

GFMD 2012 Common Space Concept and Format

“Migration and Development: Common Ground and Partnerships in Action”

Venue: Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Pailles, Port Louis, Mauritius
Date: 21 November 2012
Time: 10:15 - 13:30
Participants: GFMD government delegates, delegates from GFMD Civil Society Days, private sector participants, and international organizations

1. Background, objectives and outcomes

Since its introduction at the GFMD 2010 in Puerto Vallarta, the “Common Space” has become an integral part of the annual GFMD Summit meeting. It comprises three hours of interactive plenary sessions on the first morning of the Government Days, featuring a cross-section of panelists from governments, civil society and international organizations.

The **objective** of Common Space 2012 is to examine and expand areas of common ground between various stakeholders in the migration and development debate and connect the different perspectives of governments with civil society, international organizations, and the private sector in such a way as to lead in the longer term to tangible improvements in the conditions and prospects of people on the move and their families. Under the central theme of *Migration and Development: Common Ground and Partnerships in Action*, the Common Space in 2012 aims more specifically to enhance trust between stakeholders and inspire new partnerships and concerted action on migration and development.

2. Format of the Common Space

In response to feedback and suggestions from governments and civil society, Common Space 2012 will be organized in three segments – an introductory plenary, three parallel breakout panels, and a concluding plenary session:

1. **Kick-off plenary:** The Common Space will begin in plenary with 2 agenda-setting presentations contextualizing the challenge of partnerships for migration and development.
2. **Parallel breakout panels:** Subsequently, there will be three parallel breakout panels around three themes. Skilled moderators will facilitate the panels, which will feature expert, influential speakers from governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations. The panelists will comment on existing partnerships, opportunities and obstacles for new partnerships and present a vision for the future. Each parallel group will be asked to focus on 3 key questions and distil 3 recommendations or principles for actions from the debate, to be reported back to plenary.
3. **Common Space concluding plenary:** Common Space 2012 will conclude with a plenary for reporting back on the three parallel dialogues, an open discussion and a closing statement.

The outcomes of the Common Space discussions, particularly the practical recommendations for action, will be included in the final report of the GFMD 2012. Presentations on existing partnerships and possible new partnerships may also be shared through the GFMD Platform for Partnerships.

3. Themes of the Parallel breakout sessions

Under the overarching theme of *Migration and Development: Common Ground and Partnerships in Action*, each of the three parallel breakout panels will look at existing and future partnerships centred on a focused theme ¹.

Panel 1: Diaspora alliances and partnerships for development (coordinator: Irena Omelaniuk)

Migrants and diasporas help connect the world, and in many cases are living proof of the benefits that migration can bring for development, both of their home and host countries. By settling and working abroad while maintaining ties with families and communities back home, diasporas build networks and bridges between countries, communities, and economies, both along North-South and South-South corridors. They help remove barriers to doing business, and expanding trade, cultural and educational exchanges across borders. These are all potential stimulants for development and growth, well-recognized by an increasing number of migration and development stakeholders. Many of these efforts are enhanced through the joint actions of diaspora organizations and businesses in entrepreneurship, volunteerism, philanthropy, diplomacy, and social innovation. Increasingly, migrants and diaspora in the private sector are joining forces to invest in business opportunities in the country of origin. They promote business-to-business ventures between countries, and broker partnerships with government, private sector, civil society and international organizations to underpin such ventures. This panel will showcase some successful diaspora alliances and partnerships, at the private and public sector level, that can positively impact on human development and, for example, SME growth in countries of origin.

Guiding Questions:

- i) Why have migrants and diaspora become so important for development and growth today?
- ii) What are some effective models of diaspora partnerships for development with governments, business, NGOs and international organizations?
- iii) What obstacles still remain for the diaspora to maximize their contribution to development? And how can these obstacles be overcome?

Panel 2: Common ground and partnerships to protect migrants in distress (coordinator: Anja Klug)

Governments and the international community are increasingly confronted with the challenge of dealing with migrants in dire humanitarian conditions (distress) in the context of acute humanitarian emergencies or other life-threatening situations. Protection and assistance responses are often insufficient or mismatched, inter alia due to lack of capacity and frameworks for international cooperation. Threats to life and disregard for the dignity of affected migrants often ensue. The dialogue could focus on identifying situations that merit specific attention and require joint action; existing practices and partnerships to protect migrants in crisis, and identify possible future steps for collaboration, e.g., joint measures to protect migrants against abuses and heinous crimes such as abduction, organ smuggling or human trafficking, shared programming for evacuation (e.g. for migrant workers trapped in crisis) and shared responsibility for longer term solutions (e.g. through resettlement, facilitated onward migration, return or integration).

Guiding Questions:

- i) Which situations give rise to particular threats to the life and dignity of migrants?
- ii) Which implementation gaps in the current protection systems need to be addressed most urgently (national, regional, international)?
- iii) How could operational responses be improved through enhanced partnerships? What guidance could be drawn here from existing practices and partnerships?

¹ The proposal for these three themes was based on analysis of the 2012 Concept paper and themes, the thematic tracks of the Civil Society program, and initial thoughts shared by a number of governments and civil society representatives. The themes have been further refined on the basis of (1) already existing partnerships around the themes; (2) their potential for constructive dialogue and common ground between governments, civil society, and private sector; and (3) having relevant experts from both civil society and governments around the table.

Panel 3: Labour mobility and skills development for inclusive growth and jobs (coordinator: Chukwu–Emeka Chikezie)

One of the key enablers of investment and jobs growth is availability of workers with the right skills and aptitudes, which can be addressed in part by labour mobility and skills development. Employers play key roles in identifying areas of skills demand, in recruiting local and migrant labour, in communicating to policymakers priority areas of reform, in working with vocational, training, and education providers to ensure curricula meet the demands of today's labour markets, in working with civil society to ensure that migrant workers' rights are protected. This dialogue will focus on what governments, employers, and civil society can do in partnership with each other, in order to create the necessary public goods that can generate desired gains from labour mobility and skills development.

Guiding Questions:

- i) What are the specific public and private challenges regarding labour mobility from the perspective of business? Migrant workers? And communities?
- ii) What innovations have businesses already introduced to address these constraints?
- iii) What specific steps do the public sector acting in their own right; private sector acting in their own right; and public, private sectors, and civil society working in partnership need to take to remove these constraints and facilitate enhanced labour mobility?

4. Rules of Interactivity

4.1 Panel breakout discussions

- a) The moderator of each panel will briefly introduce the theme and guiding questions, stimulate debate among the panelists and focused, interactive exchange with participants from the floor, and conclude with a brief wrap-up statement.
- b) Each panelist will be invited to make an intervention of no more than 3 minutes in response to the guiding questions.
- c) Panelists should, as far as possible, react to previous panelists' interventions rather than deliver prepared speeches or position statements.
- d) Interventions from the floor should be no longer than 2 minutes, to enable maximum participation. Delegates should introduce their name, position and organization/government before making the intervention.
- e) To ensure a balanced participation, interventions should, as far as possible, alternate between government and civil society (and private sector in Panel 3 in particular).
- f) Interventions from the floor may include questions to the panelists, as well as the views of the delegate.
- g) Interventions and reactions from the panel should also be as brief as possible.
- h) The moderator will turn back to the panelists for responses at least once and at the end of the general debate, before wrapping up.
- i) A rapporteur for each panel will present the key issues and outcomes of the panel discussion in the closing plenary of the Common Space.

4.2 Closing Common Space plenary

- a) The moderator will invite the rapporteurs to present a summary of issues and outcomes from their respective panels (no longer than 5-7 minutes each). The moderator will call for brief comments and reactions from the floor.
- b) For rules regarding interventions from the floor, refer to d), e), f) and g) above.
- c) The moderator will wrap up with a brief concluding statement.