Executive Summary: GFMD recommendations to the 2019 HLPF "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality"

As an intergovernmental body, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has been invited to provide substantive input to the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), showcasing its contribution towards the 2030 Agenda in general, and particularly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respective targets that are most relevant to GFMD's mandate. Taking up this invitation, the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration under the co-chairmanship of Germany and Bangladesh prepared the following GFMD contribution along the template for submitting HLPF contributions. The report is based on references of GFMD Summit meetings, workshops, sessions of the Platform for Partnership (PfP) and Common Space discussions. It analyses the interlinkages between the goals in focus of the 2019 HLPF and migration. In addition, it examines how interventions in the context of migration in GFMD countries – ranging from small-targeted projects to wider programmes or reforms – have contributed to achieving the goals featured in this year's HLPF. In line with the 2019 HLPF theme to "empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality", the report provides insights into different migration-related issues, such as migrants' equal access to quality services (e.g. education), decent working environments for migrants, orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, the reduction of remittance costs, migration in the context of climate change and disasters, and ending trafficking as well as exploitation of migrants.

Migration is linked to all SDGs in one way or the other. **All goals in focus of this year's HLPF mention migration explicitly**, except for SDG 13, which has an implicit link to migration as it addresses the particular vulnerability and protection gaps that are specific to migrants. In addition, this year's reviewed SDGs include **Target 10.7[1]**, which guides the global cooperation in the field of migration and development and provides the basis for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Inequality is a common driver of migration. At the same time, migrants are particularly often affected by inequality. However, migrants can contribute to overcoming inequality and be important agents of sustainable development in countries of origin and destination. They link different countries and make valuable economic, political, social and cultural contributions to both sending and receiving societies (**SDG 10**). Providing access to **inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities** to migrants – whether they are children, youths, or adults – is not only key to ensuring the achievement of **SDG 4** but also has a positive effect on social cohesion in host communities.

Moreover, **precarious or exploitative forms of employment and difficulties in finding decent work** disproportionally affect migrants (**SDG 8**). Labour migration can have positive effects on the countries of origin, the migrants themselves and the countries of destination. Migrants often fill labour gaps, transfer knowledge, innovation and send money back home to family and friends. Furthermore, they are often at a disadvantage when trying to access accurate, timely and transparent information (not only about decent work) and often suffer from the lack of legal identity and adequate documentation. Peaceful societies, justice and

---

[1] Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

strong institutions and migration are thus strongly interrelated, especially when it comes to **promoting regular migration and to ending all forms of human trafficking (SDG 16)**.

Migration can be an adaptation activity for climate change (SDG 13). Strengthening resilience and the capacity to make climate risk informed decisions as well as improving early warning and awareness could help to reduce climate / disaster-related displacement and support individuals and families who take the decision to migrate from their homes.

Since migration connects countries of origin, transit and destination, it is inevitable to establish global, regional, bilateral and within-countries partnerships between a variety of different actors (**SDG 17**).

Based on this analysis and the examination of project examples from the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP), which can be linked to the SDGs reviewed in the HLPF 2019, the report formulates the following **recommendations**:

> ➢ Ensure all migrants, including children, youths and adults, have **equal access to quality education** and lifelong learning opportunities (SDG 4).

> ➢ Pay particular attention to **migrant workers' labour conditions, including migrants' access to social protection floors** (target 8.8), especially considering the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, such as children and women, against human trafficking and modern slavery (target 8.7).

> ➢ **Support the positive effect of migration on the development** of countries of destination as well as of origin and ensure **equal treatment of migrants** (target 10.7).

> ➢ Strengthen **financial regulation on remittances in the sender and recipient countries** in order to enable more people to send and receive remittances securely, quickly, and cheaply and expand the **financial inclusion** of migrants and remittance receivers (target 10.c).

> ➢ Pay particular attention to the needs of moving persons in order to, amongst other reasons, **adapt to the impacts of climate change** (SDG 13).

> ➢ Ensure migrants' **access to appropriate and secure legal status, to justice and participation**. (SDG 16).

> ➢ Promote policy coherence in migration governance for development through the whole-of-government approach at all levels of governance (SDG 17).

> ➢ Strengthen the GFMD in advancing the **international dialogue on migration and development,** in supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM and in further contributing to the HLPF.

> ➢ Manage return migration in a **safe, humane and dignified manner** and ensure that the **positive impact of returnees on the development** of their country of origin is fostered through close collaboration between countries of origin and destination as well as partnerships with the civil society, international organisations and the private sector.

> ➢ Consider perspectives of **local authorities** when developing national and international migration policies and **support their efforts to integrate migrants** on a local level.