

**GFMD Friends of the Forum  
Civil Society Mechanism Report  
18 April 2023**

Civil society kicked-off its own preparations and GFMD process in January, with a joint African civil society and African diaspora forum in Abuja, Nigeria. With that, the civil society GFMD process this year is now popularly referred to as our “*Road from Abuja to Paris/Geneva*”. The Abuja Forum was followed by an African-European civil society forum in Dakar, a MENA regional civil society consultation in Dubai, a series of preparatory sessions and consultations in Asia, and initial preparations by French civil society. There is now a growing civil society GFMD calendar for this year, leading all the way to the Summit next year.

We also submitted civil society speaker nominations, registered civil society participants, and participated actively overall in the workshop on climate change and labour migration last month.

In preparation for this week’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Meeting and the six roundtable sessions, we held a global civil society consultation online last Wednesday (12 April) on all six thematic priorities of this GFMD Chairmanship. Where possible, we reviewed the zero draft background papers of the roundtables, to collectivize civil society inputs and feedback, which our thematic co-leads will present during the roundtable sessions tomorrow.

We have also begun to turn our attention to the June workshops in Paris, where we hope to present ideas to co-design the two workshops, including nominating civil society leaders and experts as possible speakers for the sessions, as well as outreaching and registering civil society participants. We also look to collectivize and give further feedback to the background papers for the six thematic roundtables. This may also include civil society shadow reports and other parallel processes to feed into the six themes. In our civil society GFMD calendar, we will begin to populate the rest of the year with more civil society consultations and preparatory events to continue to feed into the upcoming GFMD workshops, preparatory meetings and other avenues of engagement.

Turning for a moment towards the Summit next year, we will begin to organize the Civil Society Preparatory Meeting (CSPM) on the first day of the Summit, and look forward to sharing with the Friends of the Forum more details of that as we go along. For the Summit, we had initially expected to organize a delegation of between 200-250 civil society participants, but may revise that with the venue change. Regardless, this civil society delegation will ensure regional diversity reflecting the global nature of the GFMD.

Finally, we take a moment to thank the Chair as well as the hardworking Secretariat for all of their support, including financially, and ensuring real and meaningful civil society engagement in the GFMD.