



GFMD 2019 Common Space

Quito, Ecuador - 23 January 2020

“Integrated approaches to foster migrants’ inclusion for sustainable development”

Theme 1 | Reducing vulnerabilities: pathways to regularization

Host: Government

Thematic Expert: OHCHR

The issue

At all stages of migration, the vulnerability of migrants to abuse, exploitation and exclusion is exacerbated by the lack of regular migration status. This hampers integration within host communities, social inclusion and development at large.

Regular migration pathways - legislative and administrative mechanisms that provide for regular travel, admission and/or stay in the territory of a State - can be an effective tool to ensure the inclusion and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations who may not qualify for refugee protection, yet who leave their countries of origin under a certain degree of compulsion or face human rights violations during the journey or in countries of destination.

Ensuring regular entry and/or stay, including through regularization schemes, is often effective in facilitating migrants’ access to human rights and integration into the community of the destination country. This contributes both to human development and countries development. Providing migrants with access to entry and residence through regular channels also benefit receiving States, strengthening their capacity to identify who enters, transits through and remains in the territory and therefore to put in place evidence-based policies.

Pathways to regular migration are widely understood as a key component of effective migration governance. Yet several challenges still persist with their conceptualization and operationalization.

In preparation for this session, participants are encouraged to refer to the background paper prepared for Government roundtable 1.1 on “providing regular pathways from crisis to safety”, available at <http://gfmd.org/docs/ecuador-2019>

Objectives

The GFMD Common Space is an opportunity to gather all relevant actors around the table in order:

- To showcase concrete examples of pathways for regular admission and/or stay (including regularization schemes) that States have put in place for migrants in vulnerable situations
- To identify key challenges in the design and implementation of regular pathways
- To showcase the role that different stakeholders can play in the design, implementation and evaluation of pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations

Expected outcomes

- Better understanding of types of pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations and grounds for their regular admission and/or stay
- Identification of challenges related to the design and implementation of regular pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations and examples of actions that different stakeholders can take to overcome them

Guiding questions

- 1) What examples of pathways for the regular travel, admission and/or stay of migrants in vulnerable situations can you share?¹
- 2) In your experience, what are the existing challenges in the design and implementation of pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations? What role you and other stakeholders can play to overcome them?

¹ To prepare for this question, participants are encouraged to refer to the background paper prepared for Government roundtable 1.1 on “providing regular pathways from crisis to safety”, in particular to the sections “Grounds for regular admission and stay of migrants in vulnerable situations” and “Types of pathways”.