

## ***GFMD Reflection on Migration-related SDGs in the Agenda 2030***

As an intergovernmental body, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was invited for the first time by the ECOSOC President in November 2016 to provide substantive [inputs](#) to the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) theme on “*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.*” The [GFMD Recommendations](#) to the 2017 HLPF was prepared under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco, and duly submitted to the Office of the ECOSOC President in April 2017.

To share the findings contained in the GFMD’s report, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs, represented by *Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme* (German Co-Chair) and *Mr. El Habib Nadir* (Moroccan Co-Chair), organized a [side event](#) on 12 July 2017, in the margins of the HLPF 2017, gathering around 150 representatives of Member States, international organizations, the civil society and the private sector. A panel moderated by *Dr. Kathleen Newland* and comprised of the GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh, represented by *Ambassador Masud Bin Momen*; the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration, *Mrs. Louise Arbour*; the International Labour Organization (ILO) represented by Deputy Director General for Policy, *Mrs. Deborah Greenfield*; and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN in New York, *Mr. Andreas Pfeil*, discussed the multi-faceted linkages between migration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as between SDGs and the GCM.

The presentations touched on the broadly defined categories of migration’s linkages with the SDGs, as illustrated in the GFMD report: a) explicit migration-related targets, b) targets that can and should address the specific vulnerability and protection gaps specific to all groups of migrants, c) targets that could benefit from the potential of migration and migrants and d) targets that address drivers of migration including employment or employment creation.

### **a) Explicit migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda**

*Ms. Louise Arbour* highlighted that the inclusion of target 10.7 on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration speaks to the international community’s recognition of the development potential of well managed migration. She stressed that the GCM should launch a program of action with real operational commitments, laying out the implementation mechanisms with robust follow-up systems. It should rest on agreed international commitments, reflecting the people-centered spirit of the SDGs.

*Mr. Andreas Pfeil*, meanwhile, recalled that migration issues are referred to explicitly in 10 sub-goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda specifically in targets 3.c *on the retention of health workers*; 4.b *on international scholarships*; 8.8 *on labor rights for migrant workers*; 10.7 *on orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration*; 10.c *on the reduction of remittance costs*; 16.9 *on the creation of legal identity, thus ending statelessness*; 17.18 *on migration-disaggregated data-collection*; as well as 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 which all address different aspects of human trafficking. In achieving SDG target 3.c, he mentioned the need for well-designed skills partnerships, including the adoption of ethical recruitment codes, to prevent care drain and leverage migration gains, thus making migration of health workers more development-oriented.

### **b) Targets that can and should address the specific vulnerability and protection gaps specific to all groups of migrants and thus offer corresponding mechanisms to address these**

*Mr. El Habib Nadir* highlighted the challenges that migrants face in the context of climate change. For lack of existing legal framework for climate-change affected migrants, many have been denied the protection they direly needed, thus impinging on their ability to contribute to development. To

correct this situation, he imparted 3 key recommendations: a) preventive action; b) assistance and support for affected people; and c) sustainable return through provision of aid, training, and reconstruction programs.

*Ms. Deborah Greenfield*, on the other hand, stressed the difficulties and exploitative conditions that labor migrants encounter. Key to decreasing the vulnerability of labour migrants, according to her, is the effectiveness of freedom of association rights—that is the migrants’ ability to speak for themselves or engage in social dialogues and organizations, and the strong adherence and enforcement of international labour standards to reduce their vulnerability to skills wastage.

**c) Targets that could benefit from the potential of migration and migrants;**

Drawing from Germany’s experiences, *Mr. Pfeil* cited the programs of the GIZ as an example that allowed qualified nurses from Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and the Philippines and engineers from Tunisia to receive professional and language training and job opportunity in Germany. *Ambassador Masud Bin Momen*, for his part, called for the GFMD as a multi-sectoral body to promote a positive narrative about the contributions and vast potentials of migrants and migration. As explained by *Mrs. Arbour*, the potential of migrants goes far beyond economic terms and includes the transfer and circulation of ideas, skills and entrepreneurship, investments network building, as well as the breaking down of gender stereotypes—which are all equally important for development.

**d) Targets that address drivers of migration including employment or employment creation and thus have a direct influence on poverty alleviation and lowering of migration pressure.**

*Ms. Greenfield* underscored the need to advance a strong labour migration governance at the national, regional and international levels to achieve target 10.7. She echoed the key principles that emerged from the recent International Labour Conference: a) labor migration governance must be based on international labour standards; b) creation of decent work opportunities for migrants and the national population; c) fair recruitment; d) effective skills recognition policies; e) a whole-of-government approach to labour migration governance and f) effective freedom of association rights.

In closing the event, *Mr. El Habib Nadir*, announced the Moroccan Co-Chair’s strong resolve to further advance the “D” (i.e. development) in the GFMD. He pledged that the GFMD will follow up on the implementation of the SDGs, and take into account all related processes where the Global Forum can present its outcomes. GFMD would offer to support countries in preparing for the negotiations of the GCM which should include provisions on follow up mechanisms.