Summary Report

**Thematic Workshop on Migration for Development:
a roadmap to achieving the SDGs**

18-19 April, 2018
Mohammed VI International Conference Center, Skhirat, Morocco

1   Introduction

The first thematic workshop under the second year of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Morocco and Germany was held on 18 and 19 April 2018, at the Mohammed VI International Conference Center in Skhirat, Morocco. It was entitled '*Migration for Development: a roadmap to achieving the SDGs*' and focused on the interrelationship between human mobility and sustainable development outcomes. Over 220 representatives from around 60 participating UN Member States and 60 international and civil society organisations participated in the workshop, delivered in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

The workshop had three main aims:

1.   To discuss and make concrete proposals on how the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) can take forward the interaction between migration and the SDGs.

2.   To explore the role of the GFMD in showcasing state-led initiatives and experiences on the implementation of migration-related commitments in the SDGs.

3.   To feed back on and finalise the GFMD report and plans for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018.

The structure was a mixture of plenary sessions and thematic workshops. The thematic workshops focused on six key areas of development that are of central importance to both the UN Member States and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They were intended to be specific enough to enable focused discussion of the challenges, opportunities, and potential routes for implementation and change, while being broad enough to encompass a range of issues member states are facing regarding the relationship between migration and development. Each workshop had a number of experts and member states present to help frame and guide the discussion.

2   Main themes

Migration is one of the defining features of the 21st century. It contributes significantly to all aspects of economic and social development everywhere, and as such will be key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Different levels and opportunities of development can be a driver of migration. At the same time, migration can increase development and investment for those who stay, fill labour gaps in host countries and contribute to development in 'transit' countries.

Migration can be an important strategy to achieve development outcomes: it can increase productivity, raise overall education standards and the remittances that migrants send to their

countries of origin can support entire communities. Migration is a strong poverty reduction tool – not just for migrants themselves, but also for their families and their wider communities. As such, it has an important role to play in realising the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But migration can also have negative impacts on development, and though the relationship between the two is increasingly recognised, it remains under-explored. It is essential to understand the impacts of migration on the achievement of all SDGs, and – equally – the impact this achievement will have on future migration patterns.

Against this background, the workshop addressed a number of key themes and dimensions, aimed at better framing the relationship between migration and development in the context of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), including:

- Migration as a powerful poverty reduction tool, which can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs
- The specific risks and vulnerabilities of migrants
- How to remove blockages to implementation of existing programmes
- How to address major data gaps

In order to contribute to and shape the GCM, it is more important than ever to understand these relationships and their implications for policy. It will be important to integrate and mainstream sustainable development across the objectives of the GCM, highlighting the different ways in which migration can help achieve development outcomes. Development policies and programmes can be part of a comprehensive strategy to better manage migration and make the most of its economic and social benefits. To do this, migration should be 'mainstreamed' in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3   Session highlights

3.1   Opening plenary

The thematic workshop on '*Migration for Development: a roadmap to achieving the SDGs'* was opened by **El Habib Nadir**, the Moroccan Co-Chair of the GFMD. He introduced the main objective of the workshop which is to collectively share good practices among stakeholders on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, particularly those related to migration. Mr Nadir underlined the fact that since the GFMD was established in 2007, discussions on the links between migration and sustainable development have always been present.

He was followed by **Markus Woelke**, the Deputy Head of Mission of Germany in Morocco, representing the German Co-Chair of the GFMD. For his part, Mr. Woelke stated that global migration is a shared responsibility and must be linked with development policies and the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs should therefore be mainstreamed throughout the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). He discussed the various drivers of migration, including poverty, and how only by integrating these policies will we see global traction.

Driss El Yazami, Chairman of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco then spoke about the importance of active participation of migrants themselves in creating solutions to the current issues on migration. As most migration flows are South-South, national policies on managing migration must be in place in the Global South that are in line with human rights. He made a plea for the inclusion of national human rights institutions in the review and follow-up process of the Global Compact.

Jill Helke, Director of the International Organization for Migration's International Cooperation and Partnerships Department, then delivered a statement on behalf of the Global Migration Group (GMG). She spoke about the need to mainstream migration into development planning to better facilitate development outcomes and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Migration governance, she asserted, necessitates whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and should consider the needs of migrants through a human-rights based and gender-responsive approach.

Abdelkrim Benoutiq, the Minister delegate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, then spoke. He stressed that the international community must have the courage and audacity to address the issue of human migration with realistic and collective solutions in light of the continuous instability and economic crises that are forcing people to leave. He also called for a more responsible discourse on the African migration flow in view of some distorted facts and figures on the issue that are being proliferated by the media. In the end, the Minister took pride in the Kingdom of Morocco's migration governance, and the policy of regularization and integration that it has developed in recent years. He highlighted the leading role that their country plays in the African continent's migration policymaking.

Finally, **Marta Foresti**, Director of Human Mobility at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) noted that migration has not been high on the development agenda, either nationally or internationally, until very recently. This, along with the current drafting of the Global Compact for Migration, has created a moment to make sure that the relationship between migration and development is framed in a useful way. She therefore thanked the GFMD Support Unit for convening this timely dialogue, and hoped that the discussion would highlight innovations from Member States, the private sector and civil society – tackling the reality of global migration and making sure it contributes to positive development outcomes.

3.2 Workshop 1 / Access and contribution to basic services: social protection, health and education

[Chair: **Gervais Appave**, Special Policy Adviser to the Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)]

The first workshop of the conference focused on the opportunities and challenges regarding providing services such as social protection, health and education to migrants. The panel included representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), a think thank (the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and from two member states, (Morocco and Thailand. The panel highlighted the importance of human rights, and an evidence-based approach to service delivery. Overall, the discussion recognised the benefits for migrants as well as host communities of extending services to migrants and the need to harmonise service delivery among government agencies.

A number of challenges in extending basic services to migrants were identified. There is often a lack of coordination between ministries to ensure that policies and laws are coherent and adopted. Neighbouring countries often do not collaborate on the registration and identification of migrants, which can often mean that migrants lose eligibility to services when they move. There are also challenges on the part of the migrant – they often do not speak the local language, and find it difficult to access information about the system.

Despite these challenges, the discussion also identified a number of opportunities and innovations being undertaken. Morocco discussed their national strategy for migrants and asylum-seekers; access to services being one of the four pillars. Thailand, on the other hand, discussed the way in which health insurance and work permits go hand in hand – ensuring the risk of re-emerging

diseases is reduced. The discussion focused on suppressing discriminative laws which prevent access to basic services, involving migrants in the delivery of basic services systems, and ensuring the implementation of existing frameworks and agreements rather than just creating new legislations.

3.3   Workshop 2 / Climate and natural resources

[Chair: **Ayshanie Labe**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Morocco]

The panel for the workshop on climate and natural resources included representatives from the academia, international organisations such as the Platform on Disasters Displacement and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Member States, Bangladesh and Senegal. Climate change was identified as one of the main drivers of migration, whether people are moving for sudden (e.g. disasters) or slow (e.g. drought, sea level rise) onset events. Competition over diminishing resources is also driving conflict, another driver of migration. However, the panel also identified that people only move if they are not sufficiently resilient to withstand the impact of these changes, which is why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on reducing vulnerability are crucial.

The discussion identified three main challenges when looking at the impact of climate change on human mobility. Firstly, there is very little data about people who move within their own country for climate reasons. Secondly, there are many frameworks related to climate change, migration and development, but they are not coherent and there are few connections between them. Finally, most national-level policies ignore the good practices occurring at the sub-national level.

When turning to opportunities and country-level innovations, they fell into three main groups. Firstly, reduce the hazard (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions). Secondly, help people to stay by building resilience to climate change, as well as diversify the agricultural base and livelihoods to ensure better food security. Thirdly, help people move and consider migration as an adaptation strategy by integrating mobility into climate change adaptation plans, disaster risk reduction management plans and national development plans. Here, some exciting examples came out of Central America, where Costa Rica and Panama have been proactively modelling the impact of seismic activity on population movement. Moroccan officials are working on water management, and the FAO discussed their database of best practices and policies which could be adopted further.

3.4   Workshop 3 / Labour and skills

[Chair: **Anna Wittenborg**, Project Manager, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)]

Workshop 3 on the importance of labour migration and skills transfer was held after lunch. The panel included representatives from international organisations and think tanks such as the Center for Global Development (CGD), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as representatives from member states (the Philippines and Morocco. Speakers agreed that labour migration is beneficial to both migrants and host and origin societies. Migrants fill labour gaps, transfer funds and skills, and bring new ideas and development to societies in both origin and destination countries.

Despite this potential, three main challenges remain—the portability of skills is one. In many cases, foreign qualifications are not recognised which prevents migrants from fully exercising their skills and talents. A second challenge that was identified is on skills matching. The representative from the private sector emphasised the importance of having migration policy match labour market needs and complement the skills of the national workforce. Finally, the protection of migrants' rights was identified as the third challenge. Even in regular situations, migrants remain vulnerable and subject to precarious situation due to lack of information on their own rights and available services.

Going forward, the workshop participants identified a number of potential avenues for change. Mechanisms and services should be in place to support nationals abroad, such as the Philippines' 'Empowering Filipinos abroad' programme which provides assistance during the whole migration cycle. Host countries should give equal access to services, regardless of migration status, and communicate the existence of these services to migrants. Contracts should integrate clauses to protect migrant workers, including the portability of benefits. Finally, the idea of a 'Global Skills Partnership' was floated – host countries training future migrants in countries of origin, enabling them to plug skills gaps in host countries.

3.5   Workshop 4 / Cities and urbanisation

[Chair: **Jose Eduardo Rojo Oropeza**, Director de Relaciones Internacionales - Secretaría de Gobernación, Mexico]

The afternoon on Day 1 concluded with a workshop on cities and urbanization. The panel included representatives from implementing partners (GIZ, international organisations the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UNDPacademia, the Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique (IURS). The panel recognized that local authorities and actors usually act as first responders/receivers of migrants, hence there is a need for greater policy coherence between the national and local levels, and participation of local authorities and migrants in policy design.

The panel identified the following challenges. Firstly, at times the national and local levels do not respond coherently to the challenges posed by urbanisation and migration (for example, in access to services). Secondly, migrants are not sufficiently included in the design of policy solutions. Migrants, civil society and the private sector can critically contribute to social and economic integration at the local level. Finally, to better understand the links between urbanization and migration, more substantive data analysis is needed.

In terms of the way forward, the discussion included numerous examples from member states showcasing approaches that include both local host communities and migrants to foster social integration and cohesion. The showcasing and repetition of good practices was identified as one of the opportunities going forward. The idea to develop an index of globally accessible good practices was put forward. The discussion also focused on enhanced exchange between cities and stakeholders, within and across regions, through fora such as the Cities Alliance and the Mayors' Forum. Finally, all reinforced participatory approaches. Local authorities should be involved in national-level policy design, and migrants should be included in the development of solutions to the challenges posed by urbanisation.

3.6 Day 1 Closing plenary / Implementing migration and development in policies and planning

[Chair: **Marta Foresti**, Director of Human Mobility at Overseas Development Institute (ODI)]

This session focused on specific projects aiming to mainstream migration within development planning, both within international organisations and Member States.

Firstly, **Cecille Riallant**, Manager of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) discussed the benefits of migration mainstreaming. It explores the impacts that development has on migration, and vice versa, which helps us understand the structural issues at play. She noted that while IOM has worked mostly in countries of origin, exploring these relationships are just as important for countries of destination. There are many different ways to do this, whether by bringing the migration angle into development policies, or vice versa, or to focus on sector-specific policies such as education or health. Regardless of the approach, it requires a whole-of-government approach to understand the impact of migration on development outcomes across different sectors.

George Jashi, Executive Secretary to the State Secretariat on Migration Issues in Georgia then discussed the Georgian history and experience with mainstreaming migration into development planning. In particular, he identified the need to create an inter-government taskforce with all Ministries who have a stake in managing migration effectively, while also noting the impact of government changes on the policy. Together with the OECD, they created a national migration strategy which acknowledged the positive impact migrants have on the economy, and the need to ensure that their development outcomes are realised.

Professor Bachir Hamdouch from the Association de Migration Internationale then spoke about the history of migration into and out of Morocco. He noted that in the 1960s and 1970s, most regions saw circular migration, primarily for low-skilled people, but these patterns have now shifted. There is now more irregular migration to Spain and Italy, and Morocco is seeing more inward migration from other African countries.

For his part, **Stephane Jaquemet**, Director of Policy, International Catholic Migration Commission talked about the importance of civil society in exploring the links between migration and development. He acknowledged that the civil society has a responsibility to organize a constructive dialogue with Member States, and remain inclusive to all different types of movements. Here, he held the view that the GFMD provides an excellent platform. He concluded by discussing the Migrants in Countries of Crisis (MICIC) programme which created a set of guidelines showing the responsibilities of various actors towards migrants.

Finally, **Ambassador David Donoghue**, Co-Facilitator of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Distinguished Fellow ODI, offeredprovided some remarks. He noted that countries which have experienced migration as a political issue, such as Georgia, are already motivated to coordinate at a national level and ensure policy coherence between migration and development. Others are not yet at this stage. Factoring migration into development plans is integral, thus, must be done at an early stage.

The discussion focused primarily on exploring Member States' experiences with mainstreaming migration into development planning. Germany, Ethiopia and Nepal discussed integrating migration and the SDGs in their development planning – fostering the development potential of migration and reducing the risks. Some countries, such as Guatemala and Egypt, have looked at the interactions of different sectors and services to guarantee the rights of migrants. Others, such

as Mexico, have integrated migration into local development policies. While there is no 'one' model in mainstreaming migration, coordination between different ministries and actors remains crucial.

3.7   Workshop 5 / Women and girls

[Chair: **Ambassador Hasan Kleib**, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations]

The second day of the workshop began with a discussion on the contribution women and girls make to the economies of both origin and destination countries, as well as the particular vulnerabilities they face. The panel included academic Balsillie School, representative from international organisations (UN Women) and Member State Republic of Moldova. The panel recognized that, around the world, women represent 48% of the stock of migrants, but they are often excluded from migration discussions. This is because they often contribute to economies in more hidden ways – such as through the care economy.

The discussion raised the challenge of obtaining quality data. Gender-based data needs to be collected, and the implementation and evaluation of projects must be gender-sensitive. Such data would show the impact that women have on economies (for example, migrant women workers contribute up to 30% of the GDP in Nepal). Women mostly work in unregulated sectors, such as the care sector, which provides specific vulnerabilities. Women are often transporting goods internationally, but they have little access to financial institutions and banks. During the migration journey, women and children face abuse and exploitation. Children have special vulnerabilities and needs also, whether moving with their families or alone.

When turning to opportunities and innovations, most countries spoke of the overwhelming benefit women provide to their economies – in terms of starting businesses, plugging skills gaps, and contributing financially. The discussion talked about the importance of diaspora groups, and making sure womens' voices are heard at the national and international levels.

3.8   Workshop 6 / Citizenship and identity

[Chair: **Veronica Coulter**, Immigration Program Manager, Canada)

The final workshop of the conference focused on the concept of permanent residency and citizenship – how, if granted, it can foster the integration of migrants but if denied, it can lead to further marginalization. The panel was comprised of representatives from academia, Coventry University, Member State (Ecuador and international organisations United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and Fondation Trois Cultures).

The panel began by discussing SDG16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and the relationships between migration status and positive development outcomes. Three main challenges emerged. Firstly, politicians act based on what they think public attitudes to migration are, but evidence shows that people are more positive or ambivalent, than negative. Negative attitudes prevail because they represent other issues such as fears about globalization and security. Secondly, migration status can lead to a lack of access to human rights or rule of law/legal remedies. This can occur even for stateless groups who have been present in their host country for decades. As 1.1 billion people worldwide lack ID and documentation, providing these people with access to basic services is difficult, not to mention the difficulty for governments to achieve other SDGs.

Yet opportunities and innovations at all levels were highlighted. At the national level, there are some moves to ensure that migrants have adequate ID and documentation, including the regularization of migrants and harnessing technology to create digital IDs. For example, children

in Ecuador, regardless of migratory status, will get Ecuadorian nationality automatically. At the local government level, we heard about initiatives to create welcoming city environments for refugees and migrants. And at the civil society level, we heard about integration efforts such as language training, bringing young people together, and making sure diaspora groups retain their own culture and identity, while contributing to host communities.

4   Conclusions and recommendations for the Global Compact for Migration (based on closing plenary)

[Chair: **El Habib Nadir**, the Moroccan Co-Chair of the GFMD]

In the first of three speeches to close the conference, **Gervais Appave**, Special Policy Adviser to the Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM) spoke of the need to protect migrants from inequity and exclusion by providing them with access to essential services, without seeing them as just victims. Migrants, he emphasised, want the opportunity to be productive and contribute both economically and socially to their host countries. He concluded by emphasizing four principles for action which should be in the Global Compact for Migration to ensure migration contributes to development. Firstly, on data – migrants are largely invisible in statistics. Secondly, we need appropriate legal frameworks to ensure access to essential services and the administrative structures to implement them. Thirdly, establishing a governance structure with a clear delineation of responsibilities among government actors. And finally, partnerships are crucial – between governments, civil society and the private sector. He concluded by praising the GFMD as a forum where these types of discussions can take place, and these partnerships can be formed.

Secondly, **Marta Foresti**, Director of Human Mobility at the ODI, discussed four actions to ensure we capitalise on this unique moment to ensure development outcomes are effectively considered within the Global Compact for Migration. Firstly, governments and civil society should make sure we get the framing right within the guiding principles of the zero draft – that migration can contribute towards positive development outcomes. Secondly, that as much as the text is important, it is the political process underlying it which matters the most and provides the most opportunities. Thirdly, the importance of implementation. We need to collect good examples from different Member States to ensure that the GCM is used as a platform for action, regardless of current levels of progress. And finally, on the importance of the GFMD, it is imperative that we have a forum where such learning can take place and where the importance of development outcomes can remain squarely within such migration discussions.

Finally, **Markus Woelke,** the Deputy Head of Mission of Germany in Morocco, representing the German Co-Chair of the GFMD, provided his conclusion. He highlighted the importance and relevance of the GFMD, and the ideas and innovations coming out of this workshop. In these, the process matters as much as the substance. To ensure migration is positive for both migrants and their countries of origin and destination, we need to employ an evidence-based and rights-based approach. As other speakers did, he highlighted the importance of the GFMD, especially going forward as a monitoring mechanism for the Global Compact for Migration.

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