

SPEAKERS' BIOS

*Thematic Workshop on GFMD's Contribution to
the Global Compact on Migration*

- Cluster 6 –

Irregular Migration and Regular Pathways

Amb. Michel Lastschenko

*Ambassador and Special Envoy for Migration and Asylum
Federal Government of Belgium*

Ambassador Lastschenko is currently the Ambassador and Special Envoy for Migration and Asylum at the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs in Belgium. For several years, he has worked at diplomatic missions all over the world, most notably as Ambassador in Saudi Arabia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



He entered the Foreign Service in 1979 and was successively posted in Moscow (formerly USSR), London and Kinshasa (then Zaïre) before serving as Belgian Ambassador to Damascus (1992-1994), Islamabad (1997-1999), Kigali (1999-2002) and Copenhagen (2002-2005). Mr. Lastschenko has also served as head of the Human Rights Department of the Foreign Ministry, and served as Ambassador at large for Immigration. Mr Lastschenko finished his studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.



Amb. Eduard Gnesa

*Former Special Ambassador for International
Migration, Switzerland*

From 2001 to 2004, Ambassador Gnesa served as Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Immigration, Integration and Emigration. In 2005, he became Director of the newly created Federal Office for Migration (today the State Secretariat for Migration), which is under the Federal Department of Justice and Police. In 2009, he was appointed as Special Ambassador for International Migration. In this role, he extensively worked in field of foreign policy of Switzerland, particularly in the areas of migration and development and supported the work of the Swiss interdepartmental working group on migration.

His role as a special Ambassador ended in May 2017. Ambassador Gnesa studied Law at the Universities of Fribourg and University of Geneva.



Ms. Michelle Leighton

*Chief, Labour Migration Branch
International Labour Organization*



Ms. Leighton is Chief of the Labour Migration Branch for the International Labour Organization where she directs the Office's work on labour migration and mobility, and supports policies and programs related to migrants and refugees. She has expertise in the fields of international law, labour migration, human rights, and economic development, and received her LL.M degree from the London school of Economics and Political Science, London, England in 1987. She served as a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration (2014-2016). Ms. Leighton has conducted global and field research into best practices and the linkages between human migration and development, including impacts related to climate change.

Before joining the ILO, Ms Leighton taught on law faculties in Asia, Europe and the United States and authored numerous publications. She co-founded the American University of Central Asia's Tian Shan Policy Center and was Professor of law, following her service as the United States Fulbright Scholar in Kyrgyzstan (2010-2011). She has been an adviser and consultant to international institutions, government, and non-profit organizations, leading research and policy projects with academic universities, government agencies and local experts on migration in the Americas, Africa, Europe and Central Asia. She served as the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability for the United Nations University-EHS Institute, Bonn, Germany (2009-2012), and Director of the Center for Law and Global Justice Human Rights Program at the University of San Francisco School of Law. Early in her career, she co-founded the NGO Natural Heritage Institute based in San Francisco, leading policy programs related to environment, migration, corporate social responsibility, and human rights.

