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Global Forum on
MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

GFMD Ecuador 2019

— XII SUMMIT —
**GLOBAL
FORUM ON
MIGRATION &
DEVELOPMENT**



**REPORT OF
THE GFMD 2019
CHAIRMANSHIP**



GOBIERNO
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“ ***Sustainable approaches to human mobility: Upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships and collective action*** ”

A special acknowledgment to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) for its valuable support to the Republic of Ecuador, GFMD 2019 Chairmanship.

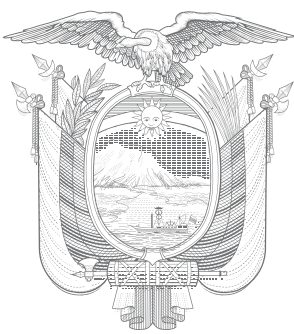
Likewise, Ecuador acknowledges the support of the different partners that contributed to success of the Chairmanship 2019, such as the Donors, Member States, International Organizations, Mayors Mechanism, Business Mechanism, and Civil Society Mechanism.

A special acknowledgment to the GFMD Support Unit, which provided all-encompassing support to the Government of Ecuador throughout the GFMD 2019 Chairmanship period.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT: AMBASSADOR SANTIAGO CHAVEZ, GFMD 2019 CHAIR

Amid the complex situation the world is going through, caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, I have the pleasure of sharing with you the Report of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the 2019 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The Twelfth GFMD Summit was held in Quito, 19 to 23 January 2020.

This Report will convey the work carried out during the period of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship, as well as the main conclusions of the Quito Summit, from a “pre-pandemic” perspective, and its expectations (as should be), and the framework where we clearly established and agreed on the need to continue with the valuable work that the GFMD has been carrying out since 2007.

The current context, in which some countries are beginning to overcome the confinement caused by the Coronavirus and reactivate themselves, has made uncertain the global “new normal” in various fields. There is the impression that many changes are going to take place, although - in any case - there is hope that after this painful experience that has caused so much suffering, the future will find us more conscious, prepared, supportive, and sensitive to the need to care for the planet and the people who inhabit it - including of course the care of migrants.

In the specific area of migration, it is essential to actively and decisively renew the commitment to preserve what has been achieved so far, and to continue to strive to address the manifold and difficult challenges that migrants face the world over.

Among the main objectives is helping to find the balance that will allow us to overcome, through the application of effective policies and actions, the complicated situation of migrants and refugees in different regions. This permanent purpose constitutes a complex and pressing challenge for the international community and calls for a vigorous joint effort.

The GFMD Quito Summit dialogues revolved around the three topics outlined in the Concept Note and the content of the Roadmap of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship approved in February 2019 by the GFMD institutional bodies (Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum). These focus issues were dealt with in a spirit of continuity, building on the substantive achievements of previous Chairmanships, and in fervent hope to contribute to improving the global governance of migration and all that it implies.

On that occasion, it was reaffirmed that the GFMD is an ideal space for dialogue, agreement and the search for solutions, in which the participation of governments, entrepreneurs, mayors, civil society, and other actors who are taking firm steps to be part of the GFMD institutional structure, was essential.

The characteristics and particularities of the GFMD have positioned it in a privileged place to interact, analyze issues and exchange experiences and good practices on migration, as well as to submit proposals in an inclusive way - often diverse in terms of approaches and perspectives, but always oriented to build a constructive, useful, beneficial and lasting heritage.

For the GFMD, the treatment of all issues on migration is of particular importance and some of these issues are now included among the priorities of the 2020 UAE Chairmanship.

The responsibility that awaits us in the future, directly or indirectly, involves all of humanity. This is evidenced by the need to respond to numerous problems, for example, the case of migration caused by climate deterioration; the feminization of migration; or the increasing migration of vulnerable groups made up of children and adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with catastrophic diseases.

The Quito Summit also highlighted the need to continue exploring and developing paths, alliances and coordination, to reinforce certain necessary aspects - including the internal structures within countries - to combat the acute problems arising from the relationship between migration and, for example, urbanization and life in cities, safety, and poverty. In this context, it was underlined that such an effort should not sacrifice solidarity or respect for human rights.

The current global situation will motivate the GFMD to be more creative and innovative after the pandemic in its operational interaction, and hopefully to mitigate with imagination, but also with pragmatism, the negative effects on what has been achieved so far. This being the case, the GFMD will have to adopt quality initiatives and give more dynamism to the relationship between migration and development, especially with respect to the creation of the so-called “vital expectations” for the survival and improvement of the quality of life, which is very precarious in many places, generating large migratory flows in many regions.

Other areas of immediate impact could be, for instance, labor, innovation, and - above all - international cooperation, which is one of the pillars of and the nerve center for the continuation of the task of the GFMD, which is humanitarian aid.

Due to the serious global economic situation, it will become more difficult in the short term - although no less urgent than before - to obtain resources to face the most pressing needs in the field of migration.

Therefore, it is imperative to face current and future demands correctly and to mitigate the changes that threaten the possible immobility of some national and international actors, to avoid eventual paralysis or setbacks.

The “new normality” that is beginning to prevail in the world also calls us to reflect on the essential principles and values that must characterize the leaders both within the GFMD and at the international level, so that those who represent groups and entities are truly capable of understanding, interpreting, proposing, accommodating and solving the most critical issues from a more equitable perspective, and favoring common interest over individual interests.

Therefore, we must reaffirm the conviction that it is imperative to continue the process of building an open project under the new conditions that we face, where hopefully adaptation will overcome containment, and in which collective participation continues to consolidate the actions of the public and private sectors, the role of citizens and the contribution of technicians and experts through their specialized studies.

As it has been pointed out lately, a virus has been necessary to shake the world, and now some of the certainties which we thought we had about the future are effectively evaporating. However, as it is with crises, this one also leads us to reflect on the opportunity that the future offers us to do things better and to resume what has been interrupted with equal or greater vigor, as required by a new era of action.

Lastly, I wish to reiterate the gratitude of the Government of Ecuador and my thanks to all those who have contributed to the full accomplishment of the task of the 2019 Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the GFMD.

I would like to thank in particular the Troika, made up of Germany and Morocco, Ecuador and the United Arab Emirates; the participating UN Member States; the International Organization for the Migration (IOM) and other international entities; the GFMD Support Unit; the Chairs and Co-chairs of the Roundtables and Working Groups; leaders of business groups; mayors and civil society; youth participants; academics; the co-authors of the GFMD Publication *“ENGINE. Exchange and Action: The Global Forum On Migration and Development”*; financial auditors; the team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador headed by the Minister; the special advisers; and to all those who generously gave their time and effort during the Chairmanship of Ecuador to emphasize the significant role of the GFMD in today’s world.



FOREWORD:
MR. ANTONIO VITORINO,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, IOM

The GFMD is a unique, Inter-State consultation mechanism for dialogue and cooperation in the field of migration and development. Its value lies not only in its centrality to current international and national policy debates, but also in being a truly multi-stakeholder forum, which allows a broad range of actors to debate and engage.

Since inception, the GFMD has demonstrated its ability to influence global policies and support implementation of international commitments around migration and development, progressively expanding beyond central government - the protagonists of the GFMD process – to include civil society, the business sector, cities and local governments.

This last expansion – with the establishment of the Mayors Mechanism in 2018 – has brought a crucial stakeholder to the table. Cities are first responders with respect to migrants and bring extensive knowledge of the real challenges and opportunities that migration presents to communities. IOM, through its work with cities and local governments to improve migration governance, understands that interventions are most effective when national and local authorities are linked. The integration of the Mayoral Forum in the GFMD program for the first time under the chairmanship of Ecuador is a significant step forward, and fosters mix of perspectives that provide a genuinely unique opportunity to explore new ground.

The GFMD has also paved the way for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), a framework which sets out a 360-degree vision for international migration and comprehensive international cooperation. I deeply welcome the GFMD's support of the implementation of the GCM and its review and I commend the Ecuador GFMD Chair for hosting a dedicated workshop in March 2019 and offering space for the Voluntary Dialogue on GCM during the Quito meeting. The GFMD and the Compact processes can, and should, be mutually reinforcing.

As Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, I recognize that no single actor or initiative can address migration; it requires our collective commitment to make migration work for all. In 2020, the Network has focused on supporting Member States in their implementation of the GCM, working closely with stakeholders, seeking ways to build on the knowledge and trust created by the GFMD.

The overarching theme chosen by the GFMD Chair for this Summit emphasizes the importance of upholding rights, the centrality of States' agency and the need to develop partnerships and collective action to achieve results. It is a strong and positive vision that deserves to be not only debated, but also carried forward. I want to acknowledge the efforts of the Ecuadorian Chair in bringing all four GFMD constituencies together, under the same roof, for the first time in the history of the GFMD and for the significance of the themes of this year's summit.

Coordinating responses to provide safe and regular pathways to people escaping crisis is not an option, it is a necessity. Fostering the social and economic inclusion of migrants in host communities is not an act of generosity, it is a critical means to keep societies healthy, cohesive and prosperous. The centrality of narratives in shaping the public imagery on migration, and the need to keep those narratives balanced and based on reality, is not an intellectual luxury, it is a duty and an ethical imperative for everyone contributing to the debate. Addressing human mobility systematically while designing urban and rural development strategies is not one possible way of looking ahead, it is the only reasonable way to plan for the future of our fragile planet.

In this regard, I would like to highlight Ecuador's leading role to address Venezuelan migrant and refugee flows in the region. IOM recognizes that the situation is surpassing the capacity of individual countries and recalls the importance of the Quito process to continue to articulate and harmonize responses to the outflow of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region. The international community has an important role in supporting all countries of the region.

Finally, I would like to commend the Chair for opening the door of the GFMD to youth representatives from all over the world, hosting the Youth Forum in Quito and promoting the presence of youth representatives throughout the GFMD sessions. It has taken us time to acknowledge the voice of youth. Now that we have, let us give them space to engage with the topics that shape our future and to help us gain a fresh perspective from their point of view.



FOREWORD:
MS. ASAKO OKAI, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNDP

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has played, year after year, a key role in shaping migration policies and enhancing migrants' contribution to economies and societies in countries of origin, transit and destination. The GFMD paved the way towards the inclusion of migration-related targets into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The GFMD 2019, chaired by the Government of Ecuador, contributed to moving the migration and development agenda forward. Hundreds of delegates from around the world representing national and local governments, as well as the civil society and the private sector, gathered in January 2020 in Quito and discussed concrete solutions to face such challenges as legal pathways, migrants' access to rights and basic services, socio-economic integration – or reintegration in the case of returnees – and social cohesion. The participants highlighted the local dimension of the migration phenomenon and the need to support municipalities in addressing the needs and vulnerabilities not only of migrant populations, but also of the communities of origin, transit and destination, especially in contexts of migration crises.

The Summit in Quito was also the opportunity to hear experiences of how immigrants develop local businesses that generate employments within their host communities, how diasporas invest in their municipalities of origin to foster access to education and health, or still how returnees bring back the skills and experience acquired abroad, and contribute to spurring innovation in their home countries. In this respect, the youth and women on the move are among the most active actors of local development in their communities.

The year 2020 turned out to be a year of major disruption for human mobility since the end of World War II. A couple of weeks after all GFMD participants returned home, the COVID-19 pandemic spread all over the world and the health, protection and socio-economic crises that were induced hit particularly hard on migrants and their communities. Many of them have been affected by the virus, have lost their jobs, got stranded at the borders, or had to return home. But at the same time, migrants have been part of the response, for instance by providing essential services in the health and agricultural sectors, and their positive contribution has become more evident than ever.

To build forward better, it is high time to discuss good practices and strengthen effective partnerships that will help make human mobility work for sustainable development. Recovery and development policies should provide a mutual benefit for migrants and their families, as well as for their communities in home and host countries. Policymakers should especially aim at making migration safer, by fighting against smuggling and trafficking, but also cheaper. They also should promote, through increased partnerships between origin and destination countries, new legal pathways, like for instance family reunification, work visas and refugee resettlement.

UNDP is committed to strengthen the interconnection between migration and development, which has been at the core of the GFMD since its creation in 2007. In collaboration with our partners within the UN Network on Migration and beyond, we stand ready to support Member States in implementing both the GCM and the 2030 Agenda. The two go hand-in-hand and are key to recover from COVID-19. In this respect, GFMD plays a key role in bringing the migration and development actors together to develop an ambitious agenda where migrants and their communities are fully integrated into the post-pandemic solutions that we are designing.

Let us not miss the opportunity to make the world to come more generous to those who leave their homes in search of better lives. We will all benefit from it!

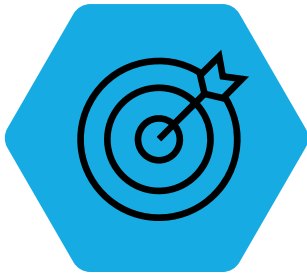


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The background of the page features a large, light blue line-art illustration of the Seal of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The seal depicts an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a shield. The shield contains a sun with a face, a mountain range, and a body of water with a ship. The shield is flanked by olive and arrows, and a scroll with the text 'U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY' is at the bottom.

PART 1:
AIMS AND
GOALS OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP





PART 1: AIMS AND GOALS OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the GFMD came at a timely moment for global migration governance: on the heels of the adoption of the Global Compacts on Migration (GCM) and Refugees (GCR) at the end of 2018; on the first year of reporting on the central migration-related target in the SDGs (target 10.7); and in the midst of continued large movements of refugees and migrants across the globe.

In this context, the Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the GFMD presented a thematic agenda and work plan, covering substantive and process-related activities, that aimed to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the GFMD in 2019 and beyond, under the overarching theme **“Sustainable approaches to human mobility: Upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships and collective action”**.

A particular goal of the Chairmanship was to play a bridging role, by providing a safe space to nurture common ground between governments with different perspectives on the GCM; exploring complementarities between the GCR and the GCM; and continuing to deliver important findings at the interface of migration and development. The Ecuadorian Chair particularly focused on bringing together a broad range of stakeholders, including more systematically incorporating the existing GFMD Mechanisms, as well as youth and academia, into GFMD discussions.

The substantive priorities of the Chairmanship were structured around three major themes:

1) Coordinated responses to mixed movements: partnerships and collective action to protect rights.

This theme sought to address the recent challenges presented by large-scale mixed movements of people – who are often travelling irregularly or facing great vulnerability, abuse, exploitation or loss of dignity – and the pressure many governments have been put under to deliver coordinated responses to these movements. This thematic priority stimulated exchange between countries, and other key stakeholders, on innovative approaches and lessons learned in dealing with situations of mixed movements in a manner that upholds and protects the safety, dignity and human rights of people on the move. The Roundtable discussions held under this theme were focused on **‘Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety’ and ‘facilitating social and economic inclusion’**.

2) Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility and resources do governments have?

As the way in which migrants and migration are perceived has become an increasingly emotive and polarizing topic in many societies, the Ecuadorian Chairmanship recognized that governments cannot manage migration without considering these perceptions. As a result, this thematic priority addressed the important role that governments - in their policies and discourse - have in setting the tone for national debate and communicating with migrants, in partnership with other actors including traditional and social media, civil society, academia, business, and migrants themselves. The Roundtables under this theme thus addressed both ***'Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants'*** and ***'Communicating effectively with migrants'***.

3) Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies

The Ecuadorian Chairmanship observed that achieving the SDGs, including SDG 10's including through targets calling for well-managed migration policies and a reduction in remittance transfer cost, will require measurement of development progress beyond national averages. Policymakers concerned with the interlinkages between migration and development rather need to pay attention to the way in which migration and displacement interact with existing inequities and territorial dynamics. This meant looking at both the challenges and opportunities that migration presents for the development of cities and of rural areas, and looking at how best national and local authorities can work together within and across borders to maximize the contributions of refugees and migrants to urban and rural development. In order to engage with these issues, the Roundtables under this theme examined ***'Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships'*** and ***'harnessing migration for rural transformation and development'***.





Ecuador also prioritised three areas towards the strengthening of the GFMD process in the course of its Chairmanship:

1) Follow up of the GFMD Ten-Year Review

In order to discuss and put into practice the recommendations of the Review, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador, in consultation with the GFMD Steering Group, tasked the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration with creating a road map on the way forward. More concretely, the Chair also successfully implemented a number of the recommendations of the Review, including introducing a new integrated Summit format allowing for more interaction between States and the GFMD Mechanisms; operationalizing the GFMD Marketplace to facilitate a more effective formation of partnerships; diversifying the agendas of the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum Meetings; and introducing innovative and interactive discussion formats for the GFMD Roundtables and Common Space.

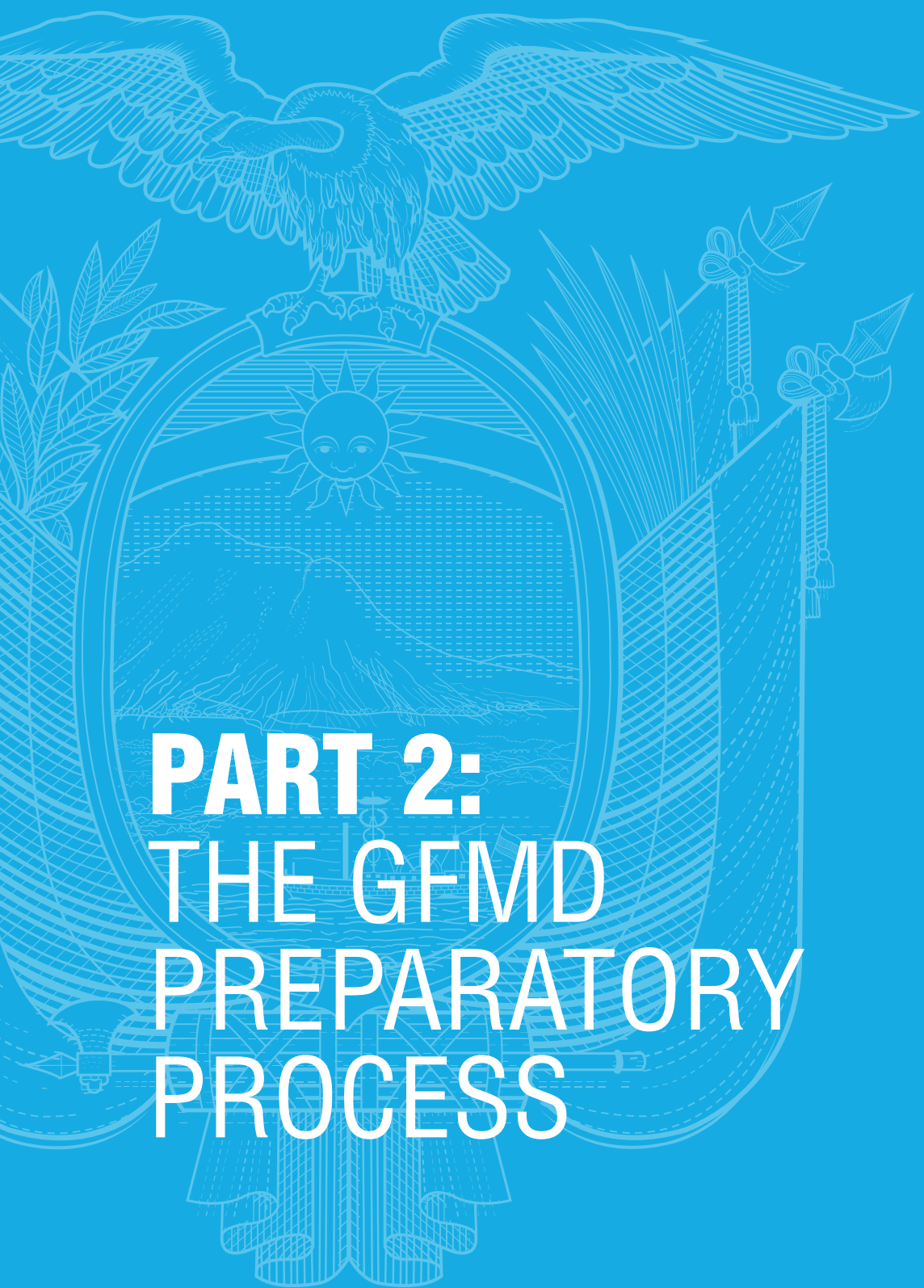
2) Supporting the implementation and follow-up of international commitments

As a venue bringing together and generating a significant amount of collective knowledge and experience that has informed formal multilateral discussions, the Ecuadorian Chair committed to contributing to the follow-up and review process of the GCM and the 2030 Agenda. In line with this, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador, inter alia, submitted formal input to the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in consultation with the GFMD Friends of the Forum and Mechanisms, and convened a number of consultations on the implementation of the GCM, as well as the GFMD's role in the post-GCM migration policy landscape.

3) Thematic and regional meetings to address substantive and institutional priorities

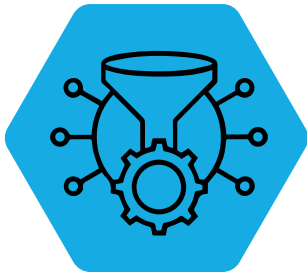
With a view to substantiating discussions on the thematic and institutional priorities of the Chairmanship, the Ecuadorian Chair convened thematic and regional meetings throughout the year, in partnership with a variety of stakeholders. These meetings put into practice Ecuador's commitment to bring the GFMD closer to the regions, in order to broaden participation of different regional stakeholders, and formed an effort to de-centralize the process.

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The background of the page features a large, light blue line-art illustration of the Seal of the Government of the Federal District of Mexico. At the top, an eagle with its wings spread is perched on a cactus. Below the eagle is a shield containing a sun with a face, a mountain range, and a body of water with a ship. To the right of the shield are two crossed spears. The entire seal is set against a solid blue background.

PART 2:
**THE GFMD
PREPARATORY
PROCESS**





PART 2: THE GFMD PREPARATORY PROCESS

The Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the GFMD 2019 held an [official launch event](#) on 27 February 2019 on the margins of the New York 'Migration Week' (26-28 February), serving as an opportunity for the Ecuadorian GFMD Chair to present the 2019 GFMD thematic priorities and work plan.

LAUNCH OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP AT THE NEW YORK MIGRATION WEEK



To mark the occasion, the Government of Ecuador, represented by GFMD 2019 Chair Ambassador Santiago Chávez Pareja, hosted a reception at the UN Headquarters in New York, which welcomed over 100 representatives of Member States, civil society, business and youth.

Key actors took the opportunity to express their support for the year of activities ahead, including the UN President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, who extended UNGA's full support towards the realization of the agenda of the Ecuadorian Chair and the GFMD process as a whole; and Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme, representing the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, who assured Ecuador of the German-Moroccan Co-chairs' support.

In addition to the launch, the GFMD Chair Ecuador brought the GFMD 2019 thematic priorities to the [high level events of Migration Week](#) and highlighted relevant GFMD policy discussions and recommendations.

- **Expert Symposium on International Migration and Development (26 February)**

Speaking at an interactive panel on *“Migration and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”* of the UNDESA-led Expert Symposium, the GFMD Chair described the progress that has been made in the achievement of the migration-related SDGs and targets, and some important initiatives that have been undertaken in the context of the GFMD. He noted the centrality of the topic of sustainable development to the substantive agenda of the GFMD, as well as the creation of the dedicated GFMD Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration.

- **High-Level Debate on International Migration and Development (27 February)**

Speaking at a panel on *“Overview of Progress in Achieving Migration Related Goals”* the GFMD Chair recalled relevant GFMD milestones, including GFMD's thematic inputs to the High Level Political Forum each year from 2017, and pointed to the current policy gaps and emerging issues arising in GFMD discussions that need to be addressed in achieving the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda.

- **GFMD Side Event on Ensuring Fair Recruitment for Realizing Human Potential and Sustainable Development (27 February)**

On the margins of the High-Level Debate on Migration and Development, the GFMD 2019 Chair co-sponsored an event with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the topic of fair recruitment and skills mobility. The side event aimed to inform the GCM implementation through a multi-stakeholder sharing of specific experiences and good practices. The GFMD Chair particularly highlighted the imperative of promoting fair recruitment and decent work in creating regular pathways for labour mobility through multi-stakeholder partnerships and collective action.



• International Dialogue on Migration 2019 (28 February)

The theme of the first session of IOM's International Dialogue on Migration for 2019 was "Youth and migration: Engaging youth as key partner in migration governance." The GFMD Chair engaged in the panel "Empowering youth to become actors of change", emphasizing the need to create enabling environments for youth to unleash their creativity and contributions, and to get involved in global migration discourses. He also noted the GFMD's increasing involvement of youth in its activities, including the first GFMD Thematic Workshop focused on "Children and Youth on the Move" in Agadir, and the youth representation at the inauguration of the Eleventh GFMD Summit in Marrakesh.

PREPARATORY MEETINGS

Over the course of the year, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador organized three rounds of back-to-back preparatory meetings of the Troika, Steering Group (SG) and Friends of the Forum (FoF) in Geneva. The three rounds of meetings were held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19-20 February, 28-29 May, 10-11 September 2019, respectively.

The meetings of the Steering Group each gathered around 55 delegates from roughly 26 of the 28 GFMD SG member governments, while each Friends of the Forum meeting registered an average of 200 delegates from around 105 countries and 17 GFMD Observers. In line with the recommendations of the GFMD Ten-Year Review Report of 2018, the Ecuadorian Chair made a concrete effort to differentiate the agendas of the SG and FoF meetings, in order to clarify the roles of these two governing structures and thus make them more effective. The main focus of these preparatory meetings were thus:

- **Steering Group:** discussion of key policy and strategic concerns of the GFMD, as well as the GFMD budget and financial position; decision on major policy decisions by key supporting Member States of the GFMD.
- **Friends of the Forum:** provision of updates to the broader GFMD community - comprised of Member States and GFMD Observers - on the implementation of the Chair's work plan and thematic agenda, the preparation of the GFMD Summit, the progress of Roundtable preparations and Working Groups, the activities of the GFMD Mechanisms and related processes, and on other related bodies such as the UN Network on Migration.

The GFMD Troika meetings were held ahead of the SG and FoF meetings, to discuss strategic and political issues related to the Forum. The Troika was comprised of the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador and outgoing 2017-2018 Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco, and joined by the GFMD 2020 incoming Chair United Arab Emirates (UAE) from the second preparatory meetings in May.



First Meeting of the SG and FOF
19-20 February 2019

Steering Group:

- Endorsement of the GFMD 2019 Concept Paper and Work Plan.
- In-depth discussion of the next steps for the follow-up of the recommendations of the Ten-Year Review report, and re-mandate of the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration (WG on SD&IM).

Second Meeting of the SG and FOF
28-29 May 2019

Steering Group:

- Presentation and endorsement of the UAE's candidacy for Chairmanship, and invitation by the Chair for the UAE to become a co-chair (along with Germany) of the WG on SD&IM.
- Presentation of the first draft [Key Features and Supporting Recommendations](#) and [Roadmap of Review Follow up process](#) by the WG on SD&IM.

Third Meeting of the SG and FOF
10-11 September 2019

Steering Group:

- Presentation of the amended '[Key Features and 12 recommendations](#)' by the WG on SD&IM
- Announcement of the development of the Migration and Development Knowledge Hub in partnership with UNITAR.
- Update on the financial situation of the GFMD and call for contributions.

Friends of the Forum:

- Presentation of the draft GFMD recommendations to the 2019 HLPF.
- Informal overview of first intergovernmental consultations on the IMRF process.
- Update on the nascent activities and progress in forming the structures of the UN Network on Migration.

Friends of the Forum:

- Announcement of dates and key features of GFMD Quito Summit.
- Announcement of GFMD 11 July side event to present the findings of the GFMD Recommendations to the 2019 HLPF.
- Update on the status of ongoing IMRF consultations in New York.
- Update on the activities of the UN Network of Migration, including the launch of the Start-Up Fund.

Friends of the Forum:

- Announcement of agenda of GFMD Summit, including the presentation of new format of the Summit with parallel meetings of the GFMD Mechanisms.
- Announcement of the voluntary GCM Dialogue on the final day of the Summit
- Launch of Twelfth GFMD Summit registration.
- Update on the work of the UN Migration Network, including the finalization of the Network's work plan.

GOVERNMENT-LED ROUNDTABLE TEAM CONSULTATIONS

Held back-to back with the GFMD Preparatory meetings, the government-led Roundtables Team (RT) Consultations offered the opportunity for the RT Team members to take part in the deliberations and in-depth discussion of the RT topics, in preparation for the Quito Summit. The 84 Member States and 24 participating GFMD Observers provided substantive comments on the Background Paper prepared by international experts and brainstormed on the modalities to best facilitate the RT sessions at the Summit.

In accordance with the 2019 Terms of Reference, the 13 RT co-chairs led the preparatory meetings of the Roundtable Government teams respectively held on 21 February, 28 May, and 11 September and coordinated the production of the background papers, which was in most cases drafted by experts from international organizations.

Members of the GFMD Ecuador Task Force served as RT coordinators, steering the discussions during the first RT session and updated interested delegations on how they can take part and contribute in the upcoming consultations (May and September).

In line with the recommendation of the Ten-Year Review, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador engaged the services of Dialogue Associates, with the support of Germany, to introduce state-of-the-art facilitation techniques. The Dialogue Associates experts worked closely with the respective RT Co-Chairs during the year to improve the formats of the Roundtable discussions at the Summit.

In this regard, during the Government-led Roundtable Team Consultations, some RT Teams engaged in a more interactive discussion format, including by inviting participants to discuss the guiding questions in small groups before opening the floor for comments. The RT Team Members offered multi-stakeholder perspectives on the RT topics and shared relevant lessons learned and concrete measures taken by their respective governments and organizations.



The six government-led Roundtable Team Consultations were organized based on the three main themes of the GFMD 2019, as follows:

Roundtable Session	Co-Chairs	Objectives
THEME 1 - Coordinated responses to mixed movements: Partnerships and collective action to protect rights:		
Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety	Mexico and Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrate possibilities for different pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations. • Identify and share concrete measures by governments and other stakeholders to facilitate access to safe passage for people who are forced or compelled to leave their homes, with a focus on vulnerable group • Provide access to legal status in the country of destination
Facilitating social and economic inclusion	Thailand and Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a fruitful sharing of models and practices that have worked • Provide inclusive solutions that generate benefits for newcomers and host communities alike • Share knowledge and forge new partnerships to enhance the agenda of social and economic inclusion.
THEME 2 - Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility and resources do governments have?		
Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants	Canada and Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the key elements that can be used to promote a balanced narrative on migration across various audiences • Provide recommended guidelines to inform the development of communication strategies • Form the basis of future coordinated efforts between governments and other actors as they work to balance global and domestic narratives on migration and migrants.
Communicating effectively with migrants	Gambia, Philippines and UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring out lessons learned and foster a better understanding of governments' role, responsibility, and resources when communicating directly with migrants throughout the migration cycle. • Collect concrete feedback on areas of needed improvement in governments' communication with migrants and draft tangible recommendations for future multi-stakeholder cooperation.

THEME 3 - Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies

Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships

Egypt and Switzerland

- Identify factors that make cities functioning places of welcoming, inclusion and integration
- Understand the role that local and national governments and other partners can play in facilitating cities' success.

Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

Indonesia and Jamaica

- Explore what policy choices governments have when it comes to enhancing the positive and mitigating the negative effects of migration, as well as and the role of remittances and investments in the transformation of rural areas.
- Explore various lessons learned by sending and receiving communities dealing with rural migration, and identify different types of policy interventions and good practices.

THEMATIC AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

With a view to substantiating discussions and encouraging the engagement of regional stakeholders on the thematic and institutional priorities of the Chairmanship, and as part of Ecuador's commitment to bring the GFMD closer to the regions and de-centralize the process, the GFMD 2019 Chair convened a series of regional thematic meetings throughout the year.

These regional meetings generated concrete policy insights and ideas for action from regional stakeholders, which were then considered in the preparation of the 2019 Roundtables:

GFMD 2019 Roundtable Topics	Relevant Thematic and Regional workshops
Roundtable 1.1	
Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GFMD Regional Workshop: Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety 19-20 September 2019, Quito, Ecuador
Roundtable 1.2	
Facilitating social and economic inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GFMD Regional Workshop: Facilitating social and economic inclusion 24-25 July 2019, San José, Costa Rica
Roundtable 2.1	
Shaping public narratives on migrations and migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GFMD Thematic Workshop: Narratives on Migration: Toward an evidence-based Communication 4-5 July 2019, Skhirat, Morocco
Roundtable 3.1	
Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholders partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GFMD Regional Workshop: Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships 16-17 October 2019, Lima, Peru
Roundtable 3.2	
Harnessing migration and rural transformation and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observance Event of the International Day of Family Remittances 14 June 2019, New York, USA• GFMD Regional Workshop: Harnessing migration for rural development 14-15 August 2019, Kingston, Jamaica• Event - The impact of remittances on rural transformation in Africa: from commitments to action 11 October 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Brief highlights of these intensive regional meetings are provided below.

GFMD Thematic Workshop: Narratives on Migration: Toward an evidence-based Communication

4-5 July 2019
Skhirat, Morocco

In recent years, the increasing imbalance between perceptions and current realities of migration, as well as the rise of xenophobia and misinformation, have led states and other stakeholders to call for a climate of tolerance and a space for dialogue that allows for objective and transparent discussions on migration. In view of this, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador, in partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, convened a workshop attended by around 150 local and international participants, representing a variety of stakeholders (from governments, civil society, private sector, academia, media, international organizations, etc.), who discussed openly the current challenges in communicating about migration, and the different mechanisms that shape public perceptions of migration.

In four thematic sessions, the [workshop](#) examined how the world perceives migration; how to rethink migration and renew narratives, including how to use data; how to build balanced narratives on migration; and how multi-stakeholder partnerships can be leveraged to demystify prejudices about migration.





The workshop revealed a number of valuable insights, many of which fed into the Roundtable 2.1 [Guide to Promoting a Balanced Dialogue](#), including:

- The need to work with and involve journalists in communications strategies, including by providing training and guidance on the proper use of terminology regarding migration and regulating journalistic standards.
- Data alone does not change perceptions nor counter misrepresentations; rather, effective communication strategies also utilize values- and emotions-based messaging. This said, the quality of data remains low, and improved data is needed to create evidence-based policies and communications campaigns.
- The need to aptly identify the target audience of communication campaigns, and choose the effective types of messaging and innovative channels to reach especially those audiences beyond the ‘core’ who are already supportive of migration.
- The need to tell a diversity of stories, rather than there being one type of ‘good’ or ‘right’ story.
- Social media plays a significant role in communication strategies, creating both challenges and opportunities.
- Migration policies and migration narratives are linked, particularly policies that encourage increased integration.
- Changing the narrative on migration requires effective partnerships between a multiplicity of actors, including governments, international organizations, news media, entertainment media, private sector entities, civil society, universities, etc.

Latin America and the Caribbean in the Spotlight: In Search of Better Migration Governance and Increased Cooperation

GFMD regional workshops, in partnership with ICMPD and MIEUX

Over the course of the year, four workshops were held in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and supported by the European Union through its Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) Initiative.

In total, 334 participants attended the four regional workshops. These events brought together, in an inclusive manner, representatives of 27 governments from the LAC region (countries of origin, transit and destination), but also from the European Union, Asia and Africa; local and municipal levels (including the GFMD Mayors' Mechanism); various civil society organizations (including the Civil Society Mechanism of the GFMD); the private sector; and international and regional organizations; as well as researchers and representatives of the academia.



Regional Workshop: Facilitating social and economic inclusion

24-25 July
San José, Costa Rica

In this workshop, around 60 pertinent stakeholders from several Latin American and Caribbean countries and other regions highlighted the challenges of facilitating social and economic inclusion, despite the fact that economic indicators have generally improved in the LAC region.



Working in small groups, participants focused on a number of issues within the broader question of social and economic inclusion, and identified the challenges and opportunities associated with each:

- **Role of local authorities.** Local governments need to be better equipped in responding to migration issues. Moreover, the local level provides a wealth of opportunities for improved inclusion, as local authorities act as frontline service providers and implementers.
- **Access to services.** Challenges include, inter alia, lack of information on normal immigration procedures, the informal nature of the jobs market, language barriers, and negative attitudes towards migrants. Service provision should be considered as a human rights protection policy, and access to core services such as education and health should be provided to all, regardless of documentation.

- **Mobility in the labor market.** Challenges include barriers to access public and private services for non-nationals, informal employment, under-employment (including lack of recognition of qualifications), insecure labor, and lack of social security cover.
- **Countering xenophobia,** the spread of misinformation, and negative migration narratives in general requires harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks (nationally and internationally), communication outreach to relevant communities and inclusion of local communities in aid resources directed to migrants.
- **Access to residence and citizenship.** Challenges relate to both the concepts involved (e.g. lack of access to truly permanent residency) and relevant procedures (e.g. excessive costs and lack of information). In this context, the LAC region has an extremely low naturalization rate. Improving access to nationality is a key opportunity in ensuring inclusion.
- **Political participation of migrants and refugees.** Restrictions on political participation based on residence and registration is a significant barrier to inclusion. Political participation should be understood in the broad sense, allowing for opportunities for policies to contemplate different spaces of participation – not only popular election – which can contribute to inclusion of migrants.
- **Family reunification.** Barriers to accessing family reunification, particularly economic requirements, were seen as encouraging irregular movement and discouraging integration in new communities.

The workshop also highlighted the need for comprehensive and cross-cutting strategies for the entire population. As shown by the experience of Barcelona, policies should not simply seek to include migrants, but rather to build cohesive, complex and diverse societies more broadly.



Regional Workshop: Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

14-15 August 2019
Kingston, Jamaica

The [two-day workshop](#) hosted nearly 60 participants hailing from academic, governmental and non-governmental backgrounds, together with international organizations. Participants discussed the role of migration and remittances in the transformation of rural areas, including the impact on agriculture and related industries, as well as local employment opportunities and entrepreneurship in the LAC region.

Discussions acknowledged the challenges rural movers face at points of origin and destination, and argued that governments need to rethink how best to respond. Participants also proposed that programmes and policies should be developed that define human mobility as a strategic, adaptive response to the challenges of growing vulnerabilities. This would contribute to ‘a virtuous cycle’, in which migration drives development and leads to sustainable policymaking that manages future movements.

Building on examples from the Caribbean and South America, as well as some other parts of the world, the workshop revealed the important role migration and migrant remittances play in the creation of sustainable programming. These programmes can transform rural sending communities, support rural agriculture, and increase rural investment; and describe powerful pathways for policy makers (whether local, state or international), migrants and non-migrants to follow as they enhance positive, sustainable outcomes.



Challenges were identified in roundtable working groups in relation to a number of key areas:

- **Employment in rural areas.** Lack of access to capital and infrastructure in rural areas and difficulties in channeling remittances for productive purposes are significant challenges, as well as reduced available labor force in rural communities, as migration from rural areas is composed of mainly young workers.
- **Health and education.** Access to health and education opportunities for rural migrants and their sending communities, as well as a lack of state support and labor opportunities for these areas.
- **Climate change.** Access to social services or response capacity in the case of climate-related crises; limited resources or planning to deal with long-term displacement and long-term impacts of climate change; as such, real or perceived saturation of services might produce xenophobia, and planning and aid tend to focus on local population, not on migrants, which increases migrants' vulnerability.
- **Access to financial systems in rural areas** is also an obstacle to rural development, together with the high cost of sending remittances.
- **The relationship between migrants and their community of origin** can present challenges including mistrust of government and the inability of return migrants to reintegrate into their home/rural communities.
- **Entrepreneurship and investment in rural areas** can be difficult to stimulate, because a lot of business created through remittances in home countries ends up as part of the informal economy, and because of the lack of access to financial services, infrastructure, and education, as well as the impact of rural cultures and mindsets.



On the other hand, there are many opportunities for harnessing rural transformation and development, and rethinking the nexus between rural migrants and their communities in order to focus on diaspora's role in supporting investment in rural hometowns, including:

- **Remittances** can contribute both financially and socially to communities of origin more effectively if incentivized by programmes that channel effective investments, rural integration policies are improved, the visibility of migrants is increased, and migration is mainstreamed across government policy areas.
- **Partnerships** between the state and non-state stakeholders can foster horizontal integration. In addition, governments can benefit from engaging with their nationals abroad, for example, to promote diaspora bonds, and collaborating and sharing lessons learned between governments.
- The creation of **adaptation strategies to climate change**, and the inclusion of migrants in national disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies.



Regional Workshop: Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety

19-20 September 2019
Quito, Ecuador

This [third regional workshop](#) focused on the topic of providing regular pathways from crisis to safety for those who leave their homes, including, *inter alia*, refugees escaping persecution and conflicts, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Around 100 representatives of local and central governments, academia, civil society, regional stakeholders and international organizations came together in Quito to discuss good practices, complementary pathways, and the challenges of providing regular pathways to migrants, particularly vulnerable migrant groups.



The panel discussions stressed the importance of systematically incorporating members of civil society and academia in the GFMD to ensure the evidence-based development of policies, as well as the need for increased international cooperation and support for those countries most affected by large immigration inflows. While developing regular pathways and sustainable integration measures is a challenge to governments worldwide, the panels highlighted the current Venezuelan displacement crisis in the Latin American context, and the hospitality and generosity shown by receiving governments in South America, while drawing attention to limited international support.



The workshop also stressed the need to consider climate change as an increasingly important factor leading to displacement, as well as the imperative to develop solutions within integral protection and development frameworks. While migration is a global challenge that requires global solutions, the panels also highlighted the advantage of decentralization within the GFMD in order to bring debates closer to regions and governments at all levels.

Small breakout working groups (WG) addressed a range of topics during the workshop, including:

- **WG on Existing and/or new regular pathways for migrants** identified two major types of challenges: the lack of documentation and limitations to regular routes, and the difficulties of effectively advising migrants on their rights and methods of seeking support. The WG suggested making more effective use of migrant networks and organizations for the purpose of information sharing.
- **WG on Vulnerabilities** emphasized that in addressing migrant vulnerabilities, it is a challenge that very often the paradigm of national security trumps that of migrants' rights in national migration debates. There is a need to develop evidence-based public policy approaches, with a focus less on stopping irregular migration and more on encouraging regular migration.
- **WG on Access to rights and services** pointed out that a main problem in the provision of services to migrants is the centralization and inflexibility of national budgets, which often do not allow for the rapid allocation of funds to cater for the needs of vulnerable migrants, especially in emergency situations.
- **WG on Coordination mechanisms at regional, national and local levels** advocated for greater coordination between national actors (including government, civil society, and academia, among others) in public policy discussion and development, and for strengthening local governments and making them understand that migration is an opportunity, more than a problem, through the support of national governments, and through more regular regional conferences on migration and collaboration between states and the UN/IOM.

• **WG on Access to labor markets and public services** found that regularization is vital and grants fundamental rights; however, it does not guarantee the exercise of such rights. The prevalence of the informal labor market and the inaccessibility of public service systems often represent a significant barrier to integration. In a context of increasing social conflicts between host and migrant communities, it is also crucial to fight against discrimination, xenophobia, exclusion and self-exclusion. Finally, granting asylum seekers right to work, and informing employers of these rights, is also a key step in granting access to labor markets.



Regional Workshop: Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships

16-17 October 2019

Lima, Peru

The [final workshop](#) in the four-part series of regional meetings gathered 100 representatives of local and central governments, academia, civil society, regional stakeholders and international organizations to discuss why some cities have become successful arrival cities that offer newcomers opportunities for belonging and upward social mobility, while others struggle with persistently marginalized communities and segregation.

Considering such factors as migration crises, and developmental levels of host countries and cities, the workshop identified good practices in making cities propellers of inclusion, while also pointing out barriers to integration. Participants discussed the role of policy coherence and cooperation across different levels of governance in facilitating migrants' inclusion in and contribution to urban development, while discussing constraints faced by local governments, in particular with respect to public service provision, civic coexistence and social cohesion.



The main findings of the breakout working groups (WG) are:

- **WG on Mainstreaming migration into local/urban development plans** identified that policy coherence is needed at horizontal and vertical levels, and there is difficulty in developing a coherent global approach to migration when such approaches are still lacking at regional level. The exchange of information and experiences through the GFMD, and specifically the first Mayor's Mechanism, and peer review efforts to decentralize policy and decision making through innovative mechanisms was seen as an opportunity in this regard.
- **WG on Ensuring access to services and opportunities for migrants at the local level** saw the lack of information on legislation and requirements amongst both employers and migrant employees, labor exploitation, and structural barriers to integration as main challenges. The WG proposed a different way of framing migration and integration in public discourses and media reporting: i.e., if immigration is depicted as an opportunity instead of a threat, it can be turned into an opportunity. At the same time, building trust between immigrants and public institutions is important to guarantee immigrants' inclusion at local level.
- **WG on Cooperation between the local level and the private sector** underlined that diverging interests and the lack of communication between local, regional and central government, home communities and investors pose problems when it comes to attracting investments and funds at local level. Conversely, building effective partnerships between states and local authorities and the private sector and civil society could be a significant opportunity.



GFMD Events in partnership with IFAD

It is estimated that formal remittances to low- and middle-income countries exceeded US\$529 billion in 2018 – representing over three times the amount of official development assistance (ODA) globally. Considering this, the GFMD co-hosted, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a couple of events focusing specifically on the important role of remittances in promoting sustainable development.



The Observance Event of the International Day of Family Remittances: Supporting one billion people reach their own SDGs

14 June 2019
New York, USA

The GFMD Chair and IFAD co-organized the Observance event on the occasion of the International Day of Family Remittances, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Algeria, Canada, Ecuador, Guatemala, Madagascar and the Philippines, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA). Attended by over 60 participants from member states, with high-level participation from 25 Member States, 10 international organizations, and representatives from the private sector, including Western Union, GSMA and Equity Bank, the event highlighted migrants' contributions to sustainable development through remittances and investment.

A key focus of the event was on how remittances can support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, as well as the implementation of Objective 20 of the GCM (*'promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion'*).

Panelists from the public and private sectors discussed the current status of the global remittance market and proposed policies and mechanisms to lower remittance transaction costs, improve market efficiencies and regulatory environments, promote financial inclusion, enable innovation and customize investment opportunities to the needs and interests of both remittance senders and receivers.

The impact of remittances on rural transformation in Africa: from commitments to action

11 October
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The event provided a more specific platform to exchange good practices and present new initiatives on remittances in Africa, and to engage directly with African Union (AU) member state delegates, as well as the private sector and civil society in Africa. Particularly, the event aimed to help present good practices and initiatives to assist states in the achievement of SDG 10.c ('to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030') and the implementation of Objective 20 of the GCM.

The event welcomed almost 100 participants, including a high number of AU Member State representatives, additional Permanent Missions in Addis Ababa (Chile, Mexico, Norway, Sweden), many international organizations involved in the field of migration for development (ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNCTAD, among others), and civil society associations/NGOs, including diaspora organizations and Trust Funds.

The event provided a platform to exchange good practices and present new initiatives, foster synergies and discuss challenges and opportunities of migrants' engagement in the countries of origin with all relevant actors in the African remittance market. It highlighted the crucial role of remittances in fostering agricultural development, as they represent a major opportunity for fostering job creation and supporting entrepreneurship in rural areas.

Particularly, participants explored the roles of public and private sector entities in Africa involved in the remittance market, and options for African policy makers at national and local levels to enhance positive effects of migration and remittances in the transformation of rural areas. The event encouraged the promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop practical solutions for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the GCM in Africa with regards to migrants' contribution development, and gave participants the opportunity to present concrete examples and strategies of successful initiatives at national, regional and global levels in Africa aimed at maximizing remittances for sustainable development, and promoting financial inclusion for migrants and their families.

WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Established as an ad hoc Working Group (WG) in 2016, the WG on Sustainable Development and International Migration became a permanent structure of the GFMD process in 2019. Originally titled the Ad Hoc WG on the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), it was initially mandated by the Steering Group to consider ways for the GFMD to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to contribute to its follow-up and review process. Beginning 2017, the WG was also tasked to consider how to accompany the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) process. In 2018, the WG was further assigned another work stream – to ensure an effective follow up of the recommendations of the GFMD Ten-Year Review exercise in 2018.

GFMD Recommendations to the 2019 HLPF

Since 2017, the GFMD Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration has led the preparations of the GFMD's report to the annual High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The 2019 input – "[GFMD Recommendations to 2019 HLPF](#)" – constitutes a solid contribution to the implementation of migration-specific and migration-related SDGs in focus in 2019.

Under the leadership of Working Group Co-Chair Germany - and taking into consideration the inputs of GFMD Member States, Observers and Mechanisms - in 2019 the Working Group prepared a report examining the key policy issues and practices discussed in the GFMD which speak to the 2019 HLPF theme and focused Goals– i.e., 4 (education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and 17 (global partnerships). The report was particularly relevant from a migration and development perspective, as it shed light on Goal 10.7, being a SDG in particular focus year.

More on the content of the GFMD Recommendations to the 2019 HLPF can be found in the section of this report 'GFMD and the 2030 Agenda'.

Follow up of the Ten-Year Review

During its Chairmanship, Ecuador initiated a process towards an action plan on the implementation and follow-up of the GFMD Ten-Year Review. In this regard, the Steering Group mandated the Working Group to hold in-depth discussion on the Review findings.

The Working Group met several times throughout the year to assess the feasibility of the recommendations contained in the Ten-Year Review report. Under the leadership of Germany and the United Arab Emirates, the Working Group has developed a document, “Key Features and Supporting Recommendations”, which proposes a framework for the discussion of these recommendations – namely, the clustering of the recommendations under three pillars: Preparatory process and Summit, Institutional Framework and Financial Framework. The recommendations were classified as either low-hanging fruits (i.e., easily implementable) or recommendations requiring further consideration. The document also provides an important enunciation of the key features of the GFMD that participating Member States value and wish to preserve or enhance further.

The Working Group Co-Chairs presented their report to the participating heads of delegations during the Future of the Forum session in Quito. They highlighted the key elements and unique added value of the GFMD as a state-led but an increasingly inclusive space where non-state actors are recognized as equal partners in dialogue and in taking action. The Working Group Co-Chairs noted that many recommendations can be implemented in a relatively straight-forward manner at the discretion of the GFMD Chair; however some will require further discussion and investment. A key element that was highlighted was the need to implement the recommendations regarding financing, as this would have a significant knock-on effect for the outcomes of the other recommendations.

In the course of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship, a number of recommendations have been initiated and / or implemented, including:

- (1) Diversification of the agenda of the GFMD Steering Group and Friends of the Forum;
- (2) Introduction of state-of-the-art facilitation techniques and more dialogic formats at GFMD events;
- (3) Improvement of the format of the GFMD Summit (e.g. ‘holistic’ Common Space agenda);
- (4) Operationalization of the GFMD Marketplace as a matchmaking mechanism between various stakeholders; and
- (5) Participation of policy-oriented researchers in GFMD discussions.

These changes were well-received by the GFMD community and will serve as building blocks for the GFMD in the future.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES OF THE GFMD CHAIR

A key objective of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship was to reinforce and encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue in the GFMD process, including the participation of both civil society and academia. Civil society's involvement with the process guarantees accountability, fosters cooperation and advances a human-rights based approach. Academia, on the other hand, ensures a fact-based and informed approach to policy making and human mobility issues. The Chair sought to bring the lessons of the GFMD to its own national context, and conversely to bring the national Ecuadorian experience and lessons learned to the global stage of the GFMD. To this end, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador organized two national workshops in Ecuador to engage civil society and academia.



Workshop with civil society

19 June 2019
Quito, Ecuador

On 19 June, the Ecuadorian Chair held a workshop with national civil society to inform them about the GFMD and the substantive priorities of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship. The workshop was widely attended, with more than 20 different organizations present. The workshop raised awareness about the important role of the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism and the established process for local organizations to take part in the GFMD Summit. Civil society representatives affirmed their support for the Ecuadorian Chairmanship, welcoming the important inclusion of the global South in migration conversations. They also underlined the importance of strengthening migratory responses and safeguarding migrants' access to rights and services, including LGBT migrants, amid the ongoing situation in Latin America.



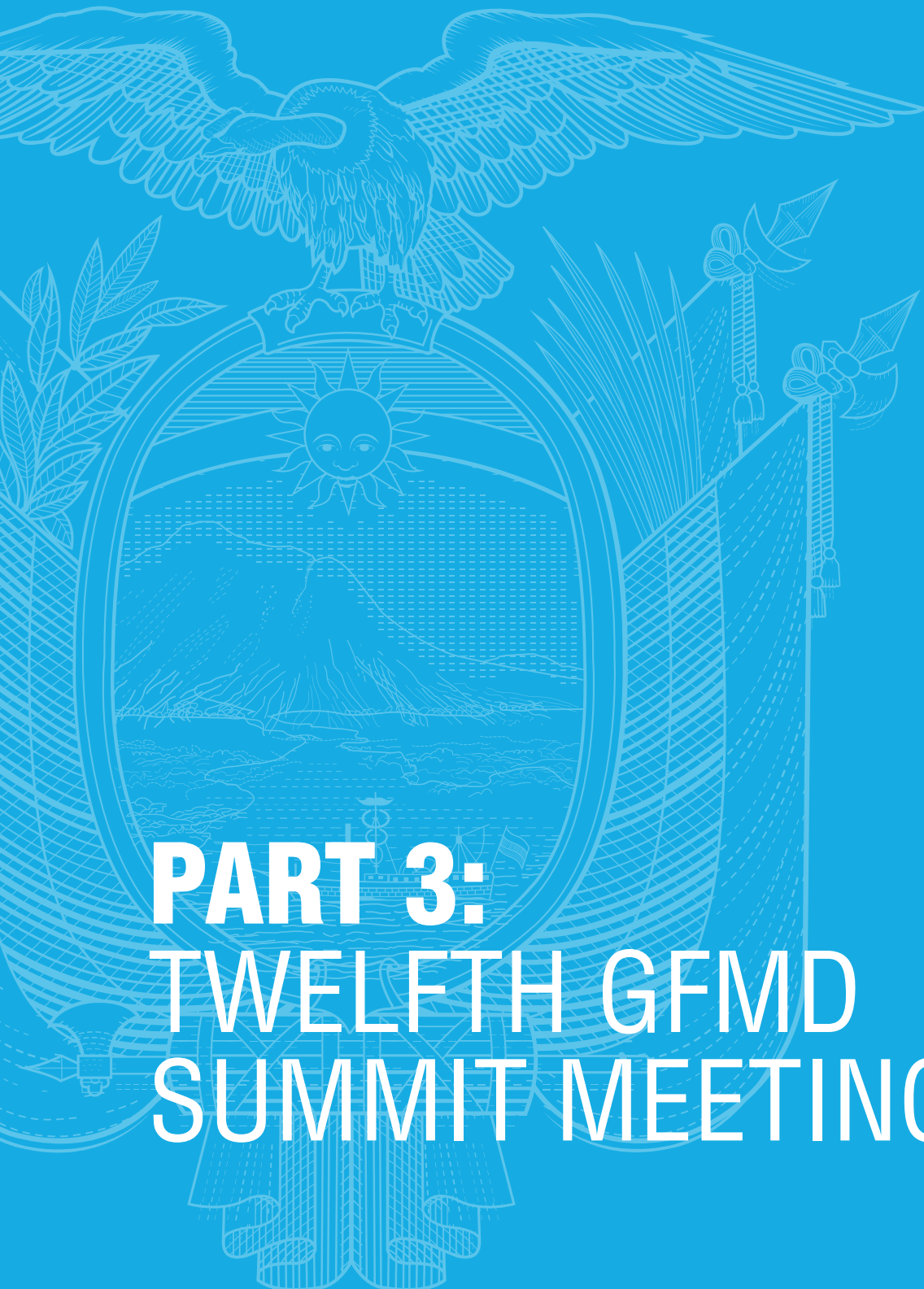
Workshop with academia

27 June 2019
Quito, Ecuador

Recognizing the crucial role that academia plays in research on migration and development, the Ecuadorian Chair held the first ever [National Academic Workshop on Migration and Development](#) on 27 June at the Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales (IAEN) in Quito. The workshop provided a space for some 50 national level academia representatives to discuss the Ecuadorian Chairmanship's priorities and how academia could get more involved and enabled to offer their contribution to the GFMD process. The workshop featured three parallel working groups, each focusing on the role of partnerships in the protection of migrants' rights, governments' role in migration narratives, and human mobility's part in development strategies, respectively. A key takeaway from this workshop was that academia forms an essential part in formulating public policies on migration.

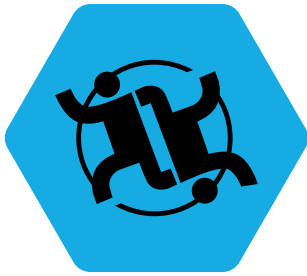


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PART 3:
TWELFTH GFMD
SUMMIT MEETING





PART 3: TWELFTH GFMD SUMMIT MEETING

The Twelfth GFMD Summit was held in Quito, Ecuador, with activities spanning the full week of 19-24¹ January 2020. The Summit welcomed over 1000 participants, including representatives of over 110 states and 35 GFMD Observer organizations, as well as representatives of civil society, the private sector, local authorities, youth and academia.



¹ The inauguration of the Twelfth GFMD Summit on 21 January was preceded by the Youth Forum and various side events, including a side event with academia, on 19-20 January 2020.



OUTO

PRENSA

CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIONES TECNOLÓGICAS

For the first time in the history of the GFMD, the activities of all core GFMD stakeholders – governments, international organizations, civil society, business and local authorities – were hosted in the same venue and included under the same programme. Other stakeholders, including academia and youth, were also encouraged to participate in the Summit at a level not seen in previous Summits.

The Quito GFMD Summit's official inaugural ceremony was held on Tuesday, 21 January. It was followed by a day of parallel, separate but interrelated meetings of governments, civil society, the private sector and local authorities on Wednesday, 22 January. A larger 'Common Space' then provided all stakeholders the opportunity to mingle, share ideas and create partnerships in an open setting on Thursday, 23 January, prior to the official closing of the Summit.

The Summit programme also included a multitude of related meetings, including the second edition of the Youth Forum on 19-20 January; thirteen official side events held on 20-21 January; and the GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact for Migration, hosted by the GFMD Chair on 24 January.



OPENING SESSION

Quote Chávez: “*The Government of Ecuador welcomed the commitment to chair the GFMD at a key moment for international migration, when migration crises were occurring or intensifying in various regions of the world.*”

His Excellency, Ambassador Santiago Chávez Chair of the 2019 GFMD, officially opened the Summit and welcomed over 1,500 participants to the week-long activities. In his words, the Summit was the culmination of the intense work carried out over a period of thirteen months, beginning 1 January 2019 until end January 2020. As the first Central American country took up the enormous responsibility of chairing the process, Ecuador also had to deal with emerging challenges in the region in the same year. Thanks to the political commitment of the Republic of Ecuador, and the support extended by the GFMD community, the GFMD 2019 Chair successfully implemented its work plan, which was structured around three thematic priorities:

- Coordinated responses to mixed movements: partnerships and collective action to protect rights;
- Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility and resources do governments have; and
- Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies.



Ambassador Chavez underscored the following accomplishments of the Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the GFMD:

- Introduction of underexplored themes on migration and development; i.e., regular pathways for migration, social inclusion of migrants, improving migration narratives, and links between migration and rural and urban development;
- Diversification of themes and regionalization of meetings through the organization of several workshops in the Latin American and Caribbean region;
- Integration of the youth and enlargement of space for the academia in GFMD discussions;
- Elaboration of the GFMD Publication, which takes stock of the achievements of the GFMD since 2007 until 2019, and looks forward to an assured future of the GFMD;
- Development of the online knowledge hub on migration and sustainable development, in collaboration with UNITAR;
- Implementation of the Tech Garden and the Marketplace in the GFMD Summit;
- Contribution to the negotiation process of the International Migration Review Forum Modalities, and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) follow up, by organizing a GCM workshop in March and a GCM dialogue back-to-back with the Summit; and
- Successful year-long coordination and organization of preparatory meetings of the GFMD governing structures, namely: the Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum.

By achieving these objectives, Ecuador has further consolidated the GFMD as a space for fostering shared understanding and creating partnerships towards the improvement of global governance on migration.

Quote Espinosa: *“The Quito Summit is the successful culmination of more than a year of hard work, dedication and leadership by Ecuador and its strategic partners.”*



Ambassador Cristian Espinosa, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, echoed words of appreciation to the countries, international organizations and individuals that contributed substantively and/or financially towards the realization of the Quito Summit. Heartened by Ecuador's success in bringing forward new perspectives into the GFMD, he particularly welcomed the greater involvement of representatives from different stakeholder groups. Their presence, he said, demonstrated the added value of the Forum in searching solutions for complex migration and development challenges. He encouraged all participants to engage in critical discussion, identify action-oriented partnerships and form forward-looking partnerships.

Quote Mr. Otto Sonnenholzner, Vice President of Ecuador: *“Migration stories often have a sad beginning, but practically all have a happy ending”*



In his keynote speech, Mr. Otto Sonnenholzner, Vice President of Ecuador, shared a personal account of his own and his family's experiences of migration. As he emphasized the importance of changing the narrative on migration, he urged governments to approach migration issue as an opportunity for prosperity rather than an emergency or crisis. Being a former radio broadcaster, he also appealed to the media to avoid fueling xenophobia against migrants and to do all they can to combat fake news.

Following the speech of the Vice President, the Forum heard high level statements from crucial GFMD stakeholders.

Quote, Mrs. Nezha el Ouafi, Moroccan Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs: *“We call for the strengthening of this important platform capable of fostering new forms of cooperation between different stakeholders, while maintaining its specificity as a State-led process, where States can come up with ideas, can present useful models, practices and experiences.”*



Representing the government stakeholders were the past GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs Morocco and Germany. Mrs. Nezha el Ouafi, Moroccan Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, praised the Forum for its responsiveness to the migration phenomenon, and its substantial contribution to the global agenda on migration and development. Welcoming the approach adopted by the 2019 Chair, she called for the strengthening of the GFMD, to become more fit to serve as a leading platform that fosters new forms of cooperation between different stakeholders, identifies and promotes the sharing of good practices, fills existing policy gaps and advances the global reflection on common challenges through informal and constructive dialogue.

Quote, Ambassador Philipp Schauer, Ambassador of Germany in Ecuador and representative of the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2017-2018, *'we would have had to reinvent GFMD if Ecuador had not carried on the flame after Marrakesh.'*

Ambassador Philipp Schauer, Ambassador of Germany in Ecuador and representative of the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2017-2018, welcomed the leadership of Ecuador at a vital time for the GFMD. He noted that, while many states might have felt the purpose of the GFMD fulfilled at the adoption of the GCM, the GFMD was vital in facing the real challenge of now implementing the Compact. He emphasized the unique strength of the GFMD in fostering partnerships and promoting a comprehensive and inclusive practical approach to migration and development policy amongst a wide range of stakeholders, and in connecting migration to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.



Quote, Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM): *“The GFMD as a global consultative mechanism with broadest constituency has demonstrated to have the potential to influence global policies and support implementation of international commitments in the area of migration and development.”*



The opening session also heard the perspectives of key international organizations that have supported the GFMD 2019 Chairmanship of Ecuador. On the lead was Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and also the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration. He recognized the GFMD’s influence in shaping global policies and its potential to support the implementation of international commitments on migration and development issues. Reiterating the GFMD’s role in paving the way towards the elaboration of the GCM and its 360-degree vision, he highlighted the need to build synergies between the GFMD and the GCM in enriching the migration and development agenda and by exchanging views on emerging issues.

Quote, Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Administrator at the UNDP: “Migration is a driver of development, but also an indicator of incomplete development.”

In her intervention, Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Administrator at the UNDP, explained the importance of achieving safe, orderly and regular migration by taking advantage of the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals in the next ten years. She cited four elements necessary to make migration work for sustainable development:

- Migration should be driven by choice by addressing the negative drivers and structural factors of migration.
- The positive contribution of migrants should be harnessed, as the integration of migrants in a safe, orderly and regular manner is socio-economically beneficial.
- More work is needed to connect youth to skills and jobs, via capacity building and introduction of new technologies.
- The power of diaspora should be leveraged for sustainable development in their home country, through transfer of remittances, skills and knowledge.

She shared relevant examples of UNDP's work and stressed the need for partnerships and collective action to achieve the SDGs and the GCM objectives, in particular through collaboration with the UN Network on Migration.

Finally, the three GFMD Mechanisms – Mayors, Civil Society and Business - this year brought together under the same roof for the first time, provided inspiring remarks.



Quote, Mr. Christian di Candia, Mayor of Montevideo:

“Just as development is local and endogenous, human mobility can only be inclusive, balanced and sustainable with the local dimension”.

Representing the local authorities, Mr. Christian di Candia, Mayor of Montevideo, strongly welcomed the inclusion of the Mayoral Forum in the GFMD Summit as a major step towards fostering shared understanding and creating partnerships, adding that local authorities had a vital role in implementing migration and development policies.

In her address to the participants of the GFMD, Civil Society Day (CSD) Co-chair, Ms. Stella Opoku-Owusu, highlighted the important role of civil society organizations in achieving the commitments of the GCM. She challenged the Quito Summit participants to put migrants at the heart of GFMD deliberations and to ensure that the reality of migrants' lives informs the discussions – i.e., from the bottom up, and not the other way around. She also encouraged all stakeholders to be visionary leaders and hold each other accountable, while maintaining the state-led character of the Forum.

Quote, Civil Society Co-Chair Mr. José Dolores Suazo Mejía: *“As we deliberate on implementation and collective action, we must be guided by the reality that migrants face in their search for better lives.”*

CSD Co-Chair Mr. José Dolores Suazo Mejía, on the other hand, shared his own personal experience of the harsh realities of migration. In his passionate speech, he urged participants not to close their eyes to migration-related tragedies happening each day. He affirmed civil society's commitment and willingness to sit together with governments, local authorities and businesses to discuss how migrants' lives could be improved.

Mr. Roberto Suarez-Santos, Secretary-General of IOE, highlighted the key stake that the business community holds in migration issues, particularly in light increasing demographic change and difficulties being faced by businesses around the world in filling talent shortages. He highlighted the critical role of business in implementing both the GCM and the 2030 Agenda, and outlined the business sector's major priorities with relation to migration: working with national governments to ensure the adoption of legal pathways to access talent and skills in an environment that optimizes the full potential of migrants; the assessment of migrant qualifications; the development and adoption of responsible recruitment practices; and the use of technology for migration management.

LAUNCH OF THE CHAIR'S INITIATIVES

The GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador set a number of objectives for its Chairmanship, including playing a bridging role (between the two Global Compacts as well as between countries that have adopted the GCM and those that have not); encouraging dialogue between the different GFMD stakeholders; and fostering evidence-based and informed policies. To achieve these objectives, the Ecuadorian Chair recognized the importance of utilizing pioneering tools that can best equip governments and other GFMD stakeholders in creating sustainable and effective policies. Thus, several novel initiatives were launched by the GFMD 2019 Chair during the Opening Session of the Twelfth GFMD Summit in Quito:

- The “*GFMD 2019 Publication: Engine, Exchange and Action: The Global Forum on Migration and Development and the 2019 Pivot to Practice,*” a testimonial book that reflects on the work of the GFMD during the past twelve years, as well as the way forward for the Forum.
- The Knowledge Hub on Migration and Sustainable Development, developed in partnership with UNITAR, is a capacity-building tool set to foster knowledge and learning on migration and development.
- The GFMD Marketplace provided a physical exhibition space at the Quito Summit to foster partnership-building between those with policy dilemmas and those providing solutions.





The GFMD 2019 Publication: Engine, Exchange and Action: The Global Forum on Migration and Development and the 2019 Pivot to Practice

In conceptualizing the GFMD 2019 Publication, Ambassador Santiago Chavez was inspired by both Kofi Annan and António Guterres, former and current UN Secretary-Generals, who recognized that migration is an integral part of development, but that harnessing its potential for development requires working collaboratively and putting the puzzle together. Ambassador Chavez saw the potential of the GFMD in this context to play a very important role, particularly in providing the space to solve migration puzzles and in acting as an engine that drives global discussion of migration and development policy.

The twelve years of the GFMD have seen a multitude of initiatives, projects and accomplishments and therefore the “*GFMD 2019 Publication: Engine. Exchange and Action: The Global Forum on Migration and Development and the 2019 Pivot to Practice*” is a timely contemplation of GFMD’s activities.

As Ecuador chairs the 12th GFMD this year, we cross the bridge between the first 11 GFMDs and perhaps the next 11 – through 2030, coinciding with the cycle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In an environment made ever-more ambitious by migrant and migration-related SDGs, the two new Global Compacts and the new UN Network on Migration, Ecuador is convinced, as are others contributing to this publication, that the GFMD engine will help us cross that bridge. To a fuller focus on action. In a pivot to practice.

– H.E. José Valencia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador

In the first volume of the Publication, the past eleven GFMD Chairs – representing Belgium, the Philippines, Greece, Mexico, Switzerland, Mauritius, Sweden, Turkey, Bangladesh, Germany and Morocco (2007 to 2018) – as well as Ecuador (2019), have articulated their personal experiences and thoughts while serving as GFMD Chairs. Their testimonials reveal the respective motivation of the rotating Chairs in leading the GFMD, their thematic areas of focus, the challenges they faced, and the decisions and choices they made in steering the Forum. The first volume provides an inside view on how the GFMD has evolved over the years, the role it has played and the concrete contributions that the Forum has made in the international migration and development landscape. Conversely, it offers candid accounts by the Chairs on some of the gaps and shortcomings during their time.

The second volume focuses on the of the Forum’s continued relevance, vision and energy in the era of implementation of global commitments. The three GFMD mechanisms – for civil society, business, and mayors / local authorities – have shared their perspectives and aspirations of what the GFMD should look like, while remaining state-led, and their future role in it going forward. Noteworthy is the fact that many of the recommendations of the mechanisms coincide with those of the Ten-Year Review conducted in 2018.

To highlight the achievements and key outcomes of the GFMD, the Publication also includes a compilation of the GFMD Roundtable topics and emerging themes, as well as innovations and impacts on other related international processes from 2007 to 2019.

The official launch of the publication was led by a panel, moderated by Mr. John Bingham and comprised of Ambassador Santiago Chávez, Chair of the 2019 GFMD; Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, Chair of the 2011 Swiss GFMD; Mrs. Nezha el Ouafi, Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2017/18; Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, Ambassador of the European Union to Ecuador; and Mr. Oleg Chirita, Head of Programme of Global Initiatives, ICMPD. Hard copies of the Publication were also distributed to the participants of the Summit.

The Knowledge Hub for Migration and Sustainable Development

Strengthening knowledge on migration as a source of sustainable development

The Chair engineered the creation of the Knowledge Hub for Migration and Sustainable Development in collaboration with UNITAR. The Knowledge Hub, co-sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was developed to enrich migration and development related decision-making and extend assistance to national-level activities in combatting global challenges.



Quote, Mr. Alex Mejía, Director for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR, *'Knowledge constitutes a cornerstone for better understating the critical role that migration plays for sustainable development.'*

The Hub provides support through capacity building by offering policymakers and practitioners different learning formats ranging from workshops and seminars to online courses. It will also conjoin relevant learning materials from various UN agencies, making visible existing options for face-to-face, online and blended courses, workshops, seminars, and upcoming events around the world, thus offering comprehensive and convenient access to current and new references on migration and development. Serving as an 'entry window' to existing UN resources, the Hub complements the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) – while the PfP focuses on good practices, the Hub hosts elements useful for learning, e.g. glossaries, information on how mechanisms work, educative events, explanations regarding the Global compacts, and perspectives on migration and sustainable development. The Hub was introduced at the launch by Mr. Alex Mejía, Director for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR, who described the capacity building available through the Hub as an indispensable policy-making tool. The Hub builds on the objective of incentivizing innovation through national policy making, helping states and other stakeholders to tailor traditional public policies to the challenges of the new century, promoting long term strategies and collective efforts towards more secure and regular migration. Mr. Mejía also noted the opportunity the Hub provides to share information and connect knowledge on new related initiatives requiring major attention of the international community, like climate change.





The GFMD Marketplace

Since 2007, the GFMD has strived to serve as a platform for informal exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in managing international migration, by addressing the potential negative impacts of migration, while unlocking its potentials for sustainable development. In 2010, the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) was established as a mechanism for fostering the exchange of practices, policies and lessons learned between and among Member States. To date, the PfP houses more than 1,300 migration and development initiatives. The annual Summits have also since provided a dedicated space through the PfP session to showcase state-of-the-art M&D initiatives.

As the 2019 GFMD publication *“Engine – Exchange and Action: The GFMD and the Pivot to Practice”* put it, the GFMD’s emphasis going forward should be on how to translate policies into feasible practices that make migration work for all. In this spirit, the Ecuadorian Chair provided the means to operationalize the GFMD Marketplace in Quito, with the objective of serving as a “matchmaking mechanism” between those facing specific policy and practice issues and those providing targeted solutions. The Marketplace was another avenue for the GFMD to play a bridging role between different actors and generate multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The Chair launched a call for proposals in October 2019 which drew a variety of applications from public and private stakeholders. Ten project and policy solutions were selected based on their content and relevance to the Chair’s agenda and the achievement of the SDGs; how well they showcased multi-stakeholder partnerships; whether they included migrants’ perspectives; and the quality of their communication and marketing support. Marketplace booths or stands were provided by the Chair free of charge to the proponent stakeholders, which comprised of governments, civil society, local authorities, UN-based organizations and think tanks.

The Marketplace was open throughout the Summit to all Summit participants in order to maximize the peer-learning and cooperation components of the Marketplace. Especially interactive aspects of the stalls attracted visitors to learn more about projects and initiatives.



UNITAR	Strengthening Knowledge for Migration and Sustainable Development
IOM, UNCTAD, UNHCR, UNITAR	Fostering Entrepreneurship for Migrants & Refugees and Empowering Diaspora Youth: Tools, initiatives and narratives for a brighter future
UN Women	Policies and Practices: A Guide for Gender-Responsive Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration
ODI, IOM	Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
UCLG, MMC, IOM	Together we can make a difference: Mayors Mechanism's Call to Action. Invitation to cities and stakeholders to sign pledges and commit to concrete actions for the implementation of the GCM and GCR
ILO	In search of decent work: tools and initiatives on labour migration
IDB	Digital Innovation in Migrant Registration Campaigns: Toward a Regional Approach to Migration Management in Latin America and the Caribbean
ICMC	Civil society's contribution to transforming global migration governance
GIZ Ecuador	Migration and Diaspora Programme –Empowering Key Stakeholders for Sustainable Development
GAMD	Global Academy on Migration and Development: Implementing Migration Policies to Action

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

The six GFMD Government-led Roundtables (RT) offered an opportunity for multi-stakeholder participants to share their perspectives on the RT focused issues, ideas of specific policy options or programs and on how to facilitate the formation of partnerships between and among concerned actors. Steered by 13 RT Co-Chairing Governments and some expert moderators, the interactive and output-oriented discussions were structured around the three substantive priorities of the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship:

1. Coordinated responses to mixed movements: Partnerships and collective Action to protect rights
2. Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility, and resources do governments have?
3. Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies



Roundtable sessions 1.1 & 1.2 Outcomes

Coordinated responses to mixed movements: Partnerships and collective Action to protect rights

Roundtable Session 1.1: Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety

Quote: “States should be ahead of the game and should be creative in providing regular pathways” – Ms. Carolina Gottardo, Women in Migration Network

The discussion highlighted the need for better protection of peoples displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change and a common understanding of how to reduce their vulnerabilities. A presentation by the Platform on Disaster Displacement provided a backdrop to the discussion, with examples of effective humanitarian practices used by States in disaster and climate change context. Among the gaps identified during RT session 1.1 were the issues of family separation, shortage of access to economic and social rights, migrants facing vulnerable situations in transit and at destination, and those who are at greater risk because of their identity or personal circumstances.



Challenges / Gaps

- Immediate attention to migrants' basic needs and the effects of climate change.
- Existing gaps between actual services and the requirements of people seeking international protection and migration processes.
- Need to focus immediate attention on providing for the basic needs of vulnerable migrations
- Limited regular migration channels being opened up by governments
- Need to be more sensitive to the human conditions of peoples caught in different mixed movements.
- Many people on the move do not fully qualify for refugee status; thus, exposed to greater vulnerabilities and risks.
- Regular pathways may exist, but there are barriers that prevent migrants from using them.

Opportunities

- Encourage governments' understanding of the determinants of migrant vulnerabilities.
- Provide practical, flexible and multifaceted solutions
- Traditional pathways, such as labor programmes, can provide better care and services and greater opportunities to boost the economy
- Solutions towards regular pathways must be creative and flexible, while upholding human rights principles
- Greater collaboration between governments and the private sector
- Given the significant labour shortages in rural communities, businesses need governments to put in place pathways that are accessible to talents, straightforward, effective and swift.

Practices

- Consular capacity building through E-Learning
- IOM's Family Assistance Programme
- Canadian Orientation Abroad is an overseas orientation initiative funded by Canada and implemented by IOM to provide visa services and ensure legal pathways.
- Recruitment by Glen Haven Manor of candidates who have been displaced due to crisis, thus contributing their critical skills to Canada's healthcare.

Roundtable Session 1.2: Facilitating social and economic inclusion

Quote: ‘The social and economic inclusion of migrants is key to the development of healthy, peaceful and prosperous societies and to maintain social cohesion.’ - Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration

Roundtable session 1.2 concluded that well integrated migrants often improve and contribute to their receiving and sending countries. Participants made a strong call for social and economic inclusion to unlock the potential to leverage migration for sustainable development, while stressing the crucial role of governments and other key stakeholders in this regard.

Interesting and creative solutions were heard during the session, including:

- Better access to education and health services can lead to better inclusion, employment, jobs and livelihood.
- Better inclusion can foster the development of skills and qualifications.
- Better inclusion leads to protection of human rights, which makes it possible for migrants to become contributors in host societies.
- Early interventions to improve inclusion of migrants save economic and productivity costs, and reduce social pressure and xenophobia in receiving societies.



Challenges / Gaps

- Social and economic inclusion cannot happen spontaneously; it has to be made consciously and collectively, with the active intervention of states and other key stakeholders.
- Regularization of migrants can be a lengthy process. If they cannot be included, they are more likely to end up working in the informal sector and therefore cannot be protected.
- Formal and informal barriers often prevent access to services (e.g. access dependent on migration status; lack of information; high costs; administrative hurdles; prejudices against women...)
- Migrants are often confronted to suspicion, discrimination and xenophobia due to negative narrative.
- Loss of identity papers and diplomas during forced displacement.

Opportunities

- Other stakeholders (local governments, civil society, business, academia, media) can play a role, e.g.:
 - Media has to play a responsible role in building positive migration narratives.
 - Academia can help through research and evidence-based recommendations.
 - Business sector can relieve the burden of governments by suggesting innovative ways on how to integrate migrants; they can weigh in strongly through targeted investments, more job opportunities and skills training.
- Inclusion starts with small and practical steps: access to education and health can lead to better inclusion, employment and livelihood.
- In turn, better inclusion leads to the protection of human rights, thus making it possible for migrants to become contributors in host societies.
- Language skills and cultural skills, recognition of qualifications are key focus areas.
- Vulnerable groups – e.g. women can be protected through dedicated programs.

Practices

- Thailand's Decent Work Country Programme and a National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights
- Norway's new Integration Act acknowledges that integration does not stop at integration centres, and that language is a key not only in getting a job but also in everyday life.
- IOM uses data analytical models and A.I. to do predictive analysis to foster better understanding of underlying root causes of lack of inclusion.
- The IOM Stability Index Dashboard measures perceptions of security, expectations to stay in the same place; it generates maps that provide a view of impact of stabilization initiatives and inform which locations may be ready for different types of interventions.
- IOM and UNDP's joint comprehensive framework for mainstreaming migration into national development strategies
- Jamaica's national policy on International Migration and Development
- UNDP is working in mixed migration context to capacitate municipalities to foster access to services.
- Mi casa fuera de casa is a project providing information to LGBTI migrants in Ecuador to promote their inclusion and access to services.

Roundtable Sessions 2.1 & 2.2 Outcomes

Migration narratives and communication: What role, responsibility, and resources do governments have?

Roundtable Session 2.1: Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants

The discussion in Roundtable session 2.1 explored ways for states and other actors to effectively encourage a more balanced narrative on migration, in an environment marked by misconceptions and fake news. Building from the communications guide developed during the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship, this RT session highlighted three key concepts:

- The need for balanced reporting;
- The importance of partnerships in constructing and conveying positive messages; and
- The advantages of storytelling.



Challenges / Gaps

- Countering misconceptions on migration needs to take into account addressing legitimate public concerns on migration challenges.
- There is no one story or objective truth. Migration does not hold benefits at all times for all people.
- The benefits of migration are often communicated to peoples in ways they cannot relate to.
- Overly positive messages and myth busting can also be counterproductive.
- While governments have been focused on technical and logistical elements, the symbolic aspect of integration has been neglected for a long time. More resources are required into developing the narrative.
- Migrants should be treated as individuals, and not be reduced to only numbers; thus the importance of supporting communications with effective inclusion efforts;
- A balance should be found between reporting both on migration flows and integration and countering misinformation, while also being sensitive to the concerns of people that cause misinformation.

Opportunities

- A new balanced narrative on migration should:
 - Involve all governance actors;
 - Focus on the middle and on common elements, rather than the divisive ones;
 - Consider the whole debate's spectrum; and
 - Bridge the scrutiny of evidence with the power of emotions.
- Mastering the timing of communication campaign and strategies is essential.
- Incorporate partnerships by including many stakeholders' views: business, cities, youth, diaspora communities
- Private sector has a role via the recruitment of migrants, and engaging in public campaigns to explain how migration makes economic sense and brings competitive advantage.

Practices

- Sin Palabras is a multicultural artists' collective gathering since 2013, dedicated to giving theater and art workshops of introspection and self-discovery to vulnerable communities in different countries; thus raising public awareness on migration and showing the human perspective behind every migratory experience
- The Canadian Government's "Immigration Matters" dispels common myths about immigrants and refugees, and promotes positive engagement between Canadians and new migrants, by relying on compelling personal stories to demonstrate the benefit of migration to local societies.
- The Migration Media Award recognizes the journalistic excellence on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- The Intercultural Cities Programme (ICC) supports cities in reviewing their policies through an intercultural lens.

Roundtable Session 2.2: Communicating effectively with migrants

Quote: *'Communication needs to be viewed as something that is interactive, not static so that there is a constant process of understanding to the point that migrants become communicators to their peers.'* William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia

In Roundtable session 2.2, government and non-state participants shared good practices and lessons learned on how to communicate effectively with migrants, emphasizing the need for inclusive and interactive strategies. Many speakers on the panel and in the audience picked up the civil society theme of 'nothing about us, without us', which advocates that effective communication campaigns need to involve the input and feedback of migrants themselves.

Identifying trusted messengers is essential. Migrants themselves, as well as other actors (e.g. community outreach workers, religious leaders) should be empowered and be considered as part of the solution and the design of messages.

The session also highlighted that communication must be two-way, not only allowing governments communicating with migrants but also giving the opportunity for migrants to be in contact with the governments.



Challenges / Gaps

- Finding the right information: many migrant workers are not fully aware of where to go for information when they need it. Additionally, accessing the right information is required at all stages of the migration process.
- Communication is not one-size fits-all. New ways of looking at how to communicate with migrants are needed.
- Different generations will have different preferences regarding ways of communication.
- How to communicate to those in hard to reach places, especially in times of distress and crisis.
- Private sector needs clear policies from governments.
- Communication needs to be viewed as something that is interactive, not static so that there is a constant process of understanding.

Opportunities

- Key actions for successful communication programmes/ activities include:
 - Investing in time and resources to identify the nuances of migration, in order to understand the concerns of the target audience;
 - Identifying the right channels of communication, in order to match the message to the audience;
 - Identifying the right messengers;
 - Working closely with other stakeholders, in particular civil society organizations.
- Understanding the changing demographics and collecting accurate data around migration flows can help clarify the cultural nuances of target audiences.
- Migrants can become communicators for their peers.
- Private sector has an important role in training people who are migrating and social inclusion programs should be provided by companies.
- Working with the media to change the language and the narrative and create a linguistic code so that the message is disseminated efficiently.

Practices

- Presented by UNAOC, the IDNYC free identification card for New York City residents provides a sense of identify and existence to undocumented people in New York City.
- The UK Safety, Support and Solutions Phase II (SSSII) aims to make migration safer and less risky along the migration routes. As part of SSSII, the following activities have been implemented, together with IOM, the Red Cross:
 - Delivering Information campaigns in Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Algeria and Libya, to raise awareness on irregular and safe migration:
 - Mapping out existing literature on information campaigns in the field of migration, in order to provide guidelines for effective, evidence-based design and implementation of campaigns.
 - Awareness raising campaigns in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso on risks, rights and opportunities for migrants linked to departure, transit and return
- The Not for Sale Campaign aims at deterring potential victims of trafficking, and informing anti-slavery communication campaigns and promoting positive message of economic opportunities in Nigeria.
- Portugal has created the Telephone Translation Service (STT), a free line that offers 67 languages for migrants.
- Hungary is partnering with countries to run migrant resource centers, with offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Iran.

Roundtable Sessions 3.1 & 3.2 Outcomes

Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies

Roundtable Session 3.1: Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships

Quote: “Our success as central governments and implementing policies depends on cities’ capacity to be successful in integration.” Ambassador Pietro Mona, Ambassador for development, forced displacement and migration, Switzerland

Applying a very participatory approach, this session was organized in three break-out thematic clusters, with a central role given to local authorities. The RT session 3.1 participants recognized the increasing role of cities and underlined the fact that migration is a local reality. The session highlighted the key challenges for cities and local authorities at the frontline of migration challenges:

1. The coordination between central and local authorities (in particular, arrival cities) needs to be strengthened.
2. There is a need to develop and strengthen existing partnerships between arrival cities and other stakeholders (e.g. civil society and relevant international organizations).
3. Arrival cities should explore and implement innovative solutions to address the needs of migrants.

In order to bridge the gaps between national policies and practical assistance at the local level, the following elements were also put forward:

1. Maintain dialogue and regular exchange between central authorities and local authorities over migration issues.
2. The national and local levels of government must cultivate a shared vision/ understanding of migration and development and adopt coherent and consistent approaches.
3. Policy coherence is essential for better implementation at the local level.
4. Structures must be established to facilitate regular interface between the national and local levels.



Challenges / Gaps

- How to find innovative solutions and turn challenges into opportunities
- Cities need more support from national government and other stakeholders to strengthen their capacities.
- National budgetary planning must include consultation on resource requirements at the local level.
- Lack of coordination, especially when migrants are concentrated in some local areas only; ensure alignment of policies across the board.
- Support is required not only for cities of arrival, but also for cities of transit and sending.
- Integration must take into account social cohesion and togetherness.

Opportunities

- The first cluster “How to better foster both horizontal and vertical coherence, including by strengthening the agency of cities” recognized the need for pragmatic approach, through a bottom-up process to include cities in national dialogue.
- The second cluster - The role of multi-stakeholder partnerships at local level – highlighted that cities cannot address the needs of migrants alone. Cities are investing a lot in local projects and can also provide support. Thus they should also be recognized as donors and partners in development.
- Additionally, local and regional authorities should partner with private sector to ensure skills matching and labor integration.
- Finally, the third cluster - What innovative solutions have cities developed to address some of the multi-stakeholders partners to be engaged at the local level – stressed that innovation and flexibility are required in managing migration at local level. Need to explore new funding models, and all actors in GFMD need to find a way to find and allocate funding to leverage innovation, as well as to ensure good cooperation with businesses.
- Cities must be an integral part of the dialogue. GFMD is a key platform to ensure cities’ inclusion and facilitate process of cooperation and exchange.

Practices

- The city of Amman, Jordan created centres for migrants and locals in the same space as the Red Cross.
- The city of Mannheim created an office for the recognition of qualifications of migrants;
- Sao Paulo is the first city that established a Municipal Council of Migrants, has pledged its commitment to the Global Compacts.
- Catalonia has an intercultural pact stipulating that all CSOs, businesses and municipalities are invited to join in order to support social cohesion.



Roundtable Session 3.2: Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

Quote: *'Migrants contribute to local development, not only at origin but also at destination, by filling labour shortages, bringing skills and countering depopulation in rural areas.'* Ms. Cristina Rapone, Migration and Employment Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization

For the first time in the GFMD history, RT session 3.2 provided an opportunity to present and reflect on the linkages between migration and rural development and transformation. Participants discussed ways to harness migration for rural development, while mitigating its negative effects.

Five action areas came out from the discussions:

1. Strengthen policy coherence and multi-sectoral dialogue on sectoral policies.
2. Address the drivers of migration and leverage agri-food systems.
3. Enhance resilience to climate change.
4. Maximize the contributions of migrants to agriculture and development.
5. Mobilize the human and financial resources of diasporas.

Challenges / Gaps

- In rural areas of destination and transit, large numbers of migrants, refugees and IDPs can create political, economic and environmental challenges for host communities, such as:
 - population changes
 - environmental degradation
 - strains in basic social services
 - labor and housing markets, and
 - governance systems
- Scarcity of data around rural migration
- Rural areas risk losing most vital and dynamic share of their workforce. Private sector can face challenges as skilled workers leave for urban opportunities.
- People staying behind may experience increases in their workload (e.g., increasing number of women working in agriculture, child labor risks).

Opportunities

- Most migrants come from rural areas; as such they contribute both to countries of origin and destination
- Strengthen policy coherence and multi-sectoral dialogue between migration and sectoral policies and programmes, by:
 - mainstreaming migration into agriculture and rural development,
 - overcoming data and statistics,
 - building the capacity of rural stakeholders
- Address the adverse drivers of migration and create alternatives in rural areas and leverage food systems;
- Foster decent work opportunities;
- Invest in agri-food systems
- Increase opportunities in non-farm economies
- Enhance resilience to climate variability and change;
- Harness migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change
- Maximize the contribution of migrants to agriculture and development in destination areas:
 - Promote migration rights-based approach to temporary and seasonal migration
- Mobilize human and financial resources of migrants and diaspora:
 - reduce the costs of sending remittances
 - mobilize diaspora skills, knowledge and investments

Practices

- The Republic of Moldova's Mobility partnerships with the EU aims to attract remittances and migrants' investment in rural areas;
- The Village Law in Indonesia aims to push development in the villages and empower the villagers in conducting business and economic activities, thus encouraging people to stay.
- Le Maroc Vert programme aims to make the Moroccan agricultural sector a real lever of socio-economic development, through the acceleration of growth, the reduction of poverty and the integration of agriculture into national and international markets.
- Canada and Australia use flexible immigration pathways to help move certain migrants, including refugees to less urban regions, thus offering choices and durable solutions to those in displacement.
- The 3x1 Remittance Programme supports the initiatives of Mexicans living abroad and gives them the opportunity to direct the money sent by hometown associations abroad to productive uses. The federal, state and municipal governments contribute to the program multiplying by three the contributions sent by migrants abroad.

SPECIAL SESSION ON THE PLATFORM FOR PARTNERSHIPS

About: The GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) was established in 2010 as a mechanism to foster the exchange of practices, policies and lessons learned between and within Member States, working on their own or in concert with other migration and development stakeholders.

Organized each year during the Summit Meeting, the special session on the PfP provides governments and non-state partners (international organizations, civil society and the private sector) a dedicated space for showcasing state-of-the-art initiatives on migration and development and for forging partnerships. Comprised of presentations with interactive Q&A, the PfP session also offers a space for policymakers to adopt and foster new programs and partnerships, and draw from the policy recommendations of the different actors working in the field of migration and development.

The special session of the PfP in Quito was chaired by H.E. Mr. Luis Gallegos, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the UN in New York, and H.E. Abdulla Al Nuaimi, Assistant Undersecretary, International Relations and Communications, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, with the assistance of professional dialogue facilitators from the firm 'Dialogue Associates'.



The two-hour session featured six innovative presentations, each led by a team of presenters - consisting of governments and expert agencies – who showcased innovative policy solutions to fostering sustainable development, engaging diaspora communities and enabling vulnerable migrants to access humanitarian assistance (see snapshots in boxes below). Delivered in the format of “elevator pitches” the brief presentations were intended to spark interest in the featured project or policy solution and to highlight one or two main takeaways or insights that the audience should remember from the presentation. With the aid of expert facilitators, the interactive session provided participants the opportunity to ask questions and also to have an impromptu exchange of ideas and initial impressions between themselves.

The added value of the annual PfP session is it facilitates the showcasing of innovative migration programs being undertaken by governments, international organizations and non-state stakeholders to improve policy-making and programming in migration and development field. The projects presented at the Quito Summit PfP session were added to the increasing list of such policy tools and solutions that have been introduced in the GFMD space since 2010. The UAE Chair has committed to ensuring the continuation of the PfP as a platform for the design and implementation of partnerships in 2020, and for an improved PfP special session – benefitting from multi-stakeholder inputs -- at the Thirteenth GFMD Summit in Dubai.

The Platform for Partnerships also has an online mechanism which includes the Migration and Development Policy and Practice Database, which now stands as the largest global repository of migration and development-related policies and programs. It is constantly expanding and populated by submissions of Member States, GFMD Observers and GFMD mechanisms to enrich the GFMD’s thematic agenda under each Chairmanship.

Tools to Advance Sustainable Development Outcomes

Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, IOM, and UNDP

Policy challenge: The need for policy coherence and cooperation across all development sectors and levels of governance, and integrating migration into planning frameworks connected with budgeting.

Solution or approach: Tools developed by IOM and UNDP to support the SDG implementation with a view to fostering sustainable development outcomes. Four exemplary programs: 1. Migration Governance Indicators, 2. Guidance for UNCTs and governments on mainstreaming migration into MAPs and UNSDCF, 3. Joint IOM UNDP Programme “Making Migration work for Sustainable Development”, and 4. “Migration and the 2030 Agenda: Guide for practitioners”.

EU Diaspora Facility

France and ICMPD/EU

Policy challenge: The dialogue and collaboration between diaspora organizations, countries of origin, the EU and its Member States has been fragmented.

Solution or approach: The EU Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) is an EU-funded project implemented by ICMPD that aims to become a trusted partner in helping governments of origin and diaspora organizations to engage and collaborate more effectively with each other and with the EU in development efforts. Concrete examples: mapping diaspora engagement, capacity building, mobilizing dialogue expertise, and exchanging ideas.

KNOMAD 1.2

European Commission, World Bank, and KNOMAD

Policy challenge: Changing and challenging landscape on migration makes undertaking pilot projects and stronger commitments more demanding.

Solution or approach: KNOMAD serves as a brains trust for the global migration community. Concrete examples: recruitment cost indicators (with ILO), support of local governments, methodology to assess reintegration outcomes of returnees and integration of migrants, reduction of remittance costs, and safe and regular labor mobility programs.

Monitoring progress on migrants' socioeconomic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean

Colombia, OECD, and UNDP

Policy challenge: Migrants' socioeconomic integration is a growing challenge for Latin America and Caribbean countries.

Solution or approach: National indicator systems: indicators of integration help not only monitor outcomes, but also focus policy intervention (Settling In). OECD/UNDP initiative would also develop extensive information on the demographic characteristics of immigrants and their children.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Service Points: Reducing Vulnerability and Enhancing Resilience of Migrants

Colombia, IFRC, and Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center

Policy challenge: Access to humanitarian assistance is not readily available to all migrants.

Solution or approach: Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Service Points are designed to save lives and reduce suffering along migratory trails. Assistance may include emergency first aid and maternal healthcare, shelter, food, psychosocial support, Restoring Family Links, information about rights and/or referrals to specialized services.

Migration and Development Policy Reviews (MDPRs)

Italy and OECD Development Centre

Policy challenge: Development is being challenged like never before due to disrupting technologies, social, demographic, and environmental challenges.

Solution or approach: The OECD Development Centre proposes a diagnostic tool for building comprehensive migration and development policy for both developing economies and development cooperation partners. For example, the MDPRs provide an overall assessment of the potential of migration and development policy in countries by either evaluating existing strategies or providing support to establish new ones.

SPECIAL SESSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE FORUM

The special session on the Future of the Forum, open only to the heads of delegations of participating governments and Observers, provided an opportunity to reflect on the GFMD's recent achievements and future prospects.

The GFMD 2019 Chair, Ambassador Santiago Chavez, highlighted the priorities and achievements of Ecuador's Chairmanship, particularly its efforts to provide a bridge to the two Global Compacts, to decentralize the GFMD by organizing regional thematic workshops, and to give the academia and youth a voice in the GFMD debates. In addition, a successful follow up of the GFMD Ten Year Review recommendations from 2018 was reported by the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration Co-chairs Germany (represented by Ms. Irene Biontino) and the United Arab Emirates (represented by Mr. Alex Zalami). Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, GFMD Chair 2011 and Co-Chair of the 2018 GFMD Ten-Year Review exercise commended the Ecuadorian Chair and the Working Group for the comprehensive follow up, and urged Member States to invest more substantially, politically, and financially to sustain the GFMD in the future.



The Incoming GFMD 2020 UAE Chair, represented by H.E. Abdulla Al Nuaimi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Communication & International Relations of the UAE, expressed optimism in the future of the GFMD. He highlighted the vibrant and efficient way of working in the GFMD, and the unique space it provides for governments to work cooperatively, to frankly discuss challenges, to give new insights, and to interact with a wide variety of stakeholders. He also outlined the UAE's plans to take the GFMD forward in 2020.

The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism (represented by Mr. Stephane Jaquemet), the Business Mechanism (represented by Ms. Ronnie Goldberg), and the Mayors Mechanism (represented by Ms. Emilia Saiz) respectively affirmed their support for the GFMD and shared their vision for its future. Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of IOM, reiterated the importance of working closely together with the GFMD in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

Some 15 heads of participating countries and organizations took the floor to share their future perspectives on the GFMD. The following were key messages from the speakers and interveners:

• **A reaffirmation of support for the GFMD – and the need to invest in its future**

The GFMD offers the largest space for frank, informal, voluntary and non-binding discussion of issues and the sharing of concrete solutions. The GFMD 'is not a luxury; it is needed more than ever.' But **better support** – financially, politically and substantially – is needed for the GFMD to continue to serve its important role.

The GFMD also provides an inclusive space for engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, business, and mayors / local authorities. In this regard, Ecuador was praised for its effort to integrate all GFMD Mechanisms in the Quito GFMD Summit. More opportunities for interaction and engagement between states and non-state actors were encouraged.

“The GFMD is the most important influencer in global migration affairs – and it must stay this way.”

“The GFMD has been important to both governments and the business community because it has been the sole global platform for intergovernmental dialogue on migration issues...”

– Ronnie Goldberg, Senior Counsel, United States Council of International Business & Chair of IOE Policy Working Group on Migration

“If you want a GFMD in the future you need to invest more – substantially, politically and financially”

– Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, GFMD Chair 2011 and Co-Chair of the 2018 GFMD Ten-Year Review

• The GFMD in the era of implementation of global commitments

The GFMD has an even more important role after the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in 2018. The GCM offers a comprehensive framework for the new global governance of migration; nonetheless, the GFMD retains its added value as a unique space for regular, practice-oriented discussion, and for dialogue on controversial issues, involving also those countries that did not support the GCM.

In the same vein, while delivering on the mandate given to the GFMD in the GCM to provide a space for states and other stakeholders to share and discuss policies and practices on the implementation of the GCM, stakeholders appreciated the value of the GFMD beyond this role. GFMD discussions were seen to be broader and more inclusive than the scope of the GCM.

“The formulation of the GCM would not have been possible without the GFMD, which paved the way”

– Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, IOM

• From Quito to Dubai

As one state noted, ***the growth of the GFMD is ‘not about revolution, but about evolution’***. Each Chairmanship brings new initiatives that enhance the GFMD and broaden its reach. Suggestions made for the future include building on the existing strengths of the Forum; moving towards a greater focus on concrete action; increasing opportunities for frank, informal, and voluntary dialogue with a variety of stakeholders; providing a space for improving the narratives on migration; and a continuing the focus on creating partnerships both in policy design and practice. To strengthen the GFMD’s ***whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches***, a particular suggestion was for Ministries of Labor to be included in future Summit meetings.

The ***UAE’s vision for 2020***, with a keen focus on labor migration, was widely welcomed. There was support for the regional approach of the 2020 Chairmanship as a way of recognizing that migration challenges differ from region to region; but with the caveat that this approach should not create a siloed dialogue. The GFMD 2020 Chair was also commended for its participatory approach in developing its vision paper by involving all GFMD mechanisms, the GFMD Troika and other key partners.

“The UAE believes the GFMD is needed more than ever”.

– H.E. Abdulla Al Nuaimi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Communication & International Relations of the UAE

PARALLEL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Civil Society Day 2019

“Civil society’s contribution to transforming global migration governance: Strengthening implementation and enriching partnerships for migrants and communities.”

Graphic recording summarizing some of the main points raised during the Civil Society Day.

Civil society’s participation in the 2019 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) started with the official opening of the Summit, with civil society co-Chairs Stella Opoku-Owusu and José Dolores Suazo Mejía (Don Lolo) imploring participants to be visionary leaders, to hold each other accountable, all the while putting migrants at the heart of the discussions. While Ms. Opoku-Owusu called civil society to strengthen its partnerships with other stakeholders towards the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), Don Lolo appealed for a more humanized interaction – for us to cast a more attentive, caring eye towards each other, and especially the most vulnerable among us. To this end, he affirmed civil society’s commitment to engaging with governments, local authorities and businesses, to examine how we can work together to improve the reality of migrants’ lives.

The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism

Since the beginning of the GFMD, the Civil Society Mechanism has offered a way to enhance coherence in policy making and institution building, incorporating the important contributions of civil society into GFMD discussions.

A GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office was established under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), which coordinates the Civil Society Mechanism together with a representative Steering Committee of civil society leaders and networks.





Participants then broke out into small table discussions within their allocated theme to allow for a deeper reflection of these issues from the perspective of implementation and partnerships. The morning session was dedicated to *learning from and enriching partnerships* – identifying good practices and challenges, with the focus of the afternoon session turning to *advocacy through partnership* – developing joint advocacy messages based on the collective experience discussed in the morning session. Discussions were held in small roundtables based on language, with the methodology of each theme differing as prescribed by the thematic leads – a group of thematic experts responsible for guiding the content of each of the break-out sessions.

Following a full day of discussions, participants returned to the plenary to share some of the highlights from their deliberations. Below is a snapshot of some of the key messages that we shared; a more detailed overview of the discussions, including lessons learned, can be found in the Civil Society Day report.

SANTIAGO CHAVEZ
EMBADOR

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPACION de la SOCIEDAD CIVIL

la migración

PROBLEMA

OPORTUNIDAD

COMMUNICATION

TOLERANCE

MARTA VERANI

CIVIL SOCIETY

YOUTH FORUM

EDUCATION

Global MIGRATION & D

STELLA OPOKU

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERSHIP

collective

ONE

HELENA OLLA

1 ACCESS to SERVICES

DOCUMENTOS

BASE DE DATOS de MIGRANTES

AMENAZA al CONTROL MIGRATORIO

WILL I BE KICKED OUT?

ESQUELA PARA MIS HIJOS?

DO I CALL THE POLICE?

DO I GO TO THE DOCTOR?

DO I REGRET ABUSE?

DOMESTIC WORK

RECOGNITION of SKILLS of MIGRANTS

BEAM FOCUS

2 MIXED MIGRATION

RESEARCH

DATA

ANALYSIS

WE WANT to WORK WITH YOU

so achieve MORE



Access to services:

- The focus should be on migrants' access to rights as opposed to 'access to services', with an emphasis on respecting the dignity and humanity of all migrants regardless of their migration status.
- A rights-based approach to access to services (ie. regardless of migration status) benefits the whole community, allowing for the better management of resources in contexts with weaker protection frameworks.
- It is crucial that States work in partnership with migrant communities and civil society to ensure these rights are guaranteed at each stage – from the development of policies and plans to implementation and evaluation.

Labor migration:

- Like in many of the other themes, the issue of migration status arose, with the importance of developing and implementing practices and tools to protect migrant workers, their families and communities, regardless of status.
- The perspectives of migrants, civil society organizations, labor unions and organizations of migrant workers are crucial to ensuring dignified labor migration policies and practices (that are not driven solely by private sector interests), as well as access to decent work and safe working conditions. In this regard, cooperation and partnerships (that are transparent, multi-stakeholder and inclusive regardless of status) need to be reinforced at the local and national level, across borders, as well as through tripartite dialogue.
- The ratification and adoption of international conventions, as well as their adoption and implementation at the national level is vital to the protection of migrant workers in relation to decent work, ensuring employees have contracts and access to social welfare, for example. Civil society would also encourage the establishment of a more efficient monitoring mechanism to monitor state implementation.

Mixed migration:

- The effect of contradictions between certain legal frameworks is exacerbated by the lack of complementarity between the two Global Compacts (Migration and Refugees), resulting in protection gaps for people in mixed migration flows.
- The immediate response of states to mixed migration must be the protection of people. States must be more flexible in the application of recognition of refugee status including measures such as prima facie.
- Governments and funders should create comprehensive programs to address all aspects of mixed migration, in line with humanitarian principles, mechanisms should be established to detect specific needs of people in vulnerable situations – regardless of status – and adequate responses, guaranteeing the use of multidisciplinary teams.

Climate-related migration and displacement:

- It is important to be cautious of the way that data is used and misused. Relying on raw or quantitative data alone takes the focus away from the root causes (i.e. climate change). While the relation between climate change and human mobility is complex, the focus should remain on climate change - focusing too much on migration and displacement numbers risks feeding into a narrative of “invasion”, where the focus shifts from climate change to migration itself.
- Policy makers should be guided by documented experiences on the ground, the experiences of affected communities, as well as those at-risk. A bottom-up approach is crucial.
- In order to develop and implement effective mitigation, coping and adaptation strategies, policy makers must not be blind-sighted by the outcome, but able to focus on the structural challenges.

Criminalization of migrants and those assisting them:

- It is simply unfathomable that people are being penalized for saving human lives. Shared human values must prevail, and the interference with humanitarian search and rescue missions at sea must stop immediately.
- The importance of narratives: the language of “illegal migrants”, for example, and policies that reinforce that narrative (such as mandatory immigration detention), not only exacerbates negative public opinion, but also serve as a foundation for discriminatory policies. The focus should rather be around access to regularization and enjoyment of rights.
- This issue shows the potential of local authorities to make a difference and encourage change from the bottom up. Despite trends of States avoiding their responsibilities by returning migrants to “safe third countries”, certain “sanctuary cities” have resisted federal laws, refusing to hand over immigrants targeted for deportation.

The message of putting “migrants at the heart of our deliberations” – as Stella Opoku-Owusu called for in during the opening ceremony of the GFMD - permeated all discussions, with the importance of including migrants in policy development/decisions a unanimous priority for civil society. The issue of participation was raised specifically in relation to children, youth, women and migrant/diaspora communities, with a team of cross-cutting rapporteurs participating in discussions to ensure that the specific perspectives of these groups were incorporated into deliberations in a meaningful way.



After some final reflections from the co-Chairs, Michele Klein Solomon (IOM) and Deputy Director Gundula Weitz (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) spoke to participants of their hopes for partnering with civil society in the context of the GCM implementation and moving towards the next GFMD; encouraging civil society to reach out to government and UN Country Teams at the national level and to make their objectives heard, and the agenda streamlined into national development plans.

In wrapping up, the co-Chairs pointed to the GCM as an overarching framework for collective action for migration that needs to be brought to life through respect for the universal principles of human rights. As Don Lolo called for in the closing ceremony of the Summit, the GFMD should be “the start of a process to make the Global Compact for Migration work”. Only by working together can its stakeholders be successful, and the lives of migrants and societies be improved.

GFMD Business Mechanism Activities

The Business Advisory Group on Migration, coordinated by the International Organization of Employers (IOE), designed a programme as part of the GFMD Summit dedicated to the impact of migration policies on businesses, with a view to strengthening the dialogue between businesses and governments on business priorities linked to skills mobility and skills development.

For the fourth consecutive occasion, IOE through the Business Advisory Group on Migration, led the business delegation to the GFMD. More than sixty representatives of companies and employers' organizations participated confirming their engagement in multilateral discussions on migration.



The GFMD Business Mechanism

The private sector has long been recognized as a vital partner of the GFMD in harnessing the developmental potentials of migration and in addressing its attendant challenges, leading to the establishment of the GFMD Business Mechanism in 2012. The Business Advisory Group on Migration, coordinated by the International Organization of Employers (IOE), organizes the work of the GFMD Business Mechanism, with a focus on the need for international skills mobility, fair recruitment and decent work, skills matching and certification recognition, the role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development.

GFMD Business Meeting and launch of two regional publications

On 22 January, coordinated to take place during the lunch break of the government programme activities, the GFMD Business Mechanism held its fourth GFMD Business Meeting, as a space for the exploration of cross-cutting issues of common concern and interest for business and government policy-makers and practitioners. The business meeting was this year again appreciated by all stakeholders.

The interactive panel discussion on ***“the impact of migration policies on the ability for businesses to recruit or retain skills”*** attracted over 86 participants from the governments and business delegations. IOE Secretary-General, Roberto Suarez Santos, stressed the importance of public-private dialogue relating to skills mobility, skills matching and skills recognition/equivalence. He reiterated the call for a smart and transparent legal framework on migration. He recognized the GFMD business activities held in 2019 as strategic and forward looking: three regional/national workshops, two research studies for Africa and Latin America and the innovative launch of the Migration Challenge Competition.



Panelists were invited from employers' federations, businesses and governments to share their perspectives on skills mobility and what regulatory framework best accommodates the smooth movement of skilled labor. Experiences shared from employers in Ecuador, Morocco, Colombia, as well as from a global company, underscored the importance of public-private dialogue to promote predictable and intuitive systems for skills mobility. The government representative from Egypt supported the dialogue with the private sector and referred to Egypt's efforts in integrating skilled migrants in response to the needs of the private sector. The government representative from Belgium referred to the program on skills partnership that was rolled out in Morocco between the public and private sector to identify skills needs and skills matching. The results were encouraging and can be seen as a best practice to be potentially scaled up in other contexts. Panelists and participants in the audience endorsed the key role of employers in contributing to framing migration policies and recognized the importance of developing clear and coherent legal pathways that allow for the economic participation of migrants in the labor market, particularly in sectors facing skills shortages.

The seven recommendations from the business-led 2019 regional workshops were presented, along with two research papers conducted in Latin America and North Africa. The Business Advisory Group on Migration was congratulated for tabling the recommendations, as they represented a business footprint in the migration landscape and future collaboration and partnership going forward.

Recommendations from business-led 2019 regional workshops:

1. Stronger engagement with the private sector when crafting migration policies
 2. Enhanced regional cooperation
 3. Improved transparency and intra-governmental coordination
 4. Improved legal pathways for employment
 5. Better leverage of technology for enhanced migration management
 6. Facilitated skills mobility for employment
 7. Adoption and implementation of responsible recruitment policies and practices
-

To conclude, GFMD Chair Ambassador Chavez emphasized the importance of bringing the private sector perspective to the GFMD. The incoming Chair for the Thirteenth GFMD Chairmanship, Minister Nasser bin Thani Al Hamli, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation of the United Arab Emirates, called on the GFMD Business mechanism to continue its efforts to find solutions that are conducive to business in the governance of migration.

Four regional roundtables: Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East

Roundtables for Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America were also held throughout the day on 22 January. Each Roundtable was led in discussion by leading employers' organizations from the region, as well as attending global businesses. The Employers Federation of Ceylon, the Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc, the Federación Nacional de Cámaras de Industrias and the leading immigration law firm Fragomen played a key role in these discussions, which focused on the impact of local and regional migration policies on businesses in the regions. Employers were able to share best practices on what type of regulation or system proved to be successful. In terms of migrant workers integration, all four regions expressed their support for skills equivalence/recognition processes to facilitate access to skills. Businesses pledged to collaborate with technical and educational facilities on skills recognition/equivalence.

Participants took the opportunity to take stock of the two regional workshops held in 2019 in Buenos Aires and Tunisia and to discuss follow up actions, based on the published research papers. For 2020, plans include two research papers for Asia and the Middle East, and one comprehensive research exercise unifying the four regions, as well as two regional workshops in both regions. These papers will be presented at the Thirteenth GFMD Summit. Private sector particularly recognized the importance of evidence-based research in formulating migration policies.

The Business Advisory Group had invited governments to these regional roundtables, hoping to foster a focused and interactive discussion. However, very few governments have attended; which led the Business Mechanism to question the added value of this format.

Premier Tech and Innovation Programme

Start-up competition:

At the official GFMD opening ceremony on 21 January, the IOE Secretary-General Mr Roberto Suarez Santos launched the **very first tech and innovation program** at the GFMD Summit. In partnership with the Swiss start-up incubator Seedstars, the IOE launched this program in recognition of the importance of leveraging technology to find solutions in the governance of migration. Ten start-ups represented by young business entrepreneurs from Africa and South America attended the GFMD Summit as finalists for the Migration Challenge competition, which received over eighty applications. The business models focused on EdTech, Fintech, Human resources and on visa processes.



Mentoring Session – 21 January:

The start-ups benefitted from a mentoring session that focused on pitching, investments and networking. Ten mentors were dedicated to the ten start-ups, helping them in their development process of their pitches. This part of the program was key to the IOE, which strongly believes in empowering young entrepreneurs with tools to help them strive in their business endeavours.

Tech Garden:

The start-ups displayed their businesses throughout the Summit in the Tech Garden established in an open space at the Convention Centre. Start-ups undertook bilateral meetings and consultations with business representatives and government officials who expressed their interest in their tech products. Some of the start-ups revealed that they were able to generate business interest as well as pledges of possible investment/partnership through these meetings.

Pitching Session – 23 January:

A keynote address was presented by a lawyer of Fragomen (Canada) and a researcher of the Oxford University who gave a presentation on “Tech solutions to Immigration Problems”. The ten start-ups pitched for three minutes each and fielded questions from the jury. The jury was comprised of four members, including the Swiss Ambassador for Migration, and two experienced entrepreneurs from Ecuador and Seedstars. The winners were announced at the closing ceremony of the Common Space on 23 January with broad enthusiasm. The recipients were:

- Winner: Bag Innovation from Rwanda
- First runner up: M-Shule from Kenya
- Second runner up: INMI from Chile

This **first-ever event was a great success** and was positively welcomed by many government delegates, as it brought fresh energy to the GFMD Summit and provided concrete solutions to migration governance. The Business Mechanism hopes to potentially make a similar programme a regular part of the future GFMD Summits.



Sixth Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development

‘From Large Movements to the Global Compacts: Cities as First Responders’

The GFMD Mayors Mechanism

Established in 2018, the Mayors Mechanism – co-steered by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) and The International Organization for Migration (IOM) – aims at including local and regional authorities within the GFMD process, bringing their voices and expertise into state-led deliberations, and intensifying the dialogue between different levels of government and different stakeholder groups.

Established in 2013 at the UN General Assembly’s Second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD), the Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development (“Mayoral Forum”) provides an annual global gathering for municipal and regional leaders to exchange views and practices on migration, development and displacement.

Following the growing emphasis on the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of society approach to migration and development issues, the GFMD has recognized the value of involving local government authorities in GFMD discussions through **the establishment of a GFMD Mayors Mechanism in 2018**. First presented at the GFMD Preparatory Meetings in September 2018, the Mechanism was **launched officially** on 8 December 2018 in Marrakesh at the **Fifth Mayoral Forum Meeting**, held just after the close of the Marrakesh GFMD Summit.

The establishment of the Mayors Mechanism led to the first-ever integration of the Mayoral Forum into the GFMD in January 2020, Quito and to the formal inclusion of invited local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the government-led Roundtables and Common Space.



The 6th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development

On 22 January, over 80 mayors and officials from 56 cities and regions, 14 representatives from LRA networks and over 40 observers, such as delegates from central governments, civil society and UN Agencies gathered in Quito, Ecuador for the 6th Mayoral Forum on Migration and Development within the GFMD Programme. The theme of this year's Mayoral Forum was **'From Large Movements to the Global Compacts: Cities as First Responders'**.

The overarching theme spoke to the frontline role of local and regional authorities when it comes to issues of migration and displacement. Often, cities and municipalities are the main points of arrival for large movements and the first responders to migrants' and refugees' needs. Whilst the Syria crisis and the spike of arrivals in Europe drove the global response in 2015, today it is the Americas that struggle with large movements of people seeking safety and a better life in neighboring countries and across the continent. The Mayoral Forum therefore provided an opportunity for LRAs from the region and those experiencing similar challenges in other regions to exchange on practical solutions and lessons learned.



Discussions also focused on the implementation of the Global Compacts on Migration (GCM) and Refugees (GCR), and on the Marrakesh Mayors Declaration adopted in 2018. LRAs have been closely involved in the GCM and GCR processes, and have pressed to be included in the follow-up and review processes of the GCM and GCR, reiterating their willingness, ability and expertise to advance the Compacts' implementation in unison. The Mayoral Forum provided the opportunity for LRAs to share information on and take stock of their diplomacy efforts within such spaces to date, and to discuss how their role could be strengthened going forward by pursuing greater involvement in policy and review processes at the national, regional and global levels. Cities also joined a **Call to Local Action on Migration** to elevate existing work and accelerate new action on both Compacts, and committed to partner with governments and stakeholders to ensure that human-centered migration policies are effectively implemented

The Mayoral Forum in Quito combined high-level plenary sessions, addressing topics of common and strategic interest, with breakout sessions that facilitated a more in-depth exploration of specific topics in smaller groups, including through direct interaction with the inter-governmental deliberations of the GFMD. The three breakout sessions addressed the following topics:

- **Breakout session 1:** Working through partnerships to bolster the local migration response in the Latin American region.
- **Breakout session 2:** Building city capacities for local economic inclusion and migrant entrepreneurship.
- **Breakout session 3:** Migration governance in cities along migration routes: responses of local and regional authorities in Africa.

The Mayors Mechanism also worked with the organizers of the Youth Forum to ensure the inclusion of a youth delegate in each of the Mayoral Forum Panels and in the Closing Plenary of the Mayoral Forum.

The Mayoral Forum programme also tied in with specific themes and sessions of the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship, in particular:

- **Theme 1:** Joint responses to mixed migration flows: Partnerships and collective action to protect rights
- **Theme 3:** Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies, where roundtable 3.1 was dedicated specifically to 'supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships'.

As well as LRA participation in a number of the Roundtable panels, LRA representatives spoke in the Opening Ceremony of the GFMD Summit, in the Opening and Closing of the GFMD Common Space and in the Future of the Forum session.



Conclusions and key recommendations:

The outcomes of the Mayoral Forum included three resounding asks of LRAs to central governments, which were expressed throughout the Mayoral Forum discussions and in the GFMD Government-led Roundtables, namely:

1. **Access:** institutionalize LRA access and influence in the GFMD and other state-led processes.
2. **Policy Coherence:** create structures and processes to regularly and meaningfully consult LRAs on national migration policy and operations and to ensure the building of multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance with the voices of cities reflected in the full spectrum of migration policy.
3. **Partnerships:** test and invest in new partnership models whereby cities work directly with humanitarian and development actors and can access technical support and financing.

The discussions also highlighted the particular contributions that LRAs have in international deliberations, in particular:

- LRAs fill the gaps of international and national responses by putting protection and inclusive access to basic services for all first, regardless of status.
- LRAs and national governments may differ in approach, but they ultimately share common internationally agreed goals – from the Sustainable Development Goals, to the Global Compact for Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and others.
- There is no delivery of international goals, if LRAs do not deliver. LRAs call for more support from national governments to fulfil their mandates as the closest level of government to people.
- LRAs ask not to be viewed just as implementers of global goals but key partners in defining and reporting on those goals and call for more multilateral interaction among levels of governments and stakeholders, including in the GFMD level.
- LRAs input and participation will allow to effectively inform future policy decisions at national, regional and international level. Participants mentioned for example with regards to the set-up of the so-called ‘migration hotspots’ in Africa, which often generate tensions between host communities and migrants, and which would require consultation with LRAs to mitigate such tensions.

COMMON SPACE

The 2019 Common Space offered even more possibilities for interaction between all stakeholders – including governments, business, civil society, local authorities and youth – by offering a new format in line with Ecuador’s vision for a more integrated, interactive Summit. The inclusive nature of the Quito Common Space was enhanced by the integrated involvement of the GFMD Mechanisms in its planning – through multiple consultation meetings throughout the year - and implementation.

The opening plenary session of the Common Space allowed the outcomes of the previous day’s separate discussions to feed into the day’s discussions through short reports from the Rapporteurs of the six Government-led Roundtables, and the Chairs of the Business, Civil Society and Mayors Mechanisms. In her keynote speech, Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of IOM, also set the scene for an interactive day ahead, welcoming the progressive inclusion of different stakeholders in the GFMD, each having different experiences and roles to play in the relevant thematic areas being discussed.

The Quito Common Space then featured four ‘World-Café’ inspired sessions, which presented an opportunity to give all delegates from different stakeholders attending the Summit an opportunity to participate in frank and action-oriented exchange, and to showcase concrete and practical examples of multi-stakeholder initiatives. Governments and non-state partners from civil society, business, local authorities and international organizations were encouraged to share relevant case studies, good practices, and challenges they face in implementing migration and development policies.

In the spirit of multi-stakeholder inclusion adopted by the 2019 Chair, each of the four World Café inspired sessions was hosted by a different stakeholder group – Governments (represented by Bangladesh), Business, Civil Society and Mayors – assisted by relevant thematic experts from within the UN system.

After the World Café inspired sessions, the Conclusion of the Common Space provided an opportunity for the hosts and thematic experts to share the results from their respective discussions. In a panel-style discussion moderated by Dr. Kathleen Newland and Dr. Steffen Angenent, representatives from each stakeholder group shared both the substantive outcomes of their sessions – which are outlined in the following pages – and their reflections on the format of the Common Space.



The move towards a more interactive and engaging format for the Common Space was generally welcomed by participants as a positive step for the GFMD, helping to give effect to the recommendations of the GFMD Ten-Year Review to develop the GFMD's role as a space for 'genuine, interactive dialogue'. Particularly, the small group discussion format was seen as an opportunity for frank discussion. Feedback did suggest that the modalities of this approach would need to be refined – e.g., the length of sessions and the means for 'harvesting' the results. Looking forward to the 2020 Dubai Summit, it was hoped that the UAE Chair can build on the experiences in Quito to again provide a Common Space that acts as a genuine space for exchange between all Summit participants.

What are World Café Sessions?

‘World Café’ is a meeting format which provides a constructive conversational process for informal dialogue and knowledge sharing. It involves small groups of participants having discussions at several tables and switching tables periodically and getting introduced to the previous discussions there. At the end of the session, the hosts will ‘harvest’ the results of discussions to draw out key lessons, ideas and themes. The outcomes of this harvesting are communicated in following sessions, allowing consecutive discussions to build on the collective knowledge of previous groups. The format is characterized by the opportunity to talk in small groups, meet new people, actively contribute to discussions, and link the essence of each participant’s contribution to larger circles of thought.



Common Space Theme 1: Reducing vulnerabilities: pathways to regularization

Host stakeholder group: Governments (represented by Bangladesh)
Thematic expert: OHCHR

Chaired by Ahmed Munirus Saleheen, of Bangladesh, representing government stakeholder group, and assisted by facilitators from OHCHR and UNDP, the first Common Space theme sought to promote discussion on the vulnerabilities of migrants to abuse, exploitation and exclusion - at all stages of migration – and the exacerbation of these vulnerabilities by lack of regular migration status.

Participants were given 20 minutes to consider the challenges associated with reducing vulnerabilities and creating pathways to regularization. Then, they were asked to move to a new table and given 20 minutes to brainstorm on specific solutions and responses to these challenges. Each table selected the most prominent challenges, and discussed recommendations to overcome these challenges. The responses were written on index cards which were collated and posted on the wall for everyone to see.



Five main challenge areas, from general and overarching concerns to more specific issues, were identified:

1. Changing the narrative on migration

Participants identified that negative public perceptions or misperceptions about migrants and migration, notably in terms of the impact of increased migration and the vulnerabilities faced by migrants, often lead to policies that tend to focus more on security and control than on identification of needs and protection of rights.

Major recommendations to address this imbalanced narrative and the barriers it creates to effectively addressing migrant vulnerabilities include:

- The creation of awareness-raising campaigns based on human stories.
- Engagement in research and better data collection, in order to accurately identify vulnerable migrants and build evidence-based public policies.

2. Strengthening capacity and policy coordination

A challenge repeatedly recognized by participants from all stakeholders was limited capacity and resources. Many noted the limited capacity of states to govern migration and address the vulnerabilities faced by migrants, particularly in the context of large scale movements. In addition to the lack of physical or financial resources, participants also identified a lack of political will as a relevant barrier to effectively addressing migrant vulnerabilities.

As a significant and broad-ranging challenge, a myriad of responses were suggested to respond to the problem of limited resources, including:

- The provision of capacity-building for government and grassroots organizations.
- The increase of financial support to host communities, and the improvement of infrastructure to receive forced migrants.
- The development of internal coordination mechanisms at the national and local levels, including with non-state actors.
- The promotion of multi-stakeholders partnerships, including the private sector and the civil society, to take advantage of different skills and resources across these stakeholders.
- The creation of youth advocacy mechanisms, to include the perspectives and contributions of youth.

3. Fostering regional and multilateral cooperation

The lack of mechanisms for adequate coordination and dialogue within relevant parts of the national system, as well as with relevant stakeholders (including civil society organizations), was a significant challenge for many participants. This was also a problem at the regional and international level, where participants voiced the need for more enhanced cooperation, including spaces to share good practices.

In response to this challenge, participants highlighted the need to:

- Develop regional agreements on regularization based on the principle of shared responsibility. Examples included ASEAN initiatives on building regional cooperation such as the Bali Process Policy Guides on Identifying and Protecting Victims of Trafficking.
- Generate more South-South cooperation mechanisms to foster local development and protect migrants.

4. Facilitating regularization and access to documentation

A more practical obstacle in addressing migrant vulnerabilities and providing regular pathways was the lack of information, and the costs and administrative requirements involved, in processing visa applications and issuing relevant documents.

To grant access to a broader range of regularization options and improve the process of issuing documents, participants suggested:

- Introducing more flexible and cheaper options for documentation for the most vulnerable migrants (e.g. people with health problems or disabilities).
- Providing protections and/or methods of regularization specifically for vulnerable groups. An example given was Mexico's migration law, which provides specific protections against immigration detention for certain vulnerable migrant populations (e.g. unaccompanied minors, victims of trafficking).
- Developing platforms for migrants which contain all relevant information for them, that are, e.g. gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, youth friendly, in appropriate languages.
- Introducing more options for regularization, including humanitarian visas for the most vulnerable migrants; family reunification options; and the facilitation of access to labor markets for vulnerable migrants, in particular those coming from countries in crisis. Examples of good practice included the provision of Humanitarian Visas in Brazil.

5. Reducing mismatch between labor market needs, skills and migration policies

Lack of regular recruitment processes for labor migrants and the exploitation of labor in systems with working visa sponsorship were also identified as specific concerns. Suggestions for reducing vulnerabilities in this regard included:

- The adoption of recruitment processes with limited intermediaries to prevent vulnerabilities.
- Mandatory training for sponsored workers in countries of origin. Examples included mandatory pre-departure training which is provided in Ethiopia.
- The creation of bilateral labor agreements between states, as is the case between Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Including the youth perspective:

Challenges:

- The need for better data, which is intersectional and inclusive of youth, to get a better understanding of challenges specifically applying to youth migrants
- A lack of universal definitions of migrant, youth, and youth migrant
- Lack of youth voices in policymaking.

Solutions:

- Focus on protocols for unaccompanied minors, strengthening the responsibility of governments and taking a whole of government approach.
 - Partnerships between governments, civil society and youth to create youth advocacy programs.
-

Common Space Theme 2: Access to services for migrants: the role of cities and other stakeholders

Host stakeholder group: Mayors / Local authorities

Thematic expert: UNDP

The Mayoral Mechanism, together with the thematic expert UNDP, provided a World Café session aimed to provide a place for exchange of information on:

1. What works (or does not) when trying to ensure access to services for migrants.
2. Avenues for possible partnerships that would respond to the challenges and opportunities mentioned under question one.

The sessions ran four times over the course of the day, with two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. The Mayors Mechanism and UNDP worked closely with the Youth Forum organizers in the preparation and facilitation of the sessions.

In introducing the topic, facilitators emphasized that ensuring access to services for migrants has key implications not only for beneficiaries, but also for host communities. They also highlighted that in practice, however, access to services is often restricted. Barriers can be broad ranging: from lack of regular status to political, financial and cultural issues. Facilitators also stressed that there are many concrete examples in which migrants are guaranteed access to specific services, in particular at local level. While central governments are responsible for deciding who enters their territory regularly, local authorities are often on the front line and have a thorough understanding of existing needs and consequences of specific policy choices for their communities. Through urban planning, often in partnership with civil society and the private sector, innovative solutions are sought that aim to address these barriers and prevent social segregation. This World Café session therefore aimed at providing a space for all stakeholders to exchange experiences and formulate proposals for joint action and stronger partnerships.



Participants identified the following **main challenges, recommendations and ideas for partnerships** in relation to access to services of migrants:

Challenges:

- Access to affordable housing and measures to avoid exploitation and abuse of migrants.
- Public policies that ensure access to e.g. health care, regardless of status, risk remaining empty letter if they are not accompanied by:
 - Clear and operational protocols to ensure their implementation;
 - Clear commitments from the central government to ensure that the infrastructure, staffing and general capacity of such services is adequate to respond to this need; and
 - Effective coordination with other ministries and departments to ensure that such access is made use of by migrants who require it.
- While access to basic education is often considered to be open to all, including migrants regardless of status, in practice there are many practical barriers for children to attend and make use of this right. These barriers need careful assessment and understanding.

- The lack of effective data management and the lack of an effective process to ensure data privacy, often act as barriers for migrant to access services, either because irregular migrants are afraid that their situation is communicated to national immigration services, or because local governments lack access to data about migrants in their cities.
- In case the government ensures access to services regardless of status, there is a need to invest in communication campaigns, in close cooperation with all actors of society, so that migrants understand their rights, and may make use of such services without fear of being deported.
- Governments at national and local level need to put coordinated mechanisms in place to minimize the administrative burden as this is considered a major barrier to effective access to services.
- There might be political will to ensure access to services to all, however in practice financial and logistical barriers hamper effective implementation. This is particularly so in local communities who face a large influx of migrants. Such communities need their central governments to provide the necessary means of support, including funding.

Good practices to build on:

- National guidelines to identify vulnerable populations, which are translated into specific local contexts, help to target concrete action to address access to services for such vulnerable populations.
- The issuance of identity cards regardless of immigration status, through the form of e.g. driver's licenses and municipal identification cards. Such means of identification can facilitate access to financial, social and health care services. For these to be successful, awareness raising activities need to be set up to ensure use and acceptance of the cards.
- The granting of financial support to cover for transportation cost in areas where populations live remotely from the services they are trying to reach.
- The regularization of undocumented migrants is considered an effective way of ensuring access to services of an otherwise vulnerable population that often fears to be deported when making use of such services. There exist many examples of such programmes that grant (temporary) residence permits, including at city levels.
- There exist initiatives where the central or local government work with networks of civil society, for example regarding the topic of human trafficking or violence against women migrants. This is considered important to ensure effective understanding of the causes, risks and solutions the government might offer to prevent further abuse.

Ideas for partnerships and initiatives:

- There exists a need to strengthen peer-learning and connecting opportunities for local and regional authorities to exchange and reflect on this topic.
- Work with schools to break taboos and to ensure they are sensitive to the cultural practices of migrant populations can be very useful, as the lack of this awareness might lead to a de-facto barrier for children to attend school. This can be reflected in food options, language and religion classes, school events that value the different cultural identities in the school, etc.

- Invest and ensure the set-up of multi-sectorial centers for attention at the border, where migrants might be particularly vulnerable to experience violence and exploitation.
- Cross sectorial and cross stakeholder work at national and local level is essential to avoid duplication of initiatives, and to ensure effective coordination.
- Governments should consider stakeholders, such as local authorities and civil society, not merely as implementers, but as actors that understand needs, are close to the ground and are best placed to co-design responses. An idea to facilitate this work could be through the set-up of sector specific platforms.

Common Space Theme 3: Skills mobility: ensuring regulatory frameworks that are adapted to today's economic, political and social realities

Host stakeholder group: Business
Thematic expert: ILO

The Business Advisory Group on Migration steered the discussion on 'Skills mobility: ensuring regulatory frameworks that are adapted to today's economic, political and social realities', with International Labour Organisation lending its thematic expertise.



Context of the discussion:

By 2030, the shortage of around 85 million people could cost trillions of dollars in lost economic opportunity. The global manufacturing industry alone could experience a deficit of almost 8 million workers. Latin America has the biggest skills gap in the world. Over four in 10 firms in Latin America say they have difficulty finding workers with the right skills, according to ManpowerGroup surveys.² Companies in Argentina are worst hit, with 59% struggling to hire staff with the right skills; in Colombia that figure is 50%, and Peru 49%.

Global skills mobility can be part of the solution, provided that the regulatory frameworks and migration systems are adapted to today's economic, political and social realities. Labor mobility is a key component of growth and competitiveness both for companies and economies. There is need for collaboration between all stakeholders to address the growing skills shortage and mismatch around the world.

Focus of World Café session:

The focus of the discussion was to understand and address ways to:

- Strengthen and improve the dialogue between all GFMD stakeholders to better comprehend which migration policies and practices are beneficial for skills mobility, share data and information on their needs for skills.
- Provide coherent migration policies and legal frameworks with improved pathways for better integration of migrant workers, to ensure decent work conditions and reduce irregular migration.
- See how stakeholders can support governments to identify and anticipate skills needs in the context of the 4th industrial revolution and to help develop fair recruitment initiatives and combat unscrupulous practices.
- Promote consultation mechanism between businesses and governments on skills requirements and skill matching.
- Effectively link development and migration through investments in education in countries of origin to foster youth employment, alleviate the skills gap.
- Recognize the soft skills of migrant workers and use the acquired skills of returning migrants.
- Leverage technology in skills recognition and matching.

Guiding Questions:

To elicit views and opinions from the participants the following questions were framed:

Skills identification, matching and recognition - Can you highlight how the skills needs, requirements and matching are done in your country and whether businesses are an integral part of the consultation?

Skills mobility policies and pathways for employment - Are the migration policies and legal frameworks geared to facilitate labour mobility and the global movement of talent through improved and regular pathways thereby ensuring better integration of migrant workers?

² Manpower group, 2018 Talent Shortage Survey

Key Takeaways:

The general observations from the round tables was to call for migration policies to be adapted to the business realities, thus ensuring legal pathways that facilitate ease of movement of skills. Partnerships with all stakeholders to formulate policy frameworks that address skills mismatches were advocated.

Some specific takeaways were:

- Current policies and systems are not adapted to the world of work and to the realities that businesses face (skills needs, training, certifications). Participants called for improved migration pathways to facilitate the movement of skills when and where needed, ensuring thereby safe pathways for employment, a guarantee for enhanced working conditions;
- Skills mobility could be a solution to the global skills gap and skills mismatch, provided that policy-makers take into consideration skills anticipation in view of the 4th Industrial Revolution;
- Skills recognition: improved frameworks in skills recognition is needed in many regions, ensuring that migrant workers can use their knowledge and skills acquired in the countries where they studied or worked. Suggestion to establish a regional system of validation and homologation of professional certifications and formal education degrees especially between countries of origin and destination;
- Participants from all stakeholders' groups stressed the need to ensure that consultations and engagement on policies and actions related to skills recognition and matching take place at national level with all relevant stakeholders;
- Skills mobility and recruitment should be better linked. Any recruitment process should be governed by policies that promote efficiency and protection for jobseekers, including in taking into account mutual recognition of skills and qualifications;
- Need to have in place frameworks that promote integration of high-medium-low skilled migrants in labour markets;
- Need for portability of social security as key approaches to support knowledge and skills development and tackle unemployment;
- Focus on social support for migrant workers - expansion, consolidation and articulation of public services for migrants including employment opportunities, information, processing of documentation, national and regional regulations, and vocational training alternatives. When in place, these opportunities can contribute to abate labour informality.

ILO highlighted the importance to refer to the relevant legal framework/ international labour standards which address key issues related to skills and qualifications.

Common Space theme 4: Promoting migrants' inclusion in host communities: shaping narratives and combatting xenophobia

Host stakeholder group: Civil Society

Thematic expert: IOM

As part of the GFMD 2019 Common Space, civil society (represented by the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office) was invited to host the thematic session on “Promoting the inclusion of migrants in host communities: shaping narratives and combatting xenophobia”, together with IOM as the thematic expert. Participants from the governments and all GFMD mechanisms were seated in small groups (from 3-5 people) – a format encouraging direct interaction between stakeholders that was welcomed by all. The sessions ran twice over the course of the day, with one session in the morning (introduced by Mayors Mechanism participant Irena Guidikova, Council of Europe) and a second in the afternoon (introduced by civil society participant Eva Garzon Hernandez, Oxfam Spain).



As a way of harvesting the outcomes of the discussions of the World Café sessions, Civil Society organizers engaged a graphic recorder to provide a dynamic overview of the discussions. The above image is the graphic recording summarizing some of the major themes from the World Café sessions around

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In introducing the topic, it was acknowledged that migration has been a constant feature of human history – and one that is integral to the development of both individuals and communities. Despite this, the notion of migration is often connected (either intrinsically or strategically) to a range of fears. Whether it be the fear of losing our cultural identity, fear of losing integrity, or fear for security, these elements have incredible power at the societal level – with the potential to drive xenophobia or to create an environment of inclusion. Reaching out and engaging the conflicted “mixed middle” of society (those who share some of those fears without necessarily being clearly pro or against migration) is key to promoting the inclusion of migrants.

Some of the **main challenges** participants identified in relation to narratives on migration included:

- Policies and programmes not being informed by the needs of migrants, nor migrant and host communities, and therefore not sufficiently addressing the needs/concerns of those affected;
- The need for programmes for migrants to be made available and accessible in the face of push-backs;
- Push-backs from host communities – with an emphasis on remote communities;
- A need for better and clearer communication from governments to host and migrants’ communities;
- A lack of (continuous) funding for migrant and host communities, with a focus on inclusion;
- The economic impact of xenophobia and discrimination on migrants and their families;
- The power of the media (including social media), with a focus on the prevalence of sensationalized and fake news (and its disproportionate focus on the issue of migration);
- The impact of unconscious bias from the individual all the way up to society at-large;
- The importance of the role that language plays- from the terms that are used in the media to frame the “migration debate” to the ability for migrants and their families to engage in their host community and programmes that are meant to include them.

Participants identified the following good practices in encouraging the inclusion of migrants in host communities:

- Engaging with the media, with specific attention to language that portrays migrants as “illegal” or in a dehumanizing manner – encouraging them to portray positive migration stories with humanizing language (many opportunities for partnerships to provide content);
- Partnering with social media influencers who have impressive outreach and are capable of engaging with people on a “personal” level;
- Ensuring the perspective of all concerned parties are taken into account (including local/host communities) in campaigns, programmes and policies;
- Sharing best practices at the regional and international levels, as well as partnering with local organizations to train them on narrative-sensitive language;
- Empowering migrants as powerful actors of change, encouraging their visibility: highlighting the positive contributions that migrants make to the community (ie. contributing to the economy, bringing skills and expertise), breaking down feelings of shame – for example, experienced by second-generation migrants;
- Initiatives that make migration “accessible”: sharing of culture, through food, celebrations of diversity, sharing of stories etc. This includes self-organizing/outreach style initiatives. Examples of shared meals, Mosque visits and spontaneous cultural exchanges were shared – simple activities that foster positive encounters, bringing people together.
- Education system and community spaces as places for change, including collaboration with schools: teaching children how to identify xenophobia in the media (equally important for inclusion of second-generation migrants).
- Maximizing common spaces for the public good: libraries, parks and other physical spaces can play an important role in bringing people together;
- Partnering with youth, the private sector and faith communities was identified as important, as well as ensuring that gender perspectives are streamlined into the narratives;
- Diversifying regular migration pathways, including through positive recruitment schemes, which encourage the appreciation of migrants for their skills and contributions to the community.

SIDE EVENTS

On the margins of the GFMD Summit, twelve topical side events were held by various stakeholders, including governments, UN specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, international institutions, academia and civil society organizations. The side events were widely attended by delegates from government and the different GFMD Mechanisms, and offered an in-depth focus on the specific policy issues, as well as enabling Summit participants to network and connect with experts. These events also functioned as a platform for declaring new projects and commitments. As a leading voice on migration in the Latin American region, the Ecuadorian Chairmanship saw it as important to showcase migration in the Latin American context – so, a number of side events focused on this region specifically.

Throughout the year, Ecuador has also highlighted the importance of academia's participation in the development of public policies that are founded on research and evidence-based analysis. Consequently, the Chair encouraged side event organizers to include academia and dedicated an event entirely to this cause which welcomed around 40 local Ecuadorian academics.



Below is a collage showing the different migration and development policy areas covered by the 12 side events, and further below is a table listing down the proponents and titles of these side events.

Red CIPRI, Presidencia del FGMD 2019, UNITAR	Foro Global sobre Migración y Desarrollo (FGMD) 2019 –El rol de la academia en políticas de movilidad humana basadas en evidencia
OECD DEV, SDC, GIZ, MCMREAM, ENABEL	Making South-South migration work for development: Perspectives and Initiatives from Africa, Asia and Latin America
ILO and IOM	Enhancing partnership for ensuring fair and ethical recruitment and upholding the rights of migrant workers
Oxfam, Women in Migration Network, and UN Women	Meeting in the middle: Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants
UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	El impacto de migración en las ciudades latinoamericanas, camino a IX Foro Urbano Mundial
The World Bank, KNOMAD, FFLA, RECID	Leveraging Economic Migration for Development
Viceministry of Human Mobility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador	Respuestas del Ecuador a la crisis migratoria venezolana
IDC and UNICEF	Moving from detention to adequate reception and care through peer learning and Exchange under the umbrella of the Cross-Regional Peer Learning
UN Women, EVAM, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, PICUM, NCIE-CNII	Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence against Migrants
France, PDD, RCM, SACM, CMC, IOM, UNHCR, IFRC	Humanitarian Protection, Admission and Stay in Disaster and Climate Change Contexts: Effective Practices in the Americas and Beyond
The United Arab Emirates	GFMD in 2020: Engaging Regional Consultative Mechanisms and GFMD Stakeholder Groups in the Launch of Partnerships
Ecuador, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, ICMPD, and UNDP	Latin America in the spotlight –in search of better migration governance and increased cooperation

CLOSING SESSION

The Summit concluded with an inclusive closing plenary which included high level statements, including the GFMD 2019 Chair's Conclusions and the Statement of the Incoming GFMD 2020 Chair, the United Arab Emirates.

“About half of the migrant population are women, but they account for 44% of workers, 73% of domestic workers and 98% of victims of trafficking in persons for sexual purposes.”

– UN Women

Ms. Maria-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women, described a grim situation where conflict and emergencies exacerbate vulnerabilities, particularly those affecting women. In this context, Ms. Vaeza emphasized the need for Member States to respect the human rights, protection of migrant women and girl and to integrate a gender approach in migration policies.



“ILO has greatly valued the process of the GFMD process since its inception, not only because it has provided a key means for government dialogue, but as well a mechanism to promote partnerships among all relevant actors including on labour migration which is central to ILO’s mandate.”

– ILO

For his part, Mr. Juan Felipe Hunt Ortiz, Regional Director Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed ILO’s continued appreciation of the GFMD as both a key means for government dialogue and a mechanism to promote partnerships among all relevant actors, notably in terms of labour migration. Indeed, he noted that most migration is directly or indirectly related to the world of work. He recognized the importance of including in the GFMD discussions the regional and bilateral agreements for labor migration and migrant workers’ protection and on the recognition of skills. In this perspective, Mr. Ortiz mentioned ILO’s willingness to strengthen its support in the framework of the GFMD and as a member of the Executive Committee of the UN Network on Migration.

“Our intention has been to preserve the nature of this government-led space and the essence of what has been working well. But at the same time, our aim has been to make the GFMD a truly common deliberative space that gathers and strengthens the visions of all actors concerned.”

– Chávez



Delivering the GFMD 2019 Chair's Conclusions, Ambassador Santiago Chávez commended the success and the interest for this Summit, which he said was reflected in the large number of participants and before reviewing the achievements reached throughout Ecuador's GFMD Chairmanship. Recalling that Ecuador was the first South American country to assume this responsibility, he thanked the strategic partners who contributed to the successful realization of the Twelfth Summit of the GFMD. He noted the following substantive achievement according to the three thematic priorities:

- 1) The discussions have allowed to identify coordinated responses to mixed movements and to explore the complementarities between the two Global Compacts.
- 2) The efforts to bring a change regarding the migration narrative and the applicable international strategy to combat "fake news" has been deepened, and relevant experiences, practices and lessons learned of governments and other actors in terms of communication on migration have been identified.
- 3) A dialogue has been facilitated between different levels of government on how national and local authorities can work together within and across borders to facilitate the contributions of refugees and migrants to both urban and rural development.

Furthermore, the dialogue among all stakeholders has been strengthened, through a more systematic inclusion of the academia and youth. Following the 10-year Review Exercise, a certain number of concrete recommendations have been implemented which will contribute to the sustainability of the Forum. As part of the achievement, the Chair has been successful in regionalizing and decentralizing the GFMD process. In this perspective, the Chair thanked the relevant governments and organizations for their financial and substantive support.



Ambassador Santiago Chávez celebrated the new initiatives introduced this year to facilitate a more dynamic, interactive and innovative forum, in particular the introduction of new forms of dialogue, as well as the GFMD Publication, the introduction of the Tech Garden, and the revamping of the Marketplace, as well as the creation of the Knowledge Hub. Before handing over the Chairmanship to the UAE, Ambassador Chávez assured the incoming Chair of Ecuador's full support as a member of the GFMD Troika and beyond.

“We want to fast-track the evolution of GFMD towards being a trusted platform for the design and implementation of partnerships.”

– UAE

H.E. Mr. Nasser bin Thani Al Hamli, thanked the 2019 GFMD Chair Ecuador and reminded of the engagement of the United Arab Emirates in the GFMD process since its inception in 2007. In the GFMD, the UAE has found a forum where they can discuss with other governments, learn from them and exchange experiences, as well as build bridges to a wide range of stakeholders. Before concluding, H.E Mr. bin Thani Al Hamli presented the priorities for the 2020 GFMD, including future-focused discussions, a focus towards partnerships and outcomes, as well as on the link between migration and development. To achieve these objectives, the GFMD 2020 Chair will host a series of meetings together with Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs). The UAE Chair also aims to strengthen the involvement of the different mechanisms by opening up the entire Summit participation to all stakeholders. Finally, he invited all participants to take part in the Thirteenth GFMD Summit which will take place in Dubai in January 2021.





“I believe that the Summit that closes today has been able to provide the necessary space for all actors to engage in critical discussions, identify action-oriented solutions and form forward-looking implementation partnerships.”

– Espinosa

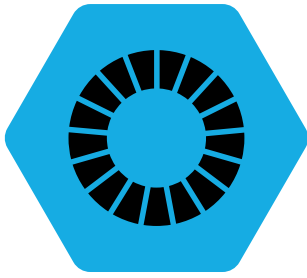
Finally, Ambassador Cristian Espinosa, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador, closed the Twelfth GFMD Summit with a plea for a new and strengthened governance of migration. He wished the UAE great success for its Chairmanship, and reaffirmed the full support of Ecuador as a member of the GFMD 2020 Troika.

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PART 4:
GFMD AND THE
GLOBAL AGENDA
ON MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT





PART 4: GFMD AND THE GLOBAL AGENDA ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Since 2007, the GFMD has maintained its stature as the largest state-led global process that provides a space for dialogue and partnerships at the nexus of migration and development. Its vital contribution to the international discourse on migration and development issues has been explicitly recognized by the United Nations. Through its unique participatory and inclusive approach, the GFMD has helped pave the way for the integration of migration-specific and migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2016 New York Declaration and the subsequent Global Compact for Migration also acknowledge the GFMD's invaluable role in helping usher in a new global governance framework for migration.

In taking on the GFMD 2019 Chairmanship, the Republic of Ecuador was committed to upholding the GFMD's well-entrenched position in the international migration and sustainable development landscape. As indicated in the GFMD 2019 Concept Paper, Ecuador will strive to lead the GFMD so that it could '*continue to forge synergies between migration and development actors with a view to finding action-oriented solutions to reach the SDGs*'.

The GFMD 2019 coincided with two important processes led by the United Nations: the **2019 High Level Political Forum** - the annual review mechanism to monitor the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – and the first year of the **implementation of Global Compact for Migration (GCM) commitments**.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>		<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>		<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>
<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>
		<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	



GFMD AND THE 2030 AGENDA

Since 2016, the annual President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has invited the GFMD to submit a thematic contribution to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), an annual follow up and review mechanism to monitor the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The annual invitation is a testament to the UN's recognition of the GFMD as a valuable intergovernmental body with an important contribution to offer in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Focusing on the theme, “*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*” the 2019 HLPF also marked the first quadrennial review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Under the lead of the GFMD 2019 Ecuadorian Chair, the GFMD Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration led the preparations of the GFMD's report titled “[GFMD Recommendations to 2019 HLPF](#).” The report examines the key policy issues and practices that the GFMD has covered through the years, which speak to the 2019 HLPF theme and focused Goals – i.e., 4 (education), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and 17 (global partnerships). Of particular relevance from a migration and development perspective, the report sheds light on the central migration related SDG target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

Furthermore, the report pointed to emerging concerns in global migration and development policies, including the role of the GFMD in linking these areas, advancing the dialogue and promoting concrete partnerships following the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration in 2018. The report was based on references of GFMD Summit meetings, workshops, sessions of the [GFMD Platform for Partnerships \(PfP\)](#) and Common Space discussions. It contained relevant projects from the database supporting Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. In this sense, the yearly contribution has improved the visibility of GFMD and highlighted the importance of the GFMD PfP as a platform for the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

Side event: The GFMD Perspective on Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality

To present the key findings and concrete recommendations contained in the GFMD's thematic contribution to the 2019 HLPF, the 2019 GFMD Chair Ecuador organized a [side event](#), "GFMD Perspective on Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality", at the UN Plaza on 11 July. Through this event, the GFMD once again proved its strong convening power by gathering over 100 representatives of governments, UN organizations, the civil society and local and regional authorities.

The event provided an opportunity for Ecuador to showcase GFMD's contribution to the global debate and cooperation on migration and development, and to reiterate the Ecuadorian Chairmanship's commitment towards advancing the implementation of multilateral commitments, especially the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). High level panelists and interventions from the floor also shared their perspective concrete initiatives on how to ensure both that migration matters and that migrants are included in the achievement of the SDGs.





“The report shows that migration ...is very relevant in the achievement of SDGs of this year’s HLPF main theme of ‘Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’, [and] that well managed migration can reduce inequality between countries and provide an opportunity to become more equal, diverse and inclusive.”

– Mr. Gottfried von Gemmingen-Guttenberg, Head of Division 410 -2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reducing poverty and inequality, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

“It is worth unpacking the complexity of migration in relationship to the complexity of development policy.”

– Ms. Colleen Thouez, Director, Welcoming and Inclusive Societies Division, Open Society Foundations:

“There are good inter-agency, multi-stakeholder approaches now emerging in practice, but we can do more.”

– Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary General & Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Bureau

“Local governments are not only implementing partners, but local and national dialogue is essential in policymaking. Cities are at the forefront of migration governance as they provide services and play a key role in protecting the rights of all citizens.”

– Mr. Berry Vrbancovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada and Treasurer of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

“The GFMD has become more and more a truly multi-stakeholder space, something called for in terms of multi-stakeholder engagement in the GCM and called for in a whole-of-society approach”

– Mr. Colin Rajah, Civil society representative



GFMD AND THE GCM

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) invites the GFMD to “provide a space for annual informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum” (Paragraph 51, GCM).

With this in mind, one of the key priorities of the GFMD 2019 Chairmanship was to support Member States that strongly align with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), while also nurturing common ground with, and providing a bridge to governments that, may have different perspectives on the GCM. Thus, the Ecuadorian Chair hosted the following voluntary multi-stakeholder activities in order to reflect on the GFMD’s role with regard to the GCM and to support states in their implementation of the GCM.

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

21-22 March 2019
Geneva, Switzerland

As the first global event focusing on GCM after its adoption in December 2018, the two-day [GFMD thematic workshop](#) on **GCM implementation at the national level**, co-convened by Bahrain and Philippines, aimed at initiating an informal dialogue on national efforts towards the implementation of the Global Compact, 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 brought together around 190 participants from 89 UN Member States and over 40 representatives from civil society, private sector and international organizations. They participated in rich thematic discussions that took place in a combination of traditional panel discussions and an innovative “knowledge café”-style break-out sessions. These thematic sessions allowed multi-stakeholder participants to discuss issues and share practices in a more focused, informal and interactive manner than in traditional meetings. The feedback received from participants indicated that the new format was useful and advisable for future GFMD workshops.

Consultation on the relationship between the GFMD and the GCM

4 April 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

In the first half of 2019, participating states negotiated and drafted the operating modalities for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), a mechanism envisaged by the GCM to engage in the review and follow up of GCM objectives. Given the role foreseen for the GFMD in relation to the follow up and implementation of the GCM, and the state-led and voluntary nature of the GFMD, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador convened a [consultation](#) with GFMD Friends of the Forum in order to prepare the GFMD's input to the IMRF drafting process, and explore the different perspectives on the possible contribution of the GFMD to the IMRF.



During the consultation, Member States reaffirmed the core identity, key features and added value of the GFMD in an era of GCM implementation, including the GFMD's state-led, voluntary and informal nature, as well as its role as a unique space to engage on contentious issues, explore the strong linkages between migration and development, develop a positive narrative on migration, and engage with civil society, the private sector and local authorities. Participants also agreed that the role of the GFMD should continue to go beyond the roles identified for it in the GCM, and that the GFMD should refine its added value and focus on its unique features in response to the changing international migration landscape.

Following the GFMD's internal consultation, the Chair submitted **a letter to the IMRF Co-Facilitators**, the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh and Spain to the UN in New York, which articulated the Chair's views on how the GFMD can provide a space for informal exchange on the implementation of the GCM, and relay to the IMRF relevant inputs, including best practices and innovative approaches. The Chair's letter informed the negotiation process on the IMRF Modalities. The final Resolution on IMRF Modalities, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 July 2019, invites the '*GFMD, including its civil society, business and mayoral mechanism to provide a space for informal exchanges on the implementation of the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the forums*'. The GFMD's role in the implementation, follow up and review process of the GCM was thus cemented, as envisaged in the GCM outcome document.



GFMD Dialogue on the Implementation of the GCM

24 January 2020

Quito, Ecuador

Taking place on Friday, 24 January 2020, after the closing of the Twelfth GFMD Summit, the GFMD [voluntary dialogue on the GCM](#) was organized by the GFMD Chair Ecuador for all interested Summit participants, including representatives of governments and international organizations, as well as civil society, local authorities and the private sector. In the spirit of informal peer exchange and learning, the GCM dialogue was co-organized with the UN Network on Migration.

The discussion was structured around three panel discussions, which allowed interested government and non-state stakeholders to exchange experiences and concrete initiatives, and to share lessons learned and progress achieved to date, in the implementation of the GCM.



Panel I: One year from the adoption of the GCM: a review of progress

This panel took stock of the progress that had been achieved since the adoption of the GCM, from the vantage point of multiple GCM actors.

To offer the government perspective, representatives of Portugal and Philippines presented national strategies at implementing the GCM. The Mixed Migration Center, on the other hand, held the civil society's view that wheels were in motion on GCM implementation; however, there was a need to see more states developing concrete action plans and acting as champions of the Compact. Finally, the Mayors Migration Council highlighted the important role that local authorities and cities have been playing in the implementation of the Compact, and called for more support in fulfilling this role.



Panel II: Fostering Partnerships for GCM Implementation

In this panel, volunteer states from different regions and migration contexts shared their concrete experiences in GCM implementation at the national level, and emphasized some key factors in a successful implementation of the GCM, including:

- Building and utilizing partnerships, including cooperation with neighboring countries and between the global North and the global South;
- Making the link between the GCM and the 2030 Agenda; and
- Taking a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

In the ensuing open discussion, participants also mentioned the importance of partnerships in the context of labor migration, and stressed the need for gender sensitivity in GCM implementation efforts and in any discussions on the GCM, including in the framework of the GFMD.



Panel III: One year ahead – building together the puzzle for regional reviews

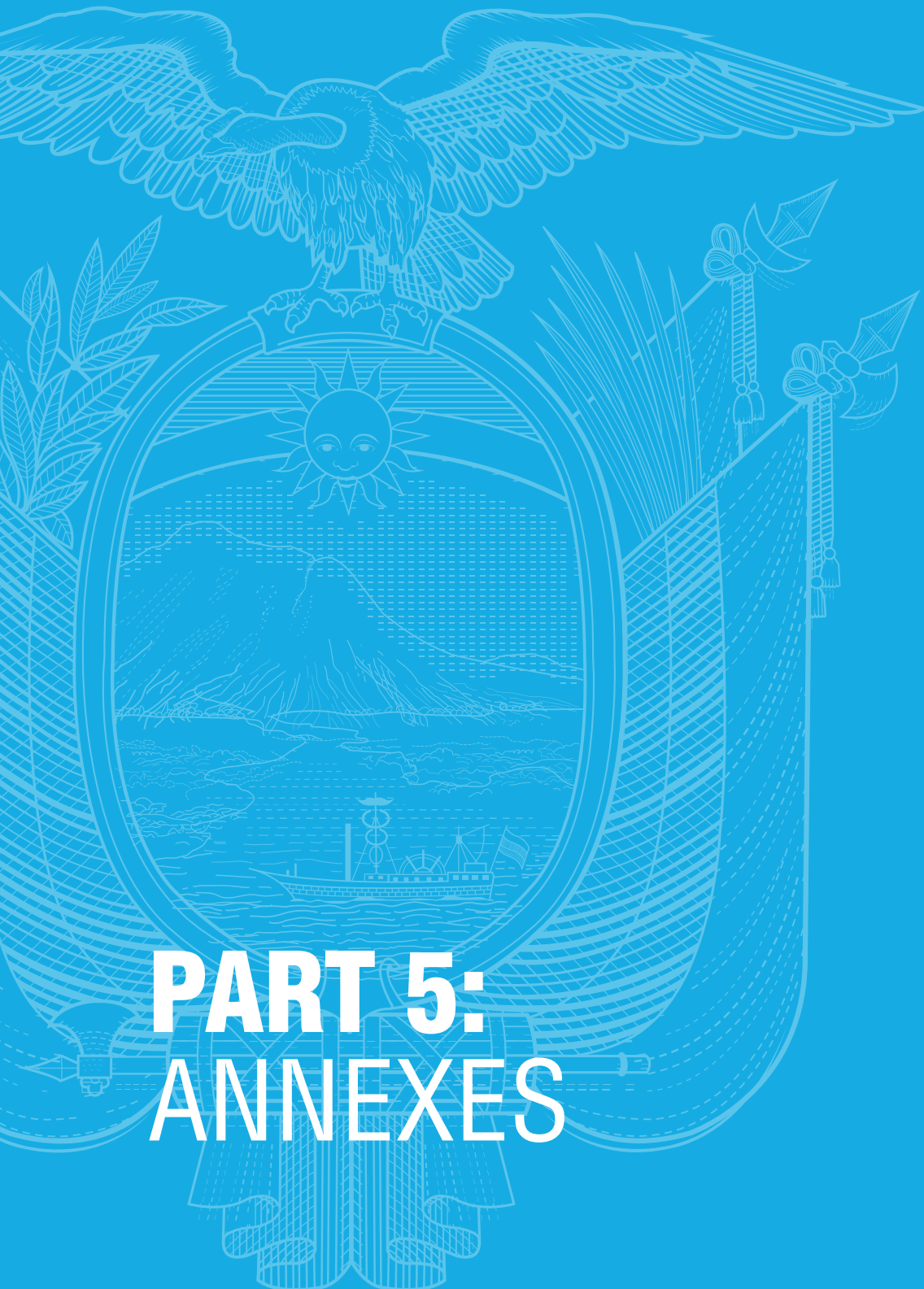
The final panel looked forward to the upcoming GCM regional review processes in 2020 and considered possible scenarios as the global community prepares for these reviews, which will feed into the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022.

Perspectives of key regional actors were shared:

- From the European Union perspective, Spain pointed to some of the challenges in relation to GCM implementation, such as financial sustainability, lack of internal consensus, and the need to improve the European approach to asylum.
- A representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in turn stressed the importance of the regional approach and the opportunities for regional organizations like ECLAC to facilitate cooperation.
- Egypt, bringing insight from the African perspective, outlined the priorities of the African Union in strengthening migration governance, including data, labor mobility and employment, and combatting climate change.
- The United Arab Emirates, speaking on behalf of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, suggested taking advantage of existing regional consultative mechanisms, with the assistance of relevant UN agencies, including the Regional Economic Communities and the UN Network on Migration, to provide support and guidance to help facilitate voluntary, state-owned participation in GCM review.
- The Migrant Forum in Asia, providing both an Asian and civil society perspective, highlighted the importance of framing the substantive issues well in preparation for the review, and cautioned against spending too much time on discussing modalities and logistical concerns.

The UN Network on Migration also shared information about their work plan in supporting the regional reviews, including the development of a template checklist document to assist Member States in planning for the reviews.





**PART 5:
ANNEXES**



- Annex 1:** GFMD 2019 Concept Paper ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Annex 2:** Roundtable 1.1 Background Paper - Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Roundtable 1.2 Background Paper - Facilitating social and economic inclusion ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Roundtable 2.1 Background Paper - Shaping public narratives on migrations and migrants ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Roundtable 2.2 Background Paper - Communicating effectively with migrants ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Roundtable 3.1 Background Paper - Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholders partnerships ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Roundtable 3.2 Background Paper - Harnessing migration and rural transformation and development ([EN](#) / [ES](#) / [FR](#))
- Annex 3:** [Twelfth Quito Summit Programme Overview](#)
- Annex 4:** Final Programme 2019 GFMD Civil Society Day ([EN](#) / [FR](#) / [ES](#))
- Annex 5:** [Programme 2019 GFMD Business Meeting](#)
- Annex 6:** Sixth Mayoral Forum Concept note and Programme ([EN](#) / [FR](#) / [ES](#))



R.
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Y ANTONIO DE ULLOA
ILUSTRES MARINOS
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GOBIERNO
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