



From environmental concerns to cultural aspects of migration: adopting an inclusive approach to meet the challenges and increase the opportunities for human mobility

Summary concept note for the 2022-2023  
Chairmanship of the GFMD

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The GFMD is a unique framework for dialogue that brings together the States, the local authorities, the civil society, the private sector, youth structures, international and regional organizations, from which we must take advantage, to foster experience sharing and cooperation on migration and development issues.

In order to position the Forum's discussions at the heart of the 21<sup>st</sup> century priorities, the main topic for the GFMD 2022-2023 will be :

### THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN MOBILITY

This issue will be the central theme of the Chairmanship, and addressed with a cross-cutting approach through the thematic priorities described in this document.

## Introduction

This document presents the priorities of the GFMD Chairmanship from July 2022 to December 2023. It is the result of a consultation over several months between the Chair and many of the Forum's stakeholders, namely representatives of its Mechanisms and Youth Stakeholders Network, the working groups, and members of the Friends of the Forum. Through these exchanges, six thematic priorities were established that will be the focus of discussions at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

In order to firmly establish the Forum at the heart of 21st century priorities, for main theme the 2022-2023 Chairmanship has chosen: "the impact of climate change on human mobility". This issue will be addressed with a cross-cutting approach through the thematic priorities. Given the urgency highlighted in the 2022 IPCC Report, the Chairmanship would like to reiterate its commitment to urgently tackling the damaging effects which disasters, climate change and environmental degradation have on migration and displacement. It would like to begin a dialogue to set out solutions for the associated movements of populations.

In light of the complexity and current nature of the topics addressed, there is a need to adopt and promote rational, informed discourse. The Chairmanship will seek to ensure the quality and trustworthiness of the information produced and shared within the Forum as well as in other bodies. Discourse on migration is one of the Chairmanship's thematic priorities. In relation to this commitment to promoting balanced, rational and informed discourse on migration, the Chairmanship wishes to introduce a new dimension to the GFMD, by addressing the aspect

of culture for the first time. It will do so through a holistic approach to initiate discussions on the many facets of migration, from its economic, social and environmental aspects to the wealth of cultural interactions it generates. This unique approach will foster discussion on the positive effects of migration, as well as means to sustain and promote them. Building on this approach, issues surrounding diasporas, human rights and labour migration will also be addressed.

The 2022-2023 Chairmanship also wishes to promote the GFMD's work on an international level and ensure its long-term success. The aim, in part through the Chairmanship's programme is to strengthen the role of the GFMD in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Chairmanship will oversee the GFMD's contribution to monitoring of the Global Compact for Migration, particularly at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and keep track of progress in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda. Given its ambition to address the challenges of climate change for human mobility, the work of the GFMD must be fully aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement commitments and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In order to promote an inclusive dialogue, the Chairmanship is open to all suggestions. The 14th Summit of the GFMD, in 2023, should be an event where all voices are heard. Only in this way can we succeed together in meeting shared challenges and sustaining the opportunities available to us all.

## **Priority 1: The impact of climate change on human mobility: preventive action, humanitarian action and development**



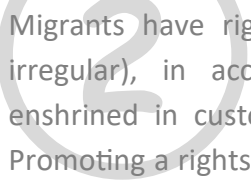
In 2020, the number of persons displaced by climate and environmental disasters reached 30 million, compared to 10 million displaced due to conflicts. According to the World Bank, if States do not respect their commitments under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, up to 216 million people globally could be forced to migrate (World Bank, 2021). On the other hand, if countries take action now to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, close development gaps, by improving local labour market operations and resilience in close partnership with the private sector, restore vital ecosystems and help populations adapt, internal climate migration could be reduced by up to 80%.

### **Approach and objectives:**

The Chairmanship wishes to invite the GFMD stakeholders to examine the migration, climate and sustainable development nexus, in order to together identify means of preventing or else better managing climate-induced forced displacements. It will also consider how to ensure that movements take place under safe and decent conditions for those forcibly displaced internally or externally due to climate change or environmental causes.

- Bring together all parties concerned by migration, climate and sustainable development, and create a community of actors involved in the nexus to promote shared knowledge and learning
- Identify the challenges and opportunities related to the nexus and means to address the former and draw on the latter
- Propose courses of action in the form of deliverables (studies, recommendations, etc.) to international donors and decision-makers
- Identify existing legal instruments to address the challenges raised by environmentally induced forced migrations

## **Priority 2: Rights and migration: working to ensure the health, safety and rights of migrants**

 Migrants have rights regardless of their status (regular or irregular), in accordance with the human rights norms enshrined in customary and conventional international law. Promoting a rights-based approach to migrant populations has multiple benefits: it enables, on the one hand, protection of the integrity and human dignity of migrants while combatting human rights violations, and on the other hand, maximizes migrants' positive contributions to their host societies and societies of origin and transit, by facilitating their socio-economic integration. Ensuring respect for human rights, which are inalienable, is also a means of strengthening legislation concerning the management of migration flows by the countries in question and tackling the factors of forced migration (factors undermining economic and social rights that force populations to emigrate).

- Promote a rights-based approach in the issue of migration
- Identify human rights challenges and opportunities in the context of migration and means to address the former and draw on the latter
- Propose courses of action in the form of deliverables (studies, recommendations, etc.) to international donors and decision-makers

### **Approach and objectives:**

Migration is a right established by international conventions and proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A rights-based approach should be promoted, especially when applying it to migrating populations who are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses. The fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling must be stepped up, and, of course, the human lives in question must be protected.

### **Priority 3: Diasporas: actors of economic, social and cultural development of regions**

It is widely agreed that diasporas can play a role of catalyst and support the development of their countries of both destination and origin. Through remittances, diasporas have a considerable capacity to finance economies. Diasporas are also providers of cultural, social and human gains, thus enriching their host societies. They create links between territories by contributing to the development of interstate relations, and play a role in promoting paths of legal mobility and cooperation across all domains. Diasporas can thus work towards the dissemination of positive narratives on migration through the promotion of the many positive externalities that arise from it. At the same time, the concrete experience of migration gained by diaspora communities also allows the production of empirical discourses on the sometimes negative realities, and even the risks and perils of migration, particularly when it takes place through irregular channels of mobility.

#### **Approach and objectives:**

The 14th Summit of the GFMD will form the basis for our questions on how to maximize the contributions of diasporas. However, it must be underscored that diasporas alone cannot carry through a development policy, and that for this to work, States must play the role of facilitator, by supporting diasporas and creating a welcoming environment for their contributions.

- Clarifying the key concepts and their recent evolution, in particular the notion of diaspora, which is rejected to a degree by second and third generation migrants.
- Reflect on the concept of dual identities via the situation of dual nationals: increasing numbers of people claim this status
- Promote the contributions of diasporas
- Identify the opportunities offered by diasporas and how they manage to forge transnational networks
- Share best practices of mobilization of diasporas for the development of countries of destination and origin

## **Priority 4: Labour migration: promoting the economic inclusion of migrants**



In terms of labour, international migrant workers represented 69% of the global population of working-age international migrants in 2019. Labour migration may, so long as it is suitable and relevant, offer solutions beneficial both to migrants and host societies. It is necessary to establish legal frameworks enabling migrant workers to work legally and guaranteeing their rights. The portability of social rights is a major issue that allows to reduce the vulnerability of migrants and to promote the economic, social and cultural contributions of regular migration.

In order to promote the gains brought by migrants, host societies must create favourable conditions for their social and economic integration. Destination countries also have a role to play in terms of communication to their population, by presenting migration as an economic gain and working on producing more balanced narratives about migration. Besides, it is also essential to ensure efficient and humane return and reintegration policies that enable migrant workers to contribute to the development of their societies of origin.

- Work on the issue of brain drain and related questions around brain return and brain gain
- Identify best practices in legislation to attract a qualified workforce suited to the needs of the labour market
- Identify the digital tools that can provide support to migrant workers
- Share best practices to ensure the social and economic inclusion of migrants

### **Approach and objectives:**

Following on from previous GFMD discussions, the Chairmanship wishes to further discussions on labour migration, which facilitate economic and social inclusion of migrants. It will look at existing legal frameworks and means to foster access to employment and ways to improve them.

## Priority 5: Improving the perception of migration in public opinion through narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse



The narratives on migration released by the different actors (media, political decision-makers, civil society organizations, etc.) sometimes subjective and not evidence-based, can generate disinformation and manipulation, and raise xenophobia or stereotypes. It is then important to combat these narratives by promoting balanced discourse based on documented and verified facts. At the same time, in order to promote a more accurate view of migration, its challenges and benefits, we need to integrate issues that are often neglected, such as the valuable cultural contribution of migration. In this regard, diasporas have a key role in raising awareness in their host societies: diasporas work to disseminate narratives on migration, whether focused on positive externalities, or more nuanced and taking into account the risks and challenges of migration.

- Promote informed and balanced discourse on migration
- Share best practices for work on informed and balanced discourse
- Incorporate the cultural and social dimensions of migration in ties between migration and development
- Combat discrimination, manipulation, disinformation, xenophobia and racism
- Give a voice to migrants to tell the stories first hand

### Approach and objectives:

For the first time since the creation of the Forum, we propose addressing the cultural issues tied to migration, the mutual benefits it brings and the change in the relationships that populations have with others and with themselves. The goal is to work on discourse and give a voice to the stakeholders, including migrants themselves.



## **Priority 6: Multi-level governance: bringing together the various stakeholders for improved migration management**



Migration is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that affects all territories. Migration must be addressed using an inclusive, partnership-based approach that combines local, national, regional and global stakeholders, institutional or otherwise (States, local authorities, international organizations, civil society, private sector, etc.). There are several levels of migration governance, namely international, regional and national. Above all, it is a question of coordinated and orderly management between the different actors, respecting the missions and mandates of each, in order to achieve the political and operational objectives set.

### **Approach and objectives:**

The GFMD encompasses governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, youth organizations, and international and regional organizations. The primary goal is to make the most of this unique framework for dialogue which includes all levels of action and stakeholders concerned with migration.

- Examine the various models for multi-level governance in the field of migration, with a particular emphasis on the involvement of the various levels of local and regional government
- Identify the challenges and opportunities presented by multi-level governance, as well as how to meet the former and take advantage of the latter
- Examine the necessary links between the different levels to improve the effectiveness of multilateral governance in migration
- Exchange best practices and experiences regarding coordination on migration

## The 2022-2023 Global Forum on Migration and Development

### Preparing for the 2023 Summit:

The Chairmanship will be punctuated by thematic events that will inform discussions with a view to the Paris Summit in 2023.

Three preparatory meetings will be held in Geneva enabling Member States and other GFMD stakeholders to prepare the Summit roundtables.

- (TBC) Early 2022 - Launch event of the Chairmanship
- June 2023 - Culture and migration event
- December 2023 - 14<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit in Paris

### Vision of the Chairmanship

#### An approach based on partnership

While governments must accelerate their action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, the responses to the challenges posed by climate change cannot come from governments alone. As climate displacement is most often internal and over short distances, local authorities play a key role given they are on the front line with regard to this issue. The Chairmanship will ensure that participation is as inclusive as possible by giving civil society, local governments, the private sector and young people the chance to propose activities. It will also seek to ensure a gender balance, with women holding their rightful role at the centre of the discussions.

By bringing together climate actors, the Chairmanship seeks to drive synergy between climate discussions and migration discussions at multilateral level for increased consideration of climate issues in migration discussions and vice versa.

#### A rational and scientific approach

Promoting the most scientifically rigorous approach possible when addressing the issues brought up at the Forum will be at the heart of the Chairmanship. This approach will have two dimensions:

- **1. The collection, analysis and sharing of the latest research** in the field of the environment and the migration-development nexus: bringing together a community of practitioners and identifying investigators and producers of knowledge and ideas concerning this phenomenon. We then need to analyse the various data, interpret it and share this analysis with the relevant stakeholders.
- **2. A series of workshops (scenarios) for exploring future migration** based on the latest data on the effects of climate change on migration, as it is important to carefully evaluate the nature and probability of migration brought about by environmental factors before asking how this phenomenon can be addressed. These exercises will also provide an initiation to the priority policy areas for the drawing up and planning of future migration policies.

## Vision of the Chairmanship (continued)

### Giving the GFMD and its discussions a role in the multilateral sphere

#### 1. Together with migration stakeholders

For one, the GFMD can and should continue to enrich the Global Compact for Migration with original and external reflections as a non-UN body. This is the mission the GFMD has set itself with its commitment to collectively contributing to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022. However, certain GFMD Member States are not signatories of the Compact. It is thus important not to neglect their voices in the multilateral sphere. These Member States will therefore have their full part to play in the discussions.

#### 2. Together with climate stakeholders

By placing itself at the nexus between migration, climate, and development, the GFMD needs to liaise with climate stakeholders. The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) could be a key partner as it has already explored the link between migration and climate change in-depth. Closer relationships and even collaborations between the GFMD, the IPCC, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office for Climate Education (OCE) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative (CREWS) should be sought.

### The Platform for Partnerships (PfP)

The Platform for Partnerships (PfP) is the GFMD's tool for gathering concrete practices stemming from Forum meetings. A truly innovative mechanism created in 2010, the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships was one of the first bodies to gather data and best practices on migration policy. In order to preserve its innovative nature, the Chairmanship will continue to invest in and modernize this data collection and open it up more broadly to GFMD stakeholders, while also moving away from the strict GFMD sphere. The Chairmanship has set out to establish alignment between the PfP and the PDD, which compiles best practices regarding the nexus between the environment and forced displacement, but which does not have a platform of its own.

## Enclosure - Guiding questions for thematic priorities

### **Priority 1: The impact of climate change on human mobility: preventive action, humanitarian action and development**

Why talk about a migration-climate-development nexus, and how are these fields interconnected?

How can we better understand and establish a scientifically rigorous definition of the concept of climate/environmental migration?

How can synergy be developed between scientific output and political decision-making with regard to migration, climate and development?

What is the role of the various actors in addressing migration, climate and development challenges, and how can we increase the accountability and responsibility of the various categories of actors?

Why do the different types of climate risks (natural disasters, water stress, rising sea levels, land degradation and salinization, desertification, etc.) require differentiated political responses? How can we prepare for them, and who should be involved in this response?

What best practices and initiatives exist to prevent forced displacements caused by disasters and climate change? Can they be replicated, expanded or built upon? More broadly, how can the causes of climate-induced forced displacements be reduced?

How can complementarity be achieved between humanitarian action, development policy and climate change adaptation? Can diasporas and migrants play a role?

How can we ensure that vulnerable populations can leave an environment that has become inhospitable with dignity? How can we ensure that those who migrate due to disasters, climate change or environmental degradation are well informed of their rights, the potential dangers and safe and legal migratory pathways throughout their migratory journey? How can we better meet the specific needs for protection and support of the most vulnerable groups (women, children, young people, etc.) faced with forced displacements? Which actors are best positioned to do so?

What impact can the migration, climate and environment nexus have on peace and international stability? What tools, frameworks and mechanisms for anticipation are needed?

### **Priority 2: Rights and migration: working to ensure the health, safety and rights of migrants**

#### *1. A rights-based approach:*

What is a human rights-based approach to migration?

How can a rights-based approach be applied and strengthened in the fight against irregular migration?

Who are the key actors in protecting human rights? How can they be brought together? To what extent and under what conditions do developing and promoting access to rights contribute to strengthening the voluntary, safe, orderly and regular nature of migrations?

## Enclosure - Guiding questions for thematic priorities (continued)

### 2. *Guaranteeing migrants' rights*

What lessons can be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of access to care, protection of human rights and management of migration flows?

What mechanisms can ensure better access of migrant populations to housing?

How can digital tools be used to help migrants access their rights?

How can the diasporas be mobilized in the fight against human trafficking?

### 3. *Access to health*

What basic essential services are needed to ensure access to universal health coverage for migrants? How can access to care be ensured throughout migration, including at the destination?

What are the requirements in human and material resources to ensure complete access to health information, with the goal of delivering key elements that include means of professional interpreting throughout the healthcare process?

What measures can be put in place to guarantee a coherent mental health pathway and treatment for psychological trauma?

### **Priority 3: Diasporas: actors of economic, social and cultural development of regions**

How can diasporas be included in the

development and productive investment of their countries of origin?

What frameworks and structures can be put in place in the countries of origin and destination to favour the investment of diasporas?

How can remittances be better mobilized and structured to improve the level and efficiency of their use?

How can the structuring of diaspora networks be improved in destination countries?

How can ties be created between these diaspora networks and national and local authorities?

How can the action of diasporas be promoted with a view to localization and territorialization of development cooperation?

How can new forms of diaspora engagement be promoted and capitalized on in terms of international solidarity?

How can the visibility and knowledge of these networks and initiatives be ensured among diasporas?

What policies and initiatives can ensure the creation of partnerships between diasporas and local populations?

How can the skills, expertise and experience as well as the social and cultural gains of diasporas be promoted in their countries of both destination and origin? How can the knowledge of diaspora communities about the opportunities, but also the

## Enclosure - Guiding questions for thematic priorities (continued)

risks and perils of migration be put forward to the populations of the countries of origin?

How can the return of highly qualified diaspora members to countries of origin be utilized and fostered?

What role can diasporas play in promoting legal avenues of mobility for individuals and knowledge?

### **Priority 4: Labour migration: promoting the economic inclusion of migrants**

How can the labour and skills shortage be addressed through mobility of people with knowledge and skills?

What are the challenges and opportunities of labour migration and the rights of labour migrants?

How can research results be applied to migration policies concerning the issue of labour?

How can local authorities support migrants on the path to economic inclusion and help companies access foreign workers? How can the different actors, national and local authorities, civil society organizations, employers, trade unions, diasporas and international organizations work together to facilitate the socio-economic integration of migrants?

What lessons can be drawn from the existing mechanisms for the portability of social rights? How can they be promoted, developed and their contribution increased?

How can digital tools support migrants in accessing training and the search for employment, and ensure better balance between the demand and supply of employment? How can governments use digital tools to develop effective migration policies and processes?

How can the legal framework and its tangible implementation evolve to guarantee access to rights for better socio-economic inclusion of migrant workers?

How can governments be supported in fostering a successful transition from the informal sector to the formal sector to enable migrant workers to find work in the formal sector and create healthy, balanced competition within the economy?

### **Priority 5: Improving the perception of migration in public opinion through narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse**

#### *1. Discourse and perceptions around migration*

What is the role of governments, researchers, local authorities, civil society and the private sector in ensuring a rational perception of migration? On a local scale, how can the various stakeholders in migration, institutional or otherwise, work on the perception of migration? What impact does technology have on the spread of discourse? How can digital technology be used and what opportunities does it offer?

What is the role of the media in the public perception of migration? How can we ensure the participation of the media in disseminating informed and balanced discourse based on

## Enclosure - Guiding questions for thematic priorities (continued)

scientific facts concerning migratory phenomena?

How can genuine migrant participation in public life be facilitated?

What impact does xenophobic discourse have on societies?

How is climate change, which causes increasing numbers of forced displacements, changing perceptions and discourse around migration?

### 2. Social and cultural benefits of migration

Beyond economic contributions, what social and cultural benefits do migrants and diasporas bring to origin, transit and destination countries? How can these contributions be capitalized on? How can we support cultural projects as a vector for migrant integration?

### **Priority 6: Multi-level governance: bringing together the various stakeholders for improved migration management**

#### 1. Multi-level governance

How do national governments work with local governments to develop, implement and assess migration policies, particularly in the context of climate change and its intersections with human mobility? What are the best practices and conclusions drawn?

What is the role of local governments in migration governance and how can we leverage their contributions in implementing the Global Compact for Migration?

What do local governments need to best meet the challenges and benefit from the opportunities presented by migration at local level? How can national governments, the United Nations and the international community support them?

What is the role of regional processes (Regional Consultative Processes, regional governmental institutions and UN Regional Commissions) in migration governance? In a national context, how can the regional processes contribute to defining migration policies?

#### 2. Multi-actor management

How can migrants and diasporas take part in shaping, implementing and assessing migration policies, in particular in response to climate change? What examples can be found at local and regional level? The GFMD has a tradition of consulting and including diverse stakeholders. How can this model of inclusion be reflected in other global and regional processes? What link should be established between the GFMD and other regional and global processes, in particular the United Nations Network on Migration?