Accordingly, she encouraged all states to present relevant **practical initiatives** during the workshop.

In the brief open discussion which followed Ms. Thompson's address, States agreed that business as usual was not an option, and it was noted that international cooperation is one of the cornerstones of migration governance. Another State seconded that perseverance would be key in the implementation processes ('this is a marathon, not a sprint').

Framing Session

The framing session, moderated by **Ms. Kathleen Newland**, Senior Fellow and Co-Founder of the Migration Policy Institute, introduced the focus and format of the three thematic knowledge café sessions to follow. The representatives of the three thematic expert organizations to host these thematic sessions were - **Ms. Pia Oberoi,** Advisor on Migration and Human Rights at OHCHR; **Mr. Riad Meddeb**, Policy Advisor for Sustainable Development and Economic Recovery at UNDP; and **Ms. Michelle Leighton**, Chief of the Labour Migration (MIGRANT) Branch at ILO – who framed the main topics and presented the guiding questions for the subsequent sessions.

Thematic Sessions

Thematic session 1: Human Rights-Based Approaches in Developing GCM National Implementation Plans as a transversal issue

The first thematic session, hosted by **Ms. Pia Oberoi** of OHCHR, focused on the priority human rights issues, concrete practices, lessons learned, and bottlenecks that must be considered in human rights-based national GCM implementation plans. A key discussion point was on how to "**reach the furthest behind first"** and ensure that human rights frameworks are mainstreamed in governments' development planning and policymaking.

In three different rounds, Member States emphasized that **there are already existing tools and mechanisms** at both the national and international levels that could guide and inform the formulation of their respective national GCM implementation plans, and shared their own practices in line with the protection of migrants' human rights. A number of actors also highlighted the need to ensure that there are **sufficient resources, technical assistance and capacity building** to disseminate knowledge about the Global Compact and ensure the sustainability of Member States' national action plans.

States also identified a number of relevant challenges. Particularly, many noted unjust labor practices which continuously run counter to the human rights of migrant workers. Another major challenge identified was maintaining a 360-degree approach and vision of the GCM and ensuring its meaningful implementation despite **lack of financial resources and institutional capacity** for some Member States.

Note takers captured the discussions, highlighting the opportunities, challenges and practices. A brief summary of these notes can be found below, and full notes can be found here.

Opportunities	Challenges	Practices
• *GFMD as an informal and flexible space* (multi-stakeholder; space to address	• *Unjust labor practices* (Unpaid salaries, overwork, unpaid overtime, poor working conditions, passport retention).	*Frameworks to protect migrants' human rights:* • Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between relevant national

- challenges and obstacles; space to build alliances).
- *There are many existing policies, legislations and guidelines* (e.g. *The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – Foundations and Implementation*; OHCHR's *Principles and Guidelines on the HR Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations*).
- *Social dialogue" and "tripartism"* as mechanism to mainstream labor rights, and bring about stronger buy-in and consensus among sectors involved.
- *Bilateral and regional cooperation*, to foster a trans-border perspective of human rights.
- *Development of indicators and parameters* (harmonizing and capturing relevant information; data collection and measuring of progress).
- *Significant potential role of UN*

- *Difficulty in explaining laws, policies, and mechanisms* to migrants, including what work opportunities are available.
- *Lack of migration data.*
- *False perception of GCM* (risk of non-binding GCM replacing the international standards).
- *Extreme right and anti-migrant sentiments* that undermine the positive contributions and image of migrants.
- *Lack of financial resources* to set up embassies or consulates, making it difficult for migrants to reach out to their governments.
- *Issues of smuggling and trafficking*, often only addressed from a security perspective.

agencies and local authorities to provide alternatives to detention (Thailand).
- Constitution granting equal rights to nationals and migrants (Costa Rica).
- Law combatting smuggling of migrants (Egypt).
- Law addressing cross-cutting issues of human mobility (Ecuador).
- Cooperation and agreements with neighboring countries (Togo, Guatemala).

Capacity building:
- Research conducted with national stakeholders to identify priorities for children (UNICEF).
- Institutional agreements between country of destination (CoD) and country of origin (CoO) to build capacities of migrant workers (Bangladesh).
- Capacity building training for public servants (Thailand).

Access to services:
- Implementation of firewalls to ensure access to services for irregular migrants (IFRC).
- Free legal counsel to migrants (Ethiopia).
- Ensuring access to basic social services (Mauritania).

Information campaigns:
- Promotion of understanding of migrant

resident coordinators.		rights and migration policies and laws for migrants and public servants (Uruguay, Mauritania). • Orientation seminars and pre-departure training (Viet Nam). ***Facilitating documentation:*** • Issuance of biometric identity (Turkey). • Flexi visa system (Philippines and Bahrain).

Thematic session 2: Creating Regular Pathways for Migration for Sustainable Development – GCM Objective 5

The second thematic session, hosted by UNDP representative ***Mr. Riad Meddeb***, focused on key strategies and obstacles for the creation of regular pathways for migration, and the role of bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements in achieving this goal. Overall, the session highlighted the need to use and strengthen existing regular pathways for migration for sustainable development.

There was a consensus that the recognition of skills and upskilling needs to be promoted, particularly under the framework of public-private partnerships. However, delegates also underlined that **clear pathways are not only related to labor migration** but should also tackle other types of migration. The **link between irregular migration and drivers of migration** was also strongly raised during the discussion. From this perspective, specific efforts must be made to prepare for both climate-induced migration, caused by both slow and rapid-onset effects. In this regard, regular migration should be based on **mainstreaming migration into national development strategy.** In addition, there was also wide agreement that recent digital transformation will shape not only new behaviors but also new pathways for migration.

Participants in general stressed the need for **greater transparency and simplification of existing processes.** Similarly, the sessions also urged for greater access to data, which can be used to analyze the impact of existing pathways. Finally, there was a call for better recognition and partnerships between civil society, the private sector and governments, and participants pointed out the need to provide capacity-building for governments to negotiate more balanced bilateral agreements, favorable not only for countries but for the migrants themselves.

A brief summary of the opportunities, challenges and practices highlighted throughout the discussion can be found below. Full notes of the discussions can be found here.

Opportunities	Challenges	Practices
• *Use, reinforce and review the existing regular pathways for migration for sustainable development* (strengthen bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements; provide capacity-building for governments on the negotiation of more balanced agreements; mainstreaming migration into national development strategy is necessary). • *Multi-stakeholder approaches* (public-private partnerships; regular discussion with private sector; whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach; better recognition and partnership with civil society). • *Recognition of skills and upskilling* (better information and match-making between demand and supply in labor markets; skills-building; strengthening existing pathways for high-skilled workers). • *Transparency and access to information* (make rules and regulations clearer and more transparent in all parts of the migration cycle; ensuring dissemination of information on regular pathways). • *Incorporate the voices of migrants* (make sure migrants are heard and	• *Difficulties for low-skilled migrants* (lack of regularization programs and labor opportunities). • *Reduce irregular migration* (better communicating on regular processes; providing access to new fast-track/short-term visas). • *Need for gender- and child- sensitive approaches* (address vulnerabilities; ensure family reunification). • *Access to data and analysis of existing trends* (more evidence needed on the importance of having more regulated pathways). • *Need for clear pathways other than labor migration* (need to address climate migration, highly regulated pathways in certain sectors). • *Address the drivers and mitigate the negative aspects of migration* (e.g. climate change). • *Emphasis on the security aspect of migration* (how to reconcile movements of people with issues of terrorism, violence and conflicts). • *Fraudulent use of technology and social media.* • *Inequality and breach of commitments* (non-reciprocity in bilateral agreements).	*Labor mobility legislation:* • Different legal schemes (Denmark). • Simple and flexible labor legislation (Sweden). • Temporary residency cards for employees and entrepreneurs (France). • Seasonal worker agreements (Canada). *Bilateral and regional agreements and cooperation:* • Work-visa system (Bahrain and Philippines). • Cooperation on enhancing regular pathways (Egypt, Italy, and Germany). • Dialogue on seasonal workers and exchange of information on migration trends (Mexico and Canada). • Free movement of persons (ECOWAS, protocol developed by IGAD). • Cities' Network between countries of origin, transit and destination (Madrid/Spain). *New regular pathways:* • Humanitarian visas (IOM working with Haiti and Brazil). • Family reunification (IOM working with Germany). • Humanitarian visitor cards program, residence permit for people in vulnerable situation of victims of human trafficking (Mexico). *Skills recognition:*

		Upskilling activities (Philippines).
have a real voice; ensure child participation in the process). • ***Digital transformation*** (ensure available and accessible technology; address the future of work and the need for new skills following 'digital revolution').		• Upskilling activities (Philippines). • [Fast-track requalification system](#) (Sweden). • Certification for occupational therapists (Philippines). • [ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services](#) comparison of qualification framework (serves as skills passport). • Skills-exchange program (Guatemala and Israel).

Thematic session 3: Promoting Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Decent Work – GCM Objective 6

The third thematic session, hosted by ILO representatives **Ms. Maria Gallotti** and **Ms. Heike Lautenschlager**, focused on issues concerning fair and ethical recruitment and decent work, including: the elimination of recruitment fees; the establishment of accountability and oversight mechanisms to ensure the monitoring of recruitment regulation and access to justice in cases of non-compliance; and the challenges and opportunities faced by business in incorporating fair recruitment practices.

In this session, many states offered insights on how they had dealt with these issues, and the challenges they faced in trying to implement positive practices. A number of themes appeared throughout the session, including the need to **improve access to justice** in order to both protect migrants' rights and ensure enforcement of ethical recruitment and fair work regulatory frameworks; the **opportunities and challenges presented by new technology**, particularly social media; and the possibility of learning from concrete examples of **regulatory frameworks and cooperation agreements** which were presented by States.

Particularly useful were the interventions from the private sector, giving the perspective of recruitment agencies themselves in trying to engage with governments on ensuring ethical recruitment. It was mentioned, however, that the discussion would have been further enriched if any representatives of trade unions had been present.

A brief summary of the opportunities, challenges and practices highlighted throughout the discussion can be found below. Full notes of the discussions can be found [here](#).

Opportunities	Challenges	Practices
• ***Improve enforcement and access to justice*** (capacity building for	• ***Barriers to access to justice*** (need for effective and speedy remedies in	*Access to justice:*

- consular officers; pre- and post- arrival training and orientation, including on migrant workers' rights, access to justice, and local employment opportunities).
- *Technology* (online apps and social media as a mechanism for complaints/support; using video links to allow appearance in court after returning to home country).
- *Business engagement* (consumer pressure – creating reputational risk by exposing unfair recruitment and labor practices; incentivizing good behavior and enforcing regulation on bad players).
- *Cooperation* (bilateral labor agreements (BLAs); regional and global mechanisms to support bilateral initiatives; cooperation with national employers' organizations and the importance of trade unions; engagement at city level; direct government–to-government recruitment arrangements).
- *Guiding principles for policy* (importance of social justice, equality of treatment between migrant workers and nationals; need for a voice for migrant workers; use of "employer pays" principle).

- countries of origin after return; need to strengthen labor protections, conciliation and mediation mechanisms in countries of destination; costs of legal remedy).
- *Technology* (new recruitment trends, use of social media recruitment).
- *Recruitment fees* (how to define recruitment fees; high recruitment fees making employers reluctant to let workers go).
- *Restrictive migration policies* (including mention of the Kafala sponsorship visa system in many Middle-Eastern States).
- *Engage with businesses* (How to make ethical recruitment an attractive option for business?; How to engage businesses which are under the radar?)
- *The need for enforcement* (regulation exists but lacking enforcement; good businesses hampered by regulation in competition with 'bad players' who avoid regulation).
- *Protecting domestic workers* (difficult ethical recruitment and protection of domestic workers compared to other workers).
- *Building on the GCM:* (How to upscale from

- Improvement of consular services (Ethiopia, Nepal).
- Migrant resource centers (Afghanistan).
- Joint and solidary liability between recruitment agencies and employers (Philippines).

Regulatory frameworks:
- National fund covering fees for job seekers (certification, bureaucratic fees, etc.) (Philippines).
- Strict licensing requirements for private employment agencies (Ethiopia, Trinidad and Tobago).
- Recruitment and information for workers to the Canadian agricultural sector (Guatemala).
- Unilateral minimum wage guarantees (Nepal).

Technology
- Migrant Recruitment Advisor (International Trade Union Confederation).
- Online app to access grievance mechanisms (Lebanon).

Engage with businesses
- Working with brands to push for fair recruitment practices (Fair Labor Association, USA).

Cooperation:
- Development of bilateral labor agreements and MoUs (Ethiopia, Nepal, Philippines).

	pilot programs to regular programs?)	• IRIS pilots – Canadian provincial-level pilots with the Philippines.

Wrap up of the Thematic Sessions

On the morning of the second day of the workshop, the outcomes of the thematic sessions, outlined above, were presented by the hosts of the thematic discussions in a panel moderated by **Ms. Kathleen Newland.**

A number of lessons and themes have been highlighted across the three workshops:
- There are many existing mechanisms, which can be aligned to GCM implementation: it is not necessary to reinvent the wheel.
- States are responsible for GCM implementation, but it should not be undertaken unilaterally. There was an emphasis in all discussions on partnerships at various governance levels – national, sub-national, regional, inter-regional and global – and the GFMD was generally seen as a useful space for identifying these potential partners. The principles of whole-of-government and whole-of-society implementation were repeatedly mentioned.
- Rules and policies regarding migration need to be clear and transparent. Similarly, migrants must be provided with information so that they can make well-informed decisions about their movements.
- Communicating effectively both with and about migrants requires States to engage with the role of the media, and particularly to begin to engage the challenges and opportunities presented by social media.
- Voices of migrants must be heard, both in policymaking itself and in giving feedback on these policies.

Panel Discussions

Panel Discussion 1: Ensuring successful GCM Implementation -- A Collective Aspiration and a Shared Responsibility

Moderated by **Mr. Jonathan Prentice**, Head of Secretariat of the UN Migration Network, this panel session examined questions, including how and in what areas to make use of multi-stakeholder partnerships, what multi-stakeholder partnerships are already underway, and how to align the implementation of the GCM with other instruments like the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Representatives from the co-conveners provided insights on how to develop successful partnerships. Representing the Philippines, **Ms. Sarah Lou Arriola** outlined three crucial elements of implementing the GCM:

1. Implementation requires an inclusive process which leaves no-one behind;
2. National implementation plans should dovetail to national development plans;
3. There is a need to strengthen partnerships and international cooperation.

Ms. Arriola noted particularly that while partnerships can be hard, and dynamics will be different in every country, **involving partners is crucial.** She emphasized the success of the Philippine's partnership with Bahrain in addressing these issues, despite tough negotiations throughout the partnership. **Mr. Ausamah Al Absi** agreed on the challenges of negotiating, while taking pride in the success of the Philippines-Bahrain partnership. He also made the observation that in dealing with the GCM and its implementation, it is **vital to avoid further politicization or push-back**. To do this, implementers must strategize carefully on how to involve partners, as well as take into account local sensibilities.

Giving an insight into the civil society perspective, **Ms. Alexis Bautista**, Program Assistant at the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), presented MFA's programs at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, MFA is undertaking stakeholder consultations with the goal of aligning GCM objectives with existing programs. At a regional level, she reflected positively on the increasing openness of regional processes to civil society participation, and highlighted projects partnering with trade unions, including the creation of an app allowing workers to rate their experiences with recruitment agencies. At the international level, she noted the need to carry lessons learned from one region to another. **Mr. Michiel van Campen**, Executive Director of Permits Foundation, outlined the work of the Permits Foundation in lobbying for work rights for the spouses of expat workers, noting that these work rights create a triple win for businesses, expat workers and host countries.

Representing the voice of local authorities, **Mr. Lefteris Papagiannakis**, Vice-Mayor for Migrants, Refugees and Municipal Decentralization of the City of Athens, and **Mr. Rainer Kern**, Office of the Mayor in the City of Mannheim, joined the discussion via video-link. Mr. Papagiannakais reiterated the need for local authorities to be involved in global policy discussions, both to contribute their unique insights and to learn from other local authorities. He noted, however, that **local authorities need the support and resources of States** in order to adequately implement the GCM objectives. Mr. Kern seconded these points, noting that a **shift to city-level thinking is vital in implementing the GCM**, and that resources need to be made available at this local level.

In the subsequent discussion, participants agreed on the importance of sub-national and local involvement in the implementation of the GCM, and the need for a cross-sectoral approach (involving academia, the private sector, etc.). Particularly, participants expressed the strong need for **cooperation across all levels** – including local, national, regional and international levels. Many also welcomed Mr. Al Absi's comments on the risks of politicization of the GCM, noting this had been a challenge for them in their own countries.

Following questions, Mr. Prentice gave some more detail on the role of the UN Network on Migration, highlighting, *inter alia*, the need for it to be an inclusive exercise that is demand-driven; its key role in ensuring joint programming at the national level; and the plan for the Network to build on existing organizations and their experiences.

Panel Discussion 2: Ensuring successful GCM Implementation – National Perspectives on Lessons Learned as a way to develop / improve existing national plans

The second panel discussion, moderated by **Mr. Stephane Jaquemet,** Director of Policy at the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), aimed to share good practices, challenges, and desired avenues for support in formulating GCM national action plans. In his introduction, Mr. Jaquemet reiterated the importance of beginning to negotiate and adopt national action plans. He cautioned that **failure at a national level would be a global failure.**

Ambassador Raúl Heredia, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UNOG, gave an insight into Mexico's new vision, programs and policies working towards implementing the GCM. He outlined Mexico's cooperative policies both in the region (for instance, the establishment of a comprehensive plan for Central America, in partnership with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), and on a national level (for instance, the creation of a multi-stakeholder national working group to implement a national plan to find alternatives to detention of minors). He also highlighted the unique opportunity presented by the GCM to change the paradigm of cooperation between the countries of the South. Finally, he expressed the need for support for States from the UN Network on Migration, and the usefulness of the GFMD (including the Civil Society and Business Mechanisms), in forming and executing national implementation plans.

Mr. Mohamed Amine Boukhris, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UNOG, in turn spoke of Morocco's national implementation plan. He highlighted the 'cross-cutting principles of the GCM': sovereignty of approach, and a whole-of-society/whole-of-government approach, and gave examples of how Morocco's national action plan is working to address each GCM objective, with a particular focus on data collection. He also outlined Morocco's efforts in cooperation, including South-South cooperation; cooperation with countries of the EU and sub-Sahara in combating trafficking networks; and the support of civil society on the ground to assist victims of trafficking. Mr. Boukhris also commented that the intent of Morocco is to harmonize the priorities of the GCM across all departments of government.

Ms. Jill Helke, Director for International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM, Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, then gave more details on the UN Network on Migration. She emphasized that the focus of the Network is to support states in their implementation of the GCM, and that these **efforts must build on the measures to implement the 2030 Agenda**. This is particularly important as the 2030 Agenda has been adopted by all states, even those which have dissociated from the GCM. She also noted that the Network members are aware that it must be flexible and tailored in the way it provides support in different local, national, and regional contexts. Ms. Helke outlined a number of key elements of the UN Network that are relevant for governments:

- The ensuring of consultations with all relevant stakeholders in the development, implementation and monitoring of national implementation plans.
- Promotion of cooperation and information exchange, including both within regions and across regions.
- Support for capacity building by Network members in many forms, including training, guidance and tools. Ms. Helke highlighted the **Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)** developed by IOM as a useful tool in this regard.

- Resources. This has been the recent focus of the Network, which has been setting up the startup fund.

During the open discussion, many States shared examples of how they are already working to implement the GCM at a national level across a variety of areas. Examples included providing tax facilities for diaspora, regularizing migrants, and creating a national portal to provide information to migrants. Some challenges highlighted by States, on the other hand, included addressing internal migration, movement of youth to urban centers; border security in managing international migration; and duplication of efforts at the local level.

States' interventions also highlighted the importance of national implementation of the GCM and the many ways this can be achieved. One state noted that States must take responsibility for the implementation process, while another emphasized that **States do not need to 're-invent the wheel'**, but rather reframe existing procedures across departments to align implementation with development plans, and align the GCM to the SDGs. Additionally, some States emphasized the opportunity the GCM presents for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and as a tool for the provision of support to States which require it.

To conclude, Mr. Jaquemet reiterated that national action plans can take any form – updating an existing plan, linking to a development plan, or starting from scratch – but the important point is to ensure that national implementation plans are actually done.

Closing session

Ms. Kathleen Newland emphasized that what emerged from the discussions has been the importance of both **horizontal and vertical integration** in GCM implementation – horizontal, between all stakeholders, including government, civil society, the private sector and academia; and vertical, including national, local, regional and global levels. Ms. Newland also noted the connection between the implementation of the GCM and the SDGs, which has been made clear throughout the discussions, as well as the strong potential the GCM holds to serve as a guide for the development of national policies.

Representatives of the co-convening States, **Ambassador Evan P. Garcia**, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UNOG and **Mr. Ausamah Al Absi**, reflected on the success of the thematic workshop and its new interactive format, as well as their desire to continue to see these discussions taken forward. Mr. Al Absi particularly reminded participants not to forget the overall goal of implementing the GCM: to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration.

Mr. Andres Montalvo, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador and Coordinator of the GFMD 2019 Ecuadorian Chairmanship Taskforce, expressed Ecuador's support for the first steps taken in this workshop towards developing more direct and interactive discussions and reiterated the importance of involving all stakeholders to address all issues. Finally, **Ambassador Emilio Rafael Izquierdo Miño** echoed the success of the workshop, and the way in which this demonstrates the ongoing value of the GFMD, and thanked the co-conveners, the Philippines and Bahrain, as well as the OHCHR, UNDP, ILO and the UN Migration Network for their technical assistance.