

GFMD Summit Digest

Eleventh GFMD Summit Meeting

“Honoring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of All Migrants for Development”

In the wake of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Co-Chairs, Germany and Morocco, are delighted to share with you the highlights of the proceedings of the [11th GFMD Summit Meeting](#) held on 5-7 December, in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Day 1, December 5

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session of the Eleventh edition of the GFMD Summit gathered over 2,000 participants from 135 United Nations Member States, 45 international organizations, civil society, private sector, academia, and other migration stakeholders. More than 40 high-level government representatives, comprised of ministers and vice ministers, as well as senior officials of various international organizations also graced the opening ceremony.



Watch the Inaugural Session [here!](#)

In welcoming the participants, the Moroccan and German GFMD Co-Chairs, [Mr. El Habib Nadir](#) and [Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme](#), took stock of the achievements made in the framework of the first ever two-year GFMD Co-Chairmanship. In their separate statements, they highlighted the substantial contribution of the Global Forum in the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, more importantly, in the elaboration of the UN-led Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM), which will be adopted by participating UN Member States on 10-11 December. As the outgoing Co-Chair and host of this year’s Summit, Mr. Nadir articulated that the launch of the Summit on the eve of the Intergovernmental Conference presented an immense opportunity for the international community to take a step forward towards a global governance on migration, calling it a “turning point in history.” Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme, on the other hand, called the GFMD as the “market place at the center of the new GCM ecosystem,” which provides all stakeholders a safe environment and a catalyst for open discussion, confidence building and experiment on pressing migration issues.



For his part, **Mr. Abdelkrim Benoutiq**, Minister Delegate in charge of Moroccan Living Abroad and Migration Affairs highlighted Morocco’s national policy on migration governance and emphasized that managing human mobility is a responsibility of all states, which necessitates a participatory and consensual approach. **Ms. Louise Arbour**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration, recognized her predecessor, Mr. Peter Sutherland for initiating the GFMD, which created an atmosphere of trust among Member States and fostered an environment where migration could find its proper home in the UN. She also emphasized that the Global Compact leaves ample room for the Global Forum to discuss how to achieve the objectives of the GCM, and to contribute to its implementation through the exchange of experiences and innovative approaches. **Mr. Antonio Vitorino**, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, underscored the importance of the new Mayors’ Mechanism within the Global Forum, as an additional tool that will help ensure the implementation of the Global Compact at international, regional, national and local levels.



Mr. Driss El Yazami, President of National Human Rights Council; **Ms. Asako Okai**, Assistant Secretary General and Director of Crisis Bureau, UNDP; **Ambassador Regine De Clercq**, GFMD 2007 Chair; **Mr. Stephane Jaquemet**, Director of Policy of ICMC; **Mr. Roberto Suarez-Santos**, Secretary-General of IOE; and **Ms. Yasmin Youssef**, representative of young migrants, also delivered their speeches during the inaugural ceremony. The first GFMD Chair, Ambassador de Clercq, challenged the GFMD to consider the issue of sustainable migration in the near future.

All speakers emphasized the crucial role that the GFMD has played over the past decade—and will continue to play amidst the increasingly xenophobic developments in many parts of the world—in providing a state-led and multi-stakeholder space to advance dialogue and international cooperation on migration and development. They affirmed their support for the continuity of the Forum in further shaping the global agenda and the new architecture on international migration.

GFMD Common Space

Focused on the theme “*From Global Commitments to Multi-Stakeholder Action*,” this year’s **Common Space** commenced with the opening statements from the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair **Mr. El Habib Nadir**; Civil Society Co-Chair **Mr. Mamadou Goita** and UN SRSG **Ms. Louise Arbour**. A Dayos-style panel session also took place, wherein civil society, national and local government and private sector speakers articulated their institutional perspectives on how global commitments contained in the GCM can be amplified through their already existing initiatives on the ground, and in cooperation with the UN migration network.



Four parallel thematic sessions ensued to deliberate on how to ensure -- (1) migrants' and diaspora contribution to sustainable development, (2) inclusion of migrants, (3) safe, dignified and rights-based transit, entry, reception and return; and (4) decent work, labour rights and fair recruitment. The sessions kick-started with joint presentations on some existing multi-stakeholder initiatives geared towards the GCM implementation, namely:

- **Creating a dialogue space for diaspora and local authorities to yield sustainable development based on good governance** - Amb. Sory Kaba and Mr. Amadou Bocar Sam Daff (Senegal)
- **Taking stock of the Republic of Moldova's best practices and presenting the latest developments** – Ms. Daniela Morari (Moldova)
- **Alternatives to detention for children and youth in Mexico** - Mr. Jorge Gonzalez Mayagoitia and Ms. Silvia Gomez (Mexico)
- **The Triple Win Project** - Mr. Villamor Plan and Ms. Jillian Roque (Philippines)
- **Lichtenstein Languages** - Mr. Mario Konzett and Mr. Arno Brändle (Lichtenstein)

The 2018 Common Space underscored the imperative for governments to work with civil society and other non-state actors in ensuring that international frameworks on human mobility and development -- including the GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees -- truly work for migrants and societies.

Day 2, December 6

Government-led Roundtable Sessions

The second day of the GFMD Summit was dedicated to the six government-led and interactive roundtable (RT) sessions prepared by government-led teams after a series of consultations in Geneva. They systematically mainstream human rights, gender perspectives and whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches. During the RT discussions, participants from diverse backgrounds offered their multi-stakeholder perspectives on migrants' vulnerability and resilience, regional mobility, transferable learning and policy coherence, good migration governance for sustainable development, etc.

Roundtable 1 - From vulnerability to resilience: recognising migrants as agents of development

- [RT Session 1.1](#). Harnessing the capital of migrants to realise their potential
- [RT Session 1.2](#). Migrants' engagement with public services: from basic access to co-production

Roundtable 2 - Regional mobility to promote transferable learning and policy coherence

- [RT Session 2.1](#). South-South mobility: trends, patterns and transferable learning
- [RT Session 2.2](#). Regional mobility and policy coherence to support development

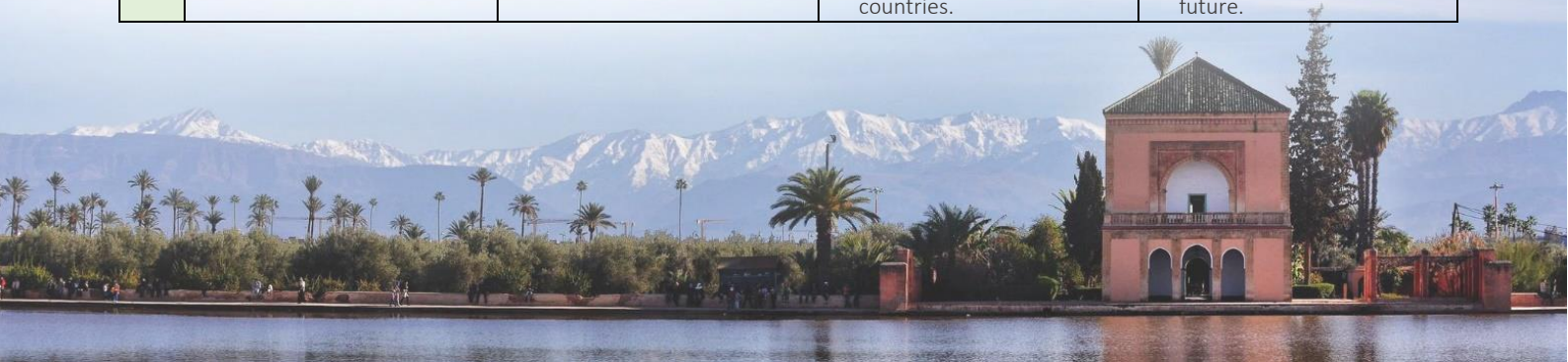
Roundtable 3 - Good migration governance for sustainable development

- [RT Session 3.1](#). Aligning governance with contemporary drivers of migration
- [RT Session 3.2](#). Beyond Remittances: leveraging the development impact and promoting the transnational engagement of diaspora and migrants

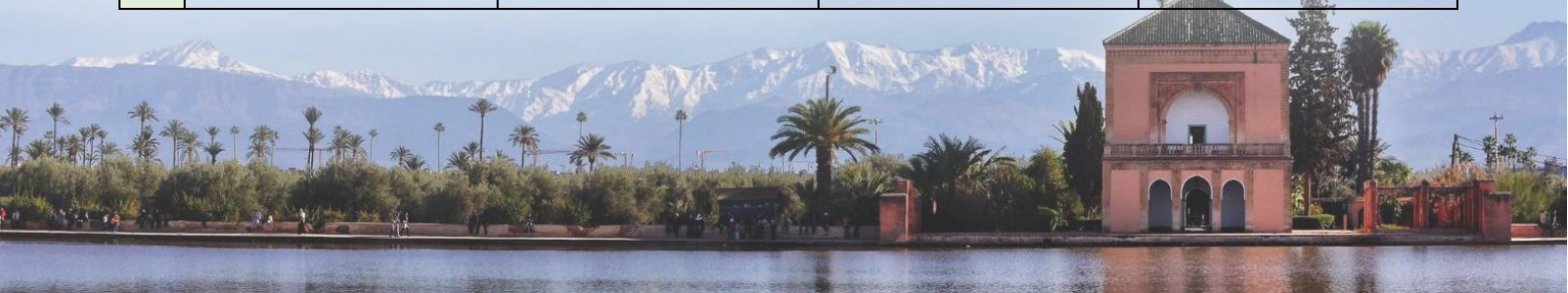
The table in the following page outlines the main points of discussion, challenges, opportunities as well as concrete practices and innovations that emerged from each of the six roundtable sessions.



RT	Main Points of Discussion	Challenges / Gaps	Opportunities	Practices / Innovations
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harnessing various forms of migrants' capital— human, economic, social and cultural—is a responsibility of all states in order to optimize the development potential of migration. - Integration is key and can be achieved through, for ex, language courses to get a better understanding of the host country and foster social inclusion. - Collecting real and concrete examples of how migrants contribute to host communities can counter the toxic discourse and widespread populism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Populism impedes the integration of migrants and does not allow them to become an active part of society. - Irregular migration does not allow migrants to fully utilize their capital. - Growing negative public perceptions and xenophobia towards migrants through media, for example, creates social inequalities and prohibits integration of migrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include the youth in all migration discussions as they play an important role in the process of migrants' integration. - Mainstream migration in states' development and social planning across all governance levels. - Rethink dichotomy between the high-and-low skilled – going beyond a system where high-skilled migrants enjoy benefits while the low skilled ones face precariousness and vulnerability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UAE provides incentives to employers that provide jobs and orientation courses to family members of migrant employees. - Finland focuses its integration efforts on employment and societal orientation at the start of migrants' stay. - Permits Foundation campaigns to improve work permit regularisation and supports partners of internationally assigned staff to access the job market.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to public services must both have a short and long-term perspective to ensure its sustainability. - Migrants should be seen more positively to overcome xenophobia and politicization—they need to be seen as productive assets of host societies. - There is a need to look for alternatives to detention or criminalization of irregular migrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal identification, language problems and cultural barriers can be a challenge to access public services. - While laws to govern migration are in place, lack of public resources often hamper their effective implementation. - Providing public services to returnees remain difficult as they often do not have complete legal documentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish bilateral agreements between countries to ensure migrant's rights are protected. - Coordination between national and local authorities is needed to properly consult with target communities. - Give migrants access to entrepreneurial activities to join the workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethiopia established a Diaspora Trust Fund to raise funds for marginalized communities. - Thailand works closely with the home governments of irregular migrants to ensure they are not penalized for working in the country. - Mexico builds the capacity of local authorities through informing them of their national migration laws and policies.
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are lessons that can be learnt by comparing and contrasting the scale and nature of human mobility between regions. - South-South mobility (SSM) is a growing phenomenon and emerges a new paradigm given the increasing contribution of the Global South in the world GDP. - Migration patterns of countries of origin, transit and destinations are rapidly changing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of decent jobs and structural unemployment exclude migrants from being productive citizens. - Lack of reliable and accessible data and local capacity obstruct evidence-based policy making and programme planning. - Destabilized foreign and trade policies can negatively impact economies and cause massive migration flows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use big telecom data to supplement existing statistical data in line with the existing international standards and guidelines. - Align domestic policies with international standards, while mainstreaming whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to migration. - Regional consultative processes and regional economic commissions can foster intensified cooperation between countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morocco and South Africa have initiated large scale regularization schemes for 30,000 and 300,000 migrants respectively. - ASEAN presents mechanisms for improved data collection and delivery of social protection. - ILO's International Conference of Labour Statisticians adopted a common definition of migrant worker which is expected to inform data collection globally in the future.



2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration remains to be a predominantly regional issue—over 50% of people move regionally. - Regional mobility cooperation has its own pros (common history, language, proximity) and cons (migration outside the region is not taken into account, overlapping membership, poor implementation). - As most migration is circular, there is a need to institutionalize new pathways for circular migration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generating consensus on free movement policies for some regions remain difficult. - There is little evidence on the impact of regional mobility and free movement on development. - The concept of “free movement” may get in the way of negotiating more region-based policies as countries are often in favor of trade mobility, but not the freedom of human mobility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring the topic of migration into large development fora that address regional issues. - GFMD can serve as an important platform for sharing of practices across regions. - Promote international cooperation and regional strategies that do not only respond to emergency situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecuador recently launched a Human Mobility Plan which focuses on promoting universal citizenship and free mobility in the international sphere. - Philippines currently aligns its migration policies with the GCM, mainstreaming its objectives across all state departments. - ECOWAS promotes economic integration in all fields of activity of its member countries in West Africa.
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general understanding on the drivers of migration has been predominantly negative. - Looking at the drivers of migration merely from a “sending country” perspective does not allow for an understanding of the positive factors that drive migration. - Demographic transition needs to be considered as a driver of migration, given the ageing population and the dramatic increase of unemployed youth in some countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing politicization of migration impedes effective governance on migration and cross-border cooperation. - Financing has become a constraint for interventions that specifically address climate-induced migration. - Some policy efforts are designed to deal with the symptoms of migration rather than its root causes, rendering policymaking ineffective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with employment actors and other private and non-private actors to facilitate labour matching. - Ensure better linkages between development and humanitarian actors for an enhanced response to forced migration. - Coordinate and consult with various actors to ensure coherent migration policies and a multi-stakeholder approach to address the drivers of migration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guatemala has strengthened its consular network across the countries of the Puebla Process with a focus on unaccompanied migrant children. - Moldova has piloted an initiative called the MIDL (Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development) to ensure youth employment and robust livelihood opportunities. - France has developed a national plan on migration and development aimed at maximizing the positive aspects of migration.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migrant transnational economic engagement is both a consequence and a factor of economic growth and development. - Remittances are the most visible act of migrants’ contribution to the development of their home countries. - Migrants transfer skills and capacities, disseminate national culture and heritage, and participate in political debates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is still a lack of aggregated data on the amount of migrants’ investment and on the sectors they have invested in. - Linking migration strategies with other specific sectors such as trade, finance, investment and entrepreneurship remains difficult. - While migrants are interested in investing in their home countries, they are often suspicious of formal institutions and regulatory frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand and strengthen the collection, analysis and application of diaspora-related data for effective policies, private-sector investment, and informed decision-making. - Governments should take advantage of the unique position held by a migrant as a direct “trait d’union” between their communities of origin and their host countries. - Create an enabling environment for migrants’ external investments, return, skill transfer and transnational trade, diaspora bonds, and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Madagascar recently created a Directorate in charge of diaspora within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which initiated the first ever profiling of their diaspora in France and the forum on diaspora. - IFAD set up a crowd funding platform called “Babyloan Mali” allowing Malians in Europe to invest in micro-small enterprises and agrobusinesses in Mali. - El Salvador has created a consular network which supports citizens abroad to invest back home, providing all relevant information on potential opportunities.



GFMD Business Meeting

The 2018 [GFMD Business Meeting](#) saw the broadest and most diverse representation of the private sector in the GFMD history. It was co-moderated by **Ms. Lynn Shotwell**, SVP and Head, Global Outreach and Operations, Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and **Ms. Stéphanie Winet**, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, International Organisation of Employers (IOE).

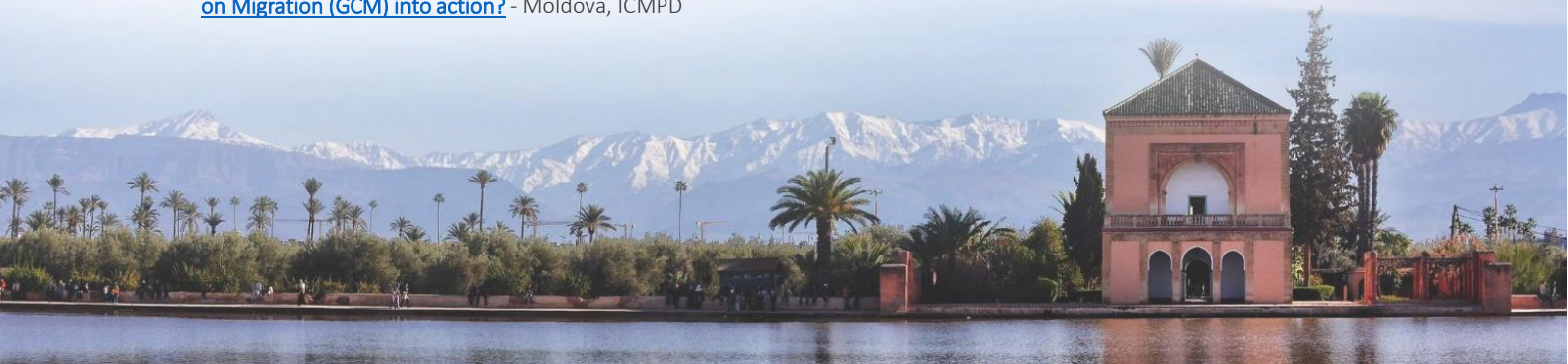
After the opening, three sets of panel discussions took place to elaborate the business perspective on how to implement the GCM. In the first session, business and government speakers shared their personal stories and institutional initiatives. This elicited reactions from the speakers in the second session who then discussed their positions on how to fill the current skills gaps and what regulatory frameworks could look like under the GCM. The final session focused on leveraging the use of technology to respond to the 21st century labor market needs and support cooperation on migration.

The concluding session was led by **Mr. Roberto Suarez-Santos**, Secretary-General, IOE, followed by **Mr. Touzani Mohammed**, Project Manager of the Employment and Social Relations Commission (CGEM); **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, German GFMD Co-Chair; and **Mr. Santiago Chávez**, Ecuadorian GFMD 2019 Chair. In their separate interventions, the speakers emphasized the need for businesses to come out of the closet, to be more vocal and visible in promoting transparent, fair and ethical recruitment for all levels of employment, and in driving a more positive global narrative on migration.

GFMD Side Events

Twelve side events and a workshop took place on the margins of the GFMD Summit on 6 to 7 December. Organized independently by proponent governments and non-state partners, the events complemented the thematic focus of the six RT sessions and the objectives of the Global Compact. The events highlighted the cross-cutting aspects of migration and development and put forth innovative policy tools and practices adopted by governments and non-state stakeholders.

- [A European-African approach to Migration: how to deliver lasting solutions?](#) - EuroMedA Foundation
- [A Different Way of Working: The GFMD's Migration Laboratory as an innovative way to implement global policy frameworks on migration and development](#) - Germany, Morocco
- [Global Governance of Migration: A Challenge Beyond the North-South Paradigm](#) - French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), OCP Policy Center
- [Mutuality and Migrants in Africa](#) - African Union of Mutuality
- [The Road Ahead: Coordination Challenges of Implementing the GCM](#) - BMZ, MPI
- [Workshop on the migration challenges and stakes of Morocco, between Africa and Europe](#) - Moroccan Researchers on Migration
- [What role for capacity building in turning the Global Compact on Migration \(GCM\) into action?](#) - Moldova, ICMPD
- [Making migration a shared concern – Bridging perspectives of academia, CSOs networks, youth, and local authorities](#) - UNESCO (Morocco)
- [Migration Policies in Morocco and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) - Morocco
- [Education and Migration, issues and challenges for Morocco](#) - Centre for Studies and research in social sciences - Morocco
- [Tapping into the development potential of migrants in developing countries](#) - OECD - Development Centre, European Commission, ILO
- [From Brain Drain to Brain Gain – A Compact for Skills Partnership and Mobility](#) - Bertelsmann Foundation, German-Moroccan Network of Competencies (DMK e.V.)
- [Safe and Dignified Return and the Economic, Social and Developmental Impact of Sustainable Reintegration](#) - Egypt, League of Arab States, IOM



Day 3, December 7

Platform for Partnerships

This year's special session on the [Platform for Partnerships](#) (PfP) provided a joint space for governments and other GFMD stakeholders to discuss and present concrete projects and initiatives that relate to migration and development issues, in particular in the context of the GCM commitments and the SDGs.

Mr. Jaouad Dequieuc, Director of Cooperation, Government of Morocco, and **Ambassador Alfonso Morales**, Undersecretary for International Protection, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, co-chaired the session on behalf of the outgoing and incoming GFMD Chairs. Following their opening remarks, **Ambassador Regine De Clercq**, Founding Executive Director of the GFMD 2007 Chairmanship of Belgium, and **Ambassador Arturo Cabrera Hidalgo**, GFMD 2019 Chairmanship, highlighted the PfP's potential in concretising the GCM commitments and in advancing discussions on migration and development issues beyond the GCM. Under the Ecuadorian 2019 Chairmanship, they proposed to revive a demand-driven "Marketplace," first introduced by the Belgian GFMD Chairmanship in 2007. **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit, pointed out that the GFMD could, in this regard, act as a "matchmaking mechanism" between those facing specific policy and practice issues and those providing targeted solution

In addition, five state-of-the-art state-led and multi-stakeholder initiatives on migration and development were presented:

- **Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: an interactive tool** - ODI and Switzerland jointly presented an interactive online tool aimed at better understanding the impact of migration on the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and – equally – the impact this achievement will have on future migration patterns.
- **People on the Move in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change: Addressing their Assistance and Protection Needs in the Global Compact for Migration** - In a joint presentation, the government of Bangladesh, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, IOM and UNHCR explored how to enhance action and scale up commitment and partnership with regard to addressing displacement and other forms of human mobility in the context of disasters, environmental degradation and the adverse effects of climate change.
- **Towards Comprehensive Global Guidance on Developing and Implementing Bilateral Labour Migration Arrangements (BLAs) - Unpacking Key Obstacles to Implementation in the African Region** - In a joint effort to provide comprehensive and coordinated global guidance in the area of Bilateral Labour Agreements, the ILO and IOM, with the dedicated support of the government of Sweden, partnered on a study on BLAs in African Union Member States.
- **Remittances for Africa: reducing costs and maximizing impact for development** - The European Commission and IFAD presented a new €15 million programme called PRIME (Platform for Remittances, Investments and Migrants' Entrepreneurship), aimed at reducing the costs of remittances and maximizing their impact for development in Africa, thereby responding to both Objective 20 of the GCM the achievement of target 10.c of the SDGs.
- **African Cities' Initiative on Migration: Towards Fighting against all Forms of Discrimination** - Jointly presented by UNESCO Morocco, the National Human Rights Council and the United Cities and Local Governments-Africa, the African Cities' Initiative on Migration aims to support local authorities - municipal authorities in particular - in the implementation of social inclusion policies for people on the move.



Future of the Forum

The [Future of the Forum](#) session served as an opportunity for heads of participating delegations to be reminded of the progress made since the Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin. **Amb. Götz Schmidt-Bremme** and **Mr. El Habib Nadir** shared the milestones that have been achieved leading to the Marrakesh Summit, highlighting the GFMD's substantive contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the GCM processes—the GFMD Recommendations to the [2017 and 2018 High Level Political Forum](#) and the [GFMD Thematic Recollection](#) (2007-2017).

To articulate the UN perspective on how the GFMD can strategically situate itself in the era of GCM Implementation, UNSRSG **Ms. Louise Arbour** and IOM DG **Mr. Antonio Vitorino** delivered keynote remarks. They both stressed the need for the GFMD to complement the knowledge platform that the UN Migration Network will provide to support the implementation of the short-term deliverables and objectives of the GCM.

Amb. Eduard Gnesa and **Amb. Esteban Conejos Jr.**, GFMD Review Team Co-Chairs, presented the findings contained in the report of the [GFMD Ten-Year Review](#), wherein they emphasized the three elements of the GFMD's added value in: (1) offering networking opportunities, (2) facilitating partnerships, and (3) acquiring knowledge. They also pointed to specific recommendations in the report on how the GFMD can deepen policy dialogue through continued format, facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships through a GFMD Marketplace and Migration Laboratories, and support the implementation, follow-up and review of the internationally agreed goals.

During the open discussion, at least 20 Member States intervened, thus generating a strong consensus in support of the continuity of the Global Forum. Several states emphasized the need to strengthen the operating modalities of the GFMD and ensure that the mandate of the GFMD is not merely reduced to supporting the GCM, but also to advancing debates on other facets of migration that are not adequately covered by the Compact.

Moving forward, **Mr. Santiago Javier Chavez Pareja**, Vice Minister for Human Mobility of Ecuador and **Mr. Jonathan Prentice**, Chief of Office for the SRSG for International Migration, reflected on the priorities for the next GFMD Chairmanship in 2019, coinciding with the first year of the GCM implementation.

Closing Session

The Closing Session of the 11th GFMD Summit featured the highlights of the intensive and substantive three-day programme. To begin with, the rapporteurs from the different Roundtable Sessions respectively highlighted the main outcomes and recommendations:

- RT 1.1 – **Mr. Emeka Obiezu**, Migration Expert, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, Nigeria
- RT 1.2 – **Amb. Evan P. Garcia**, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UNOG
- RT 2.1 – **Mr. Guillaume Cassaigneau**, Diplomatic Officer Migration, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- RT 2.2 – **Mr. Bagus H Kobarsyih**, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of Indonesia in Morocco
- RT 3.1 – **Ms. Sara Andegiorgis**, Desk Officer, Ministry of Justice, Sweden
- RT 3.2 – **Ms. Yessenia Lozano Gallegos**, Director of the Office of International Analysis of Migration, Deputy Ministry for Salvadoran Abroad

Following reports from the GFMD Review Team, the Special Sessions on the Platform for Partnerships and the Future of Forum, as well as the Civil Society Days and the Business Mechanism, **Ms. Valérie Plante**, Mayor of Montreal, Canada, delivered a keynote address which focused on the critical role of cities in migration management. She



highlighted that local authorities were already delivering on many of the objectives reflected in the Global Compact and should thus be clearly involved in the design of its follow-up and implementation architecture. She applauded the GFMD for welcoming the establishment of a Mayors Mechanism within the Forum.



In his statement, **Amb. Juan José Gómez Camacho**, Mexican Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and GCM Co-Facilitator, held the view that the current public debate on the Global Compact is a testament to the success of the GCM process. He called upon the GFMD community to actively engage and advocate for GCM support in order to improve the global governance of migration. **Mr. Moussa Oumarou**, Deputy Director-General for Field Operations & Partnerships, ILO; **Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**, World Bank Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations and Partnerships, as well as **Mr. Laurence Chandy**, Director for Data, Research & Policy, UNICEF, also delivered statements reflecting their institutional commitment to the GFMD.

In closing the Eleventh Summit, **Amb. Götz Schmidt-Bremme** urged all participants to utilise the GFMD as a space for an honest, fact-based debate on migration, while involving those that remain as critical of the GCM. Similarly, **Mr. El Habib Nadir** highlighted the potential of the GFMD – as a well-established, informal, state-led but multi-stakeholder space – for the implementation and follow-up to the GCM and in making a case for migration as a basis for development.

Both Co-Chairs warmly thanked all Summit participants for their engagement throughout the past two years and symbolically handed the GFMD Chairmanship over to **Mr. Santiago Javier Chavez Pareja**, Vice Minister for Human Mobility of Ecuador. In his remarks, the Ecuadorian GFMD Chair vowed to work closely with Germany and Morocco towards achieving a vision for the GFMD to facilitate discussions on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, and to maintain its structure as a broad, informal and flexible space for the establishment of strategic partnerships and generating consensus, which would allow for comprehensive consideration of all aspects and challenges posed by human mobility, including its humanitarian, development and human rights dimensions. He also enjoined the GFMD community to support the GFMD Chairmanship of Ecuador in 2019.

