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**GFMD Friends of the Forum Meeting
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GFMD Business Mechanism – priorities and roadmap

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Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted to be here today and thank you for giving us, the Business Mechanism, the opportunity to share with you the status of our current activities and our workplan in this GFMD.

Since the creation of the GFMD Business Mechanism and the designation of the IOE as its Secretariat in 2016, we have been and we will continue to actively participate in the work of the GFMD to bring the voice, the ideas, energy and experience of the private sector into the important debates around migration and development.

Our work methodology is based on three pillars:

- A. Research/Data
- B. Advocacy/Promotion
- C. Innovation

With regard to the first pillar, research and data, we aim at drafting two to three position papers.

Our first position paper will focus on **the impact of remote work on mobility and** the rise of innovative immigration pathways, such as Digital Nomad programs. As the remote work and hybrid work revolution continues to take hold and becomes the new normal, what innovative pathways do employers embrace, what are the implications of remote work for employers and what good practices and innovative approaches have or should governments further implement?

→ this position paper would feed into GFMD priority 4 (labour migration)

Our second position paper will discuss the topic of climate change and migration from an employers' perspective, in particular the role of employment creation in the context of just transition. How could governments include migration pathways in their adaptation strategies and importantly, how can the mobility of skills and talent contribute to the technological innovation that is crucial to climate change mitigation and adaptation?

I would like to mention at this stage that the IOE played an active role at the COP 26, with a dedicated private sector pavilion and aims to do the same at COP27. Outcomes of employers discussions on labour migration from COP26 and COP27 will be reflected in our paper.

→ GFMD priority 1 (climate change)

We are considering a third paper regarding the business case for migration from a viewpoint of employers based in countries of origin. In this paper, we would analyse policies and programs that governments could implement to address brain drain and encourage circular migration. These might include for example skills passports and youth employment incentives.

→ GFMD priority 4 (labour migration)

We recognize that as important as they are to policy makers, substantive papers do not have maximum impact on all audiences. Therefore, we are happy to take up the Chair's suggestion regarding the production of short videos that would convey messages compatibles to those of our papers.

In addition, we are very committed to continue to actively **contribute to the GFMD working group on Public Narratives**, co-chaired by the Governments of Canada and Ecuador, and the Mayor's Mechanism. In particular, we will remain active in the It Takes a Community Campaign and we will be among the next participants to a live chat at the end of April / beginning of May.

→ GFMD priority 5 (public narrative and cultural dimension)

On our **second pillar, ADVOCACY/PROMOTION**, the IOE and the Business Advisory Group have and will continue to participate in public-private dialogues at global and regional levels, bringing together employers and government representatives to discuss and identify solutions on how to improve migration frameworks and legal pathways conducive to regular migration. In 2022, thanks to the funding received from the SDC and to the partnership with ILO, we have led such dialogues in four African sub-regions.

We will continue to participate and help organize such open dialogues in the future between representative voices of employers and policy-makers. On our side we can bring one part of the dialogue, but we need you to bring the other part.

Our third pillar is INNOVATION. AI, Blockchain and other tech tools, can enhance migration management to the benefit of all parties including governments, migrants and employers. Since the 2020 GFMD Summit in Quito, we have organized four start up competitions. With the support of the GFMD Chair, we are now preparing a new tech start-up competition for the GFMD summit that will focus on innovative tech solutions to tackle the labour migration and climate challenges. Like videos, such events have the potential of generating interest and attracting new audiences.

We would like to thank the Chair for the generous support of our activities during this upcoming year until the Summit. As a non-for-profit employers' membership organization, IOE's core budget comes from its members and is limited in nature. Therefore, over the years, external funding has been and remains essential to the GFMD Business Mechanism Secretariat & its work.

The Business Mechanism will continue to actively support the GFMD chair in implementing its ambitious agenda by engaging as co-chair on roundtable 4, and providing inputs to the background papers of all the roundtables. Thank you again for the opportunity to have us today and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration with all the stakeholders of the 2023 GFMD program.