

Second GFMD Preparatory Meetings
18 April 2023
Friends of the Forum

- UAE Opening Remarks

Excellency, Director General, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you, Excellency, for giving the UAE the floor. My name is Alia Ibrahim and I am the Head of International Organisations for the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation.

Allow me to begin by thanking you Chair, on behalf of the GFMD community, for your commitment to the process and for your hard work to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the GFMD. I am confident that I am joined by all our colleagues present today – whether in person or online – in noting the progress that has been made in establishing a successful Secretariat and moving forward with a successful thematic agenda. We have already noticed that your focus on the links between climate change and migration has encouraged discussion on this issue in other fora, and it served as the basis for an excellent workshop in March. We believe that opening the Chairmanship of Roundtables to the Mechanisms has been an excellent development, building on the willingness of previous Chairs to increasingly open GFMD to full participation by all stakeholder groups. On RT4, we are already benefiting from the involvement of the Business Mechanisms as a Co-Chair, alongside Zimbabwe and ourselves. *[Who knows, perhaps one day we will see a Mechanism Co-Chairing the GFMD alongside a Member State.]*

We are also very pleased with the progress that has been made in the establishment of a new Secretariat. Barbara Sidoti is already well known to many in the GFMD community and has played an active role in supporting its activities in recent years and her appointment to Head of the Secretariat is very welcome news. She has already brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the role, and we are confident that she is exactly the right person to guide the GFMD into its next phase of life.

Chair, I won't take up more of your time, but as a member of the Troika, we are proud to continue to support your Chairmanship and the wider GFMD community. We will continue to play an active role in supporting the GFMD financially and thematically, and we look forward to your updates today and to tomorrow's preparations for the Roundtables.

Thank you.