

Tenth GFMD Summit Meeting
“Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”
28-30 June 2017
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

Opening Plenary Session
Wednesday 28 June 2017, 10h00 - 12h30

DG Talking Points

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman [*could acknowledge Foreign Minister Gabriel, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Muller (Germany), Foreign and Migration Minister Bourita (Morocco)*]

We stand together at the crossroads on how we will chart a future for governing migration and human mobility.

Your work over the next year to develop the first Global Compact on Migration, and our collective efforts in support, will foreshadow whether in 5 or 10 years' time we have made a real difference in the lives of those who arrive at our shores seeking safety, security, or their future livelihood.

Most of the mobility occurring today is the search for decent work – 150 million, or 74% of all working age migrants, are in the labour force. This occurs in the context of rising global unemployment, which may reach 200 million this year. The migration trends we see now will likely continue in the future. If we are to foster the benefits of these movements for all concerned, our policy choices matter greatly.

We are likely to be held to account, not on the small steps of progress but on whether we could have done much more. Did we succeed in finding ways to improve the lives and working conditions of women and men migrant workers, and of our youth? Were we able to fix deficient governance structures to foster a fair sharing of prosperity for all of our societies? Did we contribute to removing the toxicity from the public debate?

I would urge us all, in our respective capacities, to rise to this high responsibility.

The GFMD is a vehicle that can help shape our responses. Your deliberations on the future of this Forum, its relationship with the UN system, take on more urgency this year. They allow for reexamining how to maximize the contribution of all stakeholders to the Forum. ILO is encouraged in this regard to see the evolution of the Business Mechanism in your discussions.

We know from our experience as a tripartite body that the contributions of business, but also of those representing labour, can bring large benefits to government. They can help identify the right policy mix to stimulate labour market productivity and integration, and help to bridge public support.

Two weeks ago, the ILO's tripartite constituents (comprising delegations from over 170 countries) met at the International Labour Conference and engaged in a General Discussion on labour migration. This resulted in consensus on what is lacking and what is needed to more fairly and effectively govern migration.

These conclusions give direction to ILO's future work, but also inform the possible actions and commitments you may consider in the Global Compact and our joint implementation of the migration-related SDGs.

Let me provide you some reflections on the outcome.

Firstly, there was a clear message that labour migration can yield many positive benefits, when it is well-governed. Policies not grounded in human rights, including labour standards, present high risks and costs for migrant workers, business and the countries concerned. Policies linked to employment can help foster the right balance between meeting labour market needs and ensuring migrant workers' rights are protected in and out of the workplace.

Secondly, experience tells us that we have not reached this proper balance. Gaps remain in a number of areas that require our attention. One of these is to eliminate the high costs and recruitment fees paid by migrant workers which can amount to one year's salary, and may lead to trafficking in persons. This motivated ILO's recent adoption of General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment. We need to work together now to implement this guidance.

We are also not utilizing the full potential offered by migrant workers when we do not recognize their skills and experience. There are opportunities for extending cooperation across migration corridors to build skills recognition mechanisms. This would help business productivity but also offers potential for opening-up more regular migration channels.

Finally, the Conference Discussion highlighted the broad benefits of social dialogue and of maximizing the social partners' contributions to inform good practice exchanges and policy dialogue in national and global debates, including the GFMD process.

The ILO is committed to supporting you in the GFMD and the Global Compact discussions.

Background Note on GFMD Summit and ILO Participation

This will be the tenth GFMD Summit, which coalesces around the broad theme of **“Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”**.

The ILO has participated in a number of events throughout the course of the GFMD Germany-Morocco Co-Chairmanship in 2017. These included:

- DDG-P’s presentation during the First GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration (2 February).
- Participation of ILO representatives in GFMD Friends of the Forum and Roundtable preparatory meetings, Geneva (1-2 February and 5, 7 April).
- Participation of Michelle Leighton as rapporteur in the Second GFMD Dialogue on the Global Migration Compact, Session III on GCM Cluster 6 (Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures), Geneva (6 April).
- Participation of ILO representative (Meredith Byrne) in the GFMD Thematic Workshop on Climate Change and Human Mobility”, Rabat (24 May)

On 12 July 2017, on the margins of the 2017 High-level Political Forum, DDG/P will also speak at a GFMD side-event on **“GFMD Reflection on Migration-related SDGs in the 2030 Agenda”**.

During the GFMD Summit (28-30 June) in Berlin, ILO and its constituents will participate in the following events:

- The six **Government roundtables** (28 June) and in particular Roundtables 1.1 “Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence”, RT 1.2 “From Global Agreement to implementation – National action plans for migration-related SDGs”, and RT 3.1 on Raising the Global Talent Pool – Harnessing the Potential of the Private Sector for Global Skills Partnerships”.
- The **GFMD Business Mechanism** meeting (29 June). The “Setting the scene” session will include the DDG/P and IOE Secretary-General, Linda Kromjong. A range of speakers from the private sector and chambers of commerce have been lined up for the various sessions as well as one speaker from a labour ministry (Spain) and the German Federal Employment Agency. Sharan Burrow, ITUC Secretary-General, has also been invited to speak in the session on “The Business case for responsible recruitment – the need for a GCM that boosts the implementation of existing international instruments”.
- The Session on **Platform for Partnerships** (29 June) where ILO (Gloria Moreno-Fontes) will give a presentation on the “The Role of Employment Services in Skills Matching of Migrant Workers”.
- **Side event 3.1 on “Improving skill matching and recognition in global talent mobility”** (29 June), co-organized by OECD and ILO (Christiane Kuptsch). Dietmar Schäfers, Deputy-President, Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) has been invited as one of the speakers.

- The **Government-Civil Society Common Space** (30 June). In Framing Session B on “What does ‘Safe, Orderly and Regular migration’ mean in contexts of people moving across borders for work”, Annelie Butenbach (DGB - Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) and Linda Kromjong (IOE) will be two of the discussion starters. Charlie Fanning (AFL-CIO) will be a discussion starter in Focus Session 5 on “Mechanisms for Labour Mobility and Regularization” and Dennis Sinyolo (Education International) will be a discussion starter in Focus Session 6 on “Mechanisms for Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers”.