

Ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration

Recommendations to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum

22 March 2017

Foreword

As an intergovernmental body, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has been invited to provide substantive input to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) showcasing its contribution towards the 2030 Agenda in general, and particularly for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respective targets that are most relevant to GFMD's mandate. **The theme of the 2017 HLPF is “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”.** While all 17 SDGs will be examined from the perspective of this theme, the following SDGs will receive particular attention in 2017:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Taking up this invitation, the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration under the co-chairmanship of Germany and Bangladesh prepared the following GFMD contribution along the template for submitting HLPF contributions.¹

¹ Another important reference document includes the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (on financing migration-related activities).

(a) An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development has been named a “**declaration of interdependence**” – a statement that especially holds true for migration which links countries of origin and destination and has great influence on the lives of millions of migrants and their families. Migrants can be a particularly vulnerable group², which deserves a particular protection in order to ensure that they will not be left behind. However, one should also bear in mind that migration very often **is** development and migrants are actors for development capable of bringing about positive change to their countries of origin and destination, therefore creating benefits for others and alleviating poverty.³ This report showcases this interdependence with a view to migration through concrete examples.

GFMD has in the past been successful in trust-building between and among stakeholders, international organizations, the civil society and private sector. This approach can also be effective in facilitating an exchange on the 2030 Agenda and migration-related SDGs. As emphasized in the final report of the GFMD ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted at the Dhaka Summit in December 2016, the GFMD will continuously: a) provide a platform for voluntary sharing of experience, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the 2030 Agenda, b) facilitate voluntary action and joint solutions through partnerships a on migration aspects of the 2030 Agenda and c) ensure clarity, objectivity and coherence in the global debate on migration and development.

This report highlights the manifold **linkages between migration and the SDGs and explores the explicit and implicit references to migration in the 2030 Agenda**. Migration issues are being referred to **explicitly** in ten sub-goals/targets of the 2030 Agenda. These are:

- 3.c on the retention of health workers;
- 4.b on international scholarships;
- 8.8 on labor rights for migrant workers;
- 10.7 on orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration;
- 10.c on the reduction of remittances costs;
- 16.9 on the creation of legal identity (thus ending statelessness);

² Refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants are identified among the vulnerable people who must be empowered, and whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda in paragraph 23 of this Agenda. Furthermore, paragraph 4 of the 2030 Agenda includes a pledge to leave no one behind and to endeavor to reach the furthest behind first.

³ Paragraph 29 of the 2030 Agenda “recognize[s] the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

- 17.18 on migration-disaggregated data-collection;
- as well as 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 which all three address different aspects of human trafficking.

Yet, numerous other targets are characterized by strong **implicit** reference to migration. This report classifies the implicit and explicit nature of the targets **into the following broadly defined categories**, bearing in mind that some sub-goals can be attributed to several of these categories, which again is proof of the interrelatedness of the 2030 Agenda:

1. **Explicit migration-related targets;**
2. Targets that can and should address the specific **vulnerability and protection gaps specific to** all groups of migrants and thus offer **corresponding** mechanisms to address these;
3. Targets that could benefit from the **potential of migration and migrants;**
4. Targets that address drivers of migration including **employment** or **employment creation** and thus have a direct influence on poverty alleviation and lowering of migration pressure.

Table 1: Links between Migration and the 2030 Agenda

Blue: Goals in focus of the 2017 HLPF

Orange: Goals in focus of the 2018 HLPF

Green: Goals in focus of the 2019 HLPF

	EXPLICIT	VULNERABILITY / PROTECTION	POTENTIAL	EMPLOYMENT CREATION
1. No poverty		X	X	
2. No hunger				X
3. Good Health	X	X	X	
4. Quality education	X	X	X	
5. Gender equality	X	X	X	
6. Clean water and sanitation		X		
7. Renewable energy				
8. Good jobs and economic growth	X	X	X	X
9. Innovation and infrastructure			X	X
10. Reduced inequalities	X	X		X
11. Sustainable cities and communities		X		
12. Responsible consumption			X	X
13. Climate action		X		
14. Life below water			X	X
15. Life on land				
16. Peace and justice	X	X		

17. Partnerships for the goals	X		X	X
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Table 1 shows that the goals in the focus of this years' HLPF (highlighted above in blue) do not present a coherent pattern concerning migration. Three of them explicitly mention migration, three point at vulnerability of migrants and protection mechanisms, five at potentials of migration, and four work on employment creation. This first GFMD report focuses on the explicit migration-related targets in focus of the 2017 HLPF, notwithstanding the implicit references to migration inherent in other sub-goals and targets. These could be explored more thoroughly in the upcoming GFMD reports for future HLPF sessions.

When focusing on the explicit migration-related targets, it should be mentioned that a lot of work has already been done on target 3.c, namely on how the migration of health workers could be made more development-oriented, thus not causing any care drain in the countries of origin. Already the first GFMD Summit in 2007 recommended collating good policies and practices that will allow countries to better manage human resource development and deployment in highly skilled sectors, particularly the health sector, and ensure effective partnership between origin and destination countries. Well-designed skills partnerships, including the adoption of ethical recruitment codes (such as the WHO ethical code of recruitment for medical staff) and aiming to leverage migration gains for qualitatively and quantitatively improved education of health personnel in countries of origin, seem to be an important way out of the dilemma of global health worker shortages. Considering target 17.18, there are also various initiatives aiming to improve **data collection on migration**: this is extremely important since policy making in this area still has to rely on rather piecemeal data that might not even be comparable across countries. For example, the Sweden Summit 2013-2014 emphasized that data collection, availability of statistics and analysis of migration and development was crucial for evidence-based policy making. For example, in the framework of the 2015 GFMD, the European Union and the IOM have developed the so-called Extended Migration Profile (EMP), to be used to enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking and the mainstreaming of migration into development planning. **Trafficking of women and girls**, as described in target 5.2, also gained a lot of attention in recent years. Mostly dealing with human trafficking in an attempt to formulate joint strategies to address irregular migration, the GFMD Summit in Mexico in 2010 outlined the importance of protecting the victims of trafficking and ending gender-based exploitation. However, in the absence of comprehensive strategies to address trafficking of women and girls, this issue remains a serious global problem.

(b) The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges

From a migration-policy perspective, the needs and contributions of migrants are not yet taken sufficiently into account when designing and implementing development strategies and programs. On the one hand, migrants often find themselves in precarious situations and thus deserve special attention in the framework of action on poverty alleviation and social protection, access to health care and gender equality. On the other hand, migrants can make important contributions via knowledge and/or remittances transfers in the areas of health, empowerment of women, innovation and intercultural competencies. Inspiration on how this could be achieved concretely based on the long-standing expertise of GFMD can be found in the next chapter (lessons learned). Looking at migration data as outlined in Goal 17.18, there is a clear need of data collection and analysis when it comes to migrant contributions to the economic development in countries of destination. Moreover, there is a lack of data on the skill level of migrants in receiving countries.

Apart from the goals that are at the focus of this years' HLPF, at the past GFMD Summit in Bangladesh many countries expressed the view that there is currently one major gap concerning the protection of un- and low-skilled labor migrants, despite recent improvements (as for example the ratification of ILO's domestic workers convention). Therefore, there is hope that work on SDG 8.8 on labor rights and in particular SDG 10.7 on safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration will improve this situation over the coming years. Additionally, the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) might play a role in this regard.

(c) Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity

When it comes to the role the GFMD can play in the review and implementation of particular migration-related SDGs, the Forum in the past has already dealt with many issues, which are to some extent encapsulated in today's 2030 Agenda. It is a **firm objective of GFMD to relate future summits to the 2030 Agenda-process** by linking thematically not only the roundtables but all GFMD formats including the GFMD common space closer to the commitments in the 2030 Agenda. This way, the valuable inputs produced by GFMD can be brought together with the specific focus on migration-related SDGs. For example, Roundtable 1.2 of the 2017 GFMD Summit in Berlin will be entirely dedicated to questions related to the 2030 Agenda. All roundtable co-chairs of the 2017 GFMD are invited to point out explicit as well as implicit references to the implementation of the migration-related goals. In order to make use of the long-standing experience of GFMD as the largest informal global forum outside UN structures through which states exchange their views on migration and development, this report looks into the question of how past GFMD summits have framed development-oriented migration policies. For the purpose of showcasing the links between

migration and the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the 2017 HLPF session and the addressed goals, the report clusters GFMD's input according to the following, non-exhaustive thematic areas:

- **Remittances:** This area not only covers transfer channels and remittances costs but also remittances-based financial products and financial inclusion through remittances.
- **Diaspora:** This area focuses on cooperation between governmental entities (on national, provincial and municipal level) and diaspora groups, particularly on fostering dialogue and non-profit engagement, including the possibility of diaspora groups' representatives to participate in Parliaments or consultative bodies to the governments in countries of origin.
- **Private Sector Development through Migration:** Migration is an important factor for economic development in both countries of origin and destination. Specific approaches seek to promote migrant entrepreneurship, employment promotion through migration, innovation through knowledge transfer and trade of "nostalgic products".
- **Labor Migration:** There is often a differentiation between low- and high-skilled workers, but the issue remains the same, namely that it requires close cooperation between countries of origin and destination in order to become development-oriented.
- **Return and Reintegration:** Return is the most important pathway to knowledge transfer for the benefit of development. In the case of permanent return, this requires also reintegration, which is why these topics cannot be separated. While the voluntary nature of return constitutes an essential pre-requisite for sustainable reintegration, forced return represents a reality on the ground and thus should not be neglected.
- **Migration Policy/Mainstreaming of Migration:** This includes questions on legal and institutional frameworks for migration as well as policy coherence at and between all levels of government, including by mainstreaming migration in relevant sectoral policies (e.g. development strategies, health-sector policies, trade-policies). GFMD has focused on the human rights of migrants as a cross-sectoral direct impact factor for development, addressing the issues of access to social services, information, voice and claiming rights as ways of empowerment.

Having outlined these areas for the purpose of this year's HLPF report, the following **table links these topics with the corresponding GFMD roundtable discussions from past GFMD summits**. Since many roundtable discussions touched upon various areas in an interconnected manner, the table is not exhaustive and some roundtables have provided recommendations linked to a couple of migration and development areas.

Table 2: Past GFMD roundtables' corresponding migration and development areas

M&D Area	Roundtables (chair and year)								
	BEL 2007	PHL 2008	GRC 2009	MEX 2010	CHE 2011	MUS 2012	SWE 2014	TUR 2015	BGD 2016
Remittances	2.1, 2.2, 2.3						3.2		1.1
Diaspora	2.4	1.2	1.2			1.2	2.2		
Private Sector Development through Migration					1.1.	1.2		3.2	
Labor Migration	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4,			2.1	1.1, 1.2, 1.3,	1.1, 3.3	2.1	1.2	1.1
Return and Reintegration			2.1, 2.2					3.1	
Migration Policy/Mainstreaming of Migration	3.2	2.1, 2.2, 3.2	3.1, 3.2	1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2	2.1	3.2	1.1		3.1, 3.2

Based on the analysis above, the report presents the condensed recommendations of the past GFMD summits.

Remittances

Recommendations focused on facilitating remittances and reducing transfer costs in order to improve the potential for development. Since the 2017 HLPF focuses on *ending poverty and promoting prosperity* (SDG 1), this debate should be continued and positive effects of remittances on poverty reduction reaffirmed. In addition, remittances tend to be invested in the health of migrants' families (SDG 3) as well as in education and empowerment of women and children (SDG 5). This can be achieved by enhancing the financial literacy of both senders and recipients of remittances, promoting the usage of online and mobile technologies, strengthening related infrastructures (e.g. cost-comparison websites) and cooperation between different financial institutions, diversifying the supply of financial services and remittance-based financial products, or conducting further research into the behavior of relevant actors. Especially in early GFMDs, the poverty-reducing effects of remittances have been highlighted prominently, while acknowledging that remittances constitute one tool among others in order to overcome development challenges.

Best Practice Box 1: Remittances⁴

- Cost-comparison websites have been established, in [Sweden](#), Switzerland and [Germany](#). These aim at lowering transaction costs and increasing transparency for financial services, for example, by showing current fees charged for various countries. Additionally, [Switzerland](#) issued a brochure directed at migrants, informing them about various options to send money to their home countries.
- In 2011, a [study](#) by Epargne Sans Frontière investigated financial products and tools for the Maghreb Region and the Franc Zone, giving detailed insights to the effects of remittances. It found that remittances tend to be stable in times of economic uncertainty and that reducing the costs of remittances increases the contribution of these funds for development.

Diaspora

Starting with identifying, mapping and getting to know the diaspora, GFMD discussions focused on empowering and engaging directly with diaspora communities. By providing financial support and transferring know-how, diaspora communities have a direct impact on poverty reduction (SDG 1), health of migrants (SDG 3) and gender equality (SDG 5). Recommendations include supporting the capacities of diaspora organizations, fostering dialogue which involves all potential partners (namely local, sub-national and national governments, private sector, non-profit sector, civil society) and promoting coherent governmental responses to create an enabling environment for diaspora activities. This could be accomplished through providing specific cooperation and support structures, allowing dual citizenship, issuing diaspora bonds, offering representation or voting rights, involving diaspora in the decision-making process or facilitating access to public services. Trust building is crucial in this regard, particularly in the case of conflict-induced diaspora communities.

Best Practice Box 2: Diaspora

- The [Diaspora Business Center](#) is a one stop shop that combines business and social interests, paired with professional know-how by diaspora experts. It aims at making diaspora investment more productive, and establishing a connection between western and emerging markets. Activities include business and project development, sales planning, among others.
- In Morocco, the association '[Migration and Development](#)' is engaged in integrated and participative development with migrants, enhancing the synergies between migrants and their communities of origin. As such, the communities of origin are strongly involved in defining their needs and to ensuring that the migrants' contributions are factored in when seeking to contribute to the development of the respective communities.
- The [African Diaspora Policy Center](#) aims at strengthening policy making capacities and practical operations of African government officials serving at the newly-formed Diaspora Ministries and related institutions.

Private Sector Development through Migration

Recommendations directed at fostering private sector development through migration center around three broad topics: 1) Supporting migrant and diaspora entrepreneurship is seen as an important step to create employment in host countries and in countries of origin as well as a source of industrialization, innovation and trade (SDG 9). Private Sector Development also

⁴ These and all following policies and practices are available at the [GFMD Platform for Partnership](#) (PfP), an online database featuring government policies and programs that have been inspired by GFMD discussions and recommendations. Since there are over 800 policies available, those listed here represent only a small selection and serve illustrative purposes only. Additional information can be found by following the hyperlinks provided in the boxes.

contributes to the achievement of SDGs 2, 9 and 14 by lowering migration pressure and creating employment opportunities in countries of origin. 2) Legislative frameworks and policy-making should therefore be concerned with the specific needs of migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs, provide tax and investment incentives to promote the creation of SMEs, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and technology transfer. 3) The private sector should also be regarded as an important dialogue partner on migration and development issues.

Best Practice Box 3: Private Sector Development through Migration

- [Migration Tools – Options for Sustainability](#) (MITOS), developed by the German development agency (GIZ) on behalf of the German Government, offers a set of tools that help leveraging the potential of migration for private sector development and provide complementary options for programs aiming at sustainable economic development.
- The [Business-City Partnership Project](#) is a pilot focusing on creating partnerships between the city government and local businesses for the purpose of improving migration and labor market outcomes in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- The Swiss [SECO Start-Up fund](#) promotes long-term, sustainable and broad-based growth in developing and emerging countries, for example by providing debt financing to Swiss individuals or companies who plan to create and invest into a business venture in partner countries.

Labor Migration

Past GFMD roundtables identified the need for better management of human resources as a key factor for labor migration. The recommendations focus on effective partnership between countries of origin and destination based upon an international matching of demand and supply of labor, better work conditions and protection for migrants. Ideas to facilitate labor migration include the portability of pensions and other social rights across countries, the reduction of recruitment costs for migrants, including market analysis and studies on recruitment costs, the promotion of fair and ethical recruitment procedures and bilateral (circular/seasonal/cross-border) labor agreements (SDGs 8.8 and 10.7; AAAA §111). Increased international cooperation in (vocational) education and recognition of skills (e.g. through mutual recognition agreements, more transparent recruitment processes or skills partnerships) could further enhance the developmental impact on labor migration. The negotiation and adoption of well-managed labor agreements and skills partnerships between countries of origin and destination foster a truly cooperative spirit and can thus contribute to the achievement of SDG 17.

Best Practice Box 4: Labor Migration

- In 2014, ILO called for an [Agenda for Fair Migration](#), pointing at challenges affecting migrant workers, like abusive recruitment practices. The initiative focuses on enhancing knowledge on recruitment practices, improving laws to promote fair recruitment practices, and empowering and protecting migrant workers.
- Similarly, the [International Recruitment Integrity System](#) (IRIS), an international voluntary “ethical recruitment” framework, benefits all stakeholders in the labor migration process. It provides a platform for addressing unfair recruitment and bridges international regulatory gaps.
- Various countries, e.g. Albania, Egypt, Greece, and Mexico, negotiated [bilateral labor agreements](#) that facilitate, regulate and monitor legal access to labor markets, taking into account the needs of the respective labor markets.

Return and Reintegration

Due to the highly sensitive nature of the topic, permanent return has not yet figured prominently in GFMD discussions. Nevertheless, the roundtables came up with a range of recommendations on knowledge transfer through temporary return and re-/integration. Providing pre-departure training and preparation for return (e.g. through language and vocational training courses) is seen as a way to enhance the development potential of migration and facilitate re-/integration. Circular migration schemes were often featured and promoted as mutually beneficial policies. Nevertheless, there is still the need for more research and evidence on how to make return and reintegration more development-oriented and sustainable (SDG 17.18) especially in situations when countries of origin are not able to offer the same economic conditions as countries of destination. Identifying key indicators, monitoring the impacts of return and reintegration at all levels, as well as strengthening evaluation capacity have been highlighted to address this need. Returnees can be easier re-integrated if their skills acquired during their migration fit to the economic system of their country of origin. Direct investments can also create jobs and opportunities for returnees to have access to the labor market of their source countries, thus boosting development. Knowledge transfer of returnees, sustainable return and reintegration leads to the promotion of industrialization and fosters innovation at the local level (SDG 9).

Best Practice Box 5: Return and Reintegration

- The [National Reintegration Centre for Overseas Filipino Workers](#) supports enterprises development among migrants and their families, primarily through the creation of awareness on the value of saving, and empowerment to plan for investment, business, or local employment upon their return.
- The [Happy Return Programme](#) by the Korean government offers vocational training, pre-return recruitment services and administrative support for migrants that plan to return to their home country.
- Equally, [Nepal](#) established public-private partnerships to provide skills training and financial literacy programs for returning migrants.

Migration Policy and Mainstreaming of Migration

The need for global and regional migration regimes as well as development-oriented national migration policies has been articulated a number of times during past GFMD roundtables and constitutes an integral part of SDG 10.7. They recommended comprehensive policy frameworks to manage migration to the benefit of all, including the promotion of regular migration that respects the human rights of migrants and reduction of irregular migration. This could be achieved by opening legal channels for migration and cooperating more closely between countries of origin and destination. Additionally, the GFMD Platform for Partnerships presents various good practices for bilateral cooperation on migration issues as well as coherent and development-oriented policies on local, sub-national and national levels. Most recently, GFMD addressed the issue of migration policy in relation to broader governance issues and linked this to the preparations of the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular Migration (SDG 10.7).

Best Practice Box 6: Migration Policy and Mainstreaming of Migration

- Ghana, among other countries, developed a [National Migration Policy](#) to help manage its internal and international migration flows. The goal is to promote the benefits and minimize the costs of migration, taking into account the interest of all stakeholders.
- The [Dashboard of Indicators for Measuring Policy and Institutional Coherence for Migration and Development](#) (PICMD) is a user-friendly tool that has been developed by the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Policy and Institutional Coherence. It aims to measure the extent to which public policies and institutional arrangements are coherent with international best practices.
- A study by [International Center for Migration Policy Development](#) investigated and mapped migration and development policy in eleven European countries and the European Commission, providing input for ongoing policy discussions, and assisting states in identifying possible future directions.

(d) Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity

The UN and its Member States must further strive to promote multilateralism, tolerance, international solidarity between and openness of societies. Current nationalist backlashes against this model seriously hamper efforts to create development-oriented migration policies aimed at contributing to poverty alleviation at the international level.

Addressing climate-induced migration is among the recommendations that have come out of the GFMD. Also, the GFMD came up with recommendations towards dealing with the effects of forced migration such as encouraging transit and destination countries to consider including forced migrants in labor migration programmes covering all skill levels and establish relations with employers to contribute to this aim.

(e) Areas where political guidance by the high-level political forum is required

A statement by the HLPF highlighting migration as a human reality contributing to development, thus underlining the importance of target 10.7 and its close linkage to the GCM-process would send a strong signal. In addition, it is important to point out the differences in human resources and work force between countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants and the need for a more balanced demographic, social and economic development between North and South.

(f) Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication

In recent years, GFMD has managed to establish core areas of dialogue centered on migration and development and gathered concrete recommendations as to how the potential of migration for development could be tapped. These are presented below.

General Recommendations:

- Integrate migration-related aspects into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda whenever necessary (as demonstrated in table 1, there are numerous links between migration and the 17 SDGs);
- Given the size of the migration phenomenon – approximately 250 million people worldwide are international migrants, sending 441 billion US Dollars remittances per year to developing countries⁵ – its actual and potential impact on poverty alleviation and prosperity should not be underestimated and thus deserves more attention;
- Focus on the migrants themselves, acknowledging their specific vulnerabilities as well as highlighting their important role as development actors (in line with the theme of the 2017 HLPF is “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”);
- Put more emphasis on the sub-national level⁶ to accelerate progress in poverty eradication by fostering inclusion and creating employment opportunities for all migrants;
- In line with the New York Declaration, promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, recognizing the different invaluable contributions made by governments, the private sector, civil society and academia in the spirit of a truly comprehensive migration policy approach;
- Underline the positive effects migration can have on the development in countries of origin, transit and destination as well as for the migrants themselves.

Specific Recommendations in view of the migration-related SDGs in focus of the 2017 HLPF and beyond:

- Create skills partnerships that aim at leveraging migration gains for qualitatively and quantitatively improved education of health personnel in countries of origin as a strategy to counter the shortage of global health workers;
- Increase direct investments, promote entrepreneurship, and boost agricultural and rural development in order to create jobs in developing countries;
- Encourage adoption of a code of ethical recruitment;



⁵ Migration and Remittances Factbook, 2016, World Bank

⁶ While discussions on development-oriented migration policies tend to focus on the national and global levels, there is not enough attention on the sub-national level. However, it is mostly at the sub-national level where Diaspora engagement projects are implemented, integration takes place and the results of migration policies are most visible. Sub-national or sub-regional migration partnerships place the local actors at the center and many successful cooperation examples in the PfP prove the potential of this approach.

- Formulate comprehensive strategies to effectively combat trafficking of women and girls, provide for their empowerment, protect their families, promote gender equality, and craft legislation that will bring clients and patrons of trafficking to the bar of justice; 
- Establish women networks online through portals so that they can connect and share capacities to build enterprises;
- Improve data collection on migrants' contribution to the economic growth of receiving countries and on their needs for un-skilled or low-skilled migrant so that policy making can rely on reliable data comparable across countries. GFMD as a multi-stakeholder partnership platform is particularly suitable to foster activities in this area. 

Outlook

Besides the contribution to the HLPF, the GFMD has been invited in the New York Declaration (Annex II) to provide thematic input to the inter-governmental negotiations on a **Global Compact on Migration** (GCM). Taking up the invitation, the GFMD stands ready to provide substantive input for the stocktaking meeting in Mexico in November 2017.

Recommendations to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum

22 March 2017

Annex I: Additional best practices from the GFMD Platform for Partnerships

Skills Partnerships on Good Jobs and Economic Growth

- With the [Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region](#) (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project), Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam aim to significantly reduce the exploitation of labor migrants in the region through increased legal and safe migration and improved labor protection.
- With the [Labor Rights Protection for Salvadoran Immigrants in the United States of America](#), El Salvador and the United States in 2011 signed a memorandum of understanding that recognized the joint commitment of both nations in the labor rights protection of Salvadoran immigrant workers in the United States.

Skills Partnerships on Good Jobs and Economic Growth & Partnerships for the Goals

- In [assessing the economic contribution of labor migration in developing countries as countries of destination](#), Costa Rica addresses the economic contribution of labor migration in South-South contexts. It looks closely at the contribution of immigration to economic growth, studies the impact of the labor market and the productive sector and reviews the implications of immigration for public finances and public services.
- With the [Labor Migration Information in Labor Market Information System \(LMIS\)](#), it is Ghana's specific objective to strengthen the capacities of the target countries to collect and share labor migration data and feed it into the LMIS and labour migration policy process via mutual learning and exchange of best practices.

Skills Partnerships on Gender Equality

- In the [Collaborative Action Programme to Prevent Trafficking of Women and Girls in South Asia](#) (2013 - 2018), South Asia and the ILO aim to reach 100,000 women and girls in major South Asian countries and major destination countries for an overall reduction of trafficking incidences. Hereby, the program works to empower and better protect women migrant workers and girls.
- With the [National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children](#), the Netherlands aim to report on the nature and extent of human trafficking and sexual violence against children in the Netherlands, and on the effects of the government policies pursued.

Skills Partnerships on Good Health

- In the [UK Code Of Practice For The Ethical Recruitment Of International Healthcare Professionals](#), the United Kingdom, reflects the principles and benchmarks set out in the World Health Organization (WHO) Code of Practice, which promotes voluntary principles and practices in the ethical recruitment of international healthcare professionals within member states of the European community.
- In the [WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel](#), Norway implements the WHO Code of Practice by scaling up education for relevant personnel to ensure sustainability of its own health care system. It has formally stopped recruiting health personnel from countries facing critical shortages in the health workforce.
- Kenya, in the [WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel](#), is working to incorporate the voluntary WHO Code of Practice into national law. It entered into bilateral agreements with certain countries (including Namibia, Lesotho and Rwanda) regarding collaborative health workforce training and promotion of circular migration of health workers (involving the temporary or permanent return to their home countries).
- In the [Global Health Workforce Alliance](#), the United Kingdom together with Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, India, South Africa and Nepal aim to support robust health systems with human resource planning to mobilize funds for training, maintenance, retention and a better distribution of the health workforce to serve those in the greatest needs in low-income countries.
- In a [Memorandum of Agreement on Healthcare Services Cooperation](#) the Philippines and Bahrain aim at creating alliances between healthcare and educational institutions to produce sustainable international education, training and professional/technical development programs.