



Speaking points

Third informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing

Panel 1 “Local perspective on the whole-of-society approach to migration”

*18 December 2017 Trusteeship Chamber
UN Headquarters, New York*

- Thank you, Chair. I speak on behalf of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs Morocco and Germany.
- The GFMD has raised awareness about the importance of “local perspective” and “whole-of-society approach” in migration policymaking and implementation, and overall management of migration, particularly in recent years.
- The GFMD Contribution to the GCM, a thematic recollection of the GFMD from 2007 to 2010 which was recently submitted to the UN SRSG Ms. Louise Arbour and to the GCM Co-Facilitators, affirms that local actors are a key partner in achieving a coherent and whole-of-society approach to migration. The report illustrates policy options and options for practical actions, as well as policy and practice examples taken from the GFMD’s Platform for Partnerships’ database.
- According to the Forum’s experience, it is vital for achieving policy coherence that states adopt “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approaches when it comes to the implementation of migration policies. The Forum sees local actors including civil society organizations, diaspora organizations, trade unions, migrants, entrepreneurs and academia as key partners in this regard.
- The 3rd GFMD Summit in Athens in 2009 first underscored the engagement of the private sector and the civil society specifically in facilitating migrants’ integration. This was reiterated through the years.
- More recently in a Roundtable session of the 10th GFMD Summit in Berlin, the following principles were enunciated:
 - As integration happens mainly at the local level, engaging local institutions such as schools, local governments and associations is crucial. Through their grassroots presence, non-state actors can complement the efforts of the national governments to engage and assist migrants with their needs.
 - The civil society organizations are seen as mediators and facilitators to promote an effective response to migrants’ integration. As many CSOs have also acquired years of experience and know-how, they occupy a privileged position between migrants, their communities, and other residents as well as national authorities and municipalities.
 - The private sector is not just an actor for integration, but a *place* where integration happens. In this regard, the importance of migrants’ access to work cannot be overemphasized.

- The GFMD has affirmed that forming partnerships with all relevant stakeholders from civil society, private sector, representative employer and worker organizations, local governments and host communities is crucial for the promotion of the inclusion and participation of migrants.
 - Educational institutions help shape children and young people’s talents, skills and knowledge to put into productive use.
 - Businesses can contribute to shifting the negative narrative on migration by employing migrants, while governments and civil society can help train migrants to better meet the hiring needs of employers.
 - Empowering local authorities and decentralized administrative agencies would enable them to actively contribute to operationalizing and achieving the goals and targets on migration at the national level.

- Zeroing in on the role of cities and municipalities, the GFMD has also recognized that “migration and displacement” is mainly an urban phenomenon. As cities become the destination of choice for both internal and international migrants, as well as displaced persons, it is important for actors in cities to be well equipped with the right skills, information and training to ensure coherent migration policies.]

- At the Dhaka Summit, it was identified that local leaders, particularly from cities and municipalities, have a critical role to play in the entire migration debate.
 - They can be effective promoters of campaigns in view of their proximity to their constituencies. These campaigns are deemed essential to change the negative narrative on migration at a wider scale and advance policy responses to migrants’ needs.
 - Local and regional authorities as well as cities need to be empowered as they can support initiatives for social inclusion and address xenophobia and discrimination.
 - The value of creating links between local and regional authorities around the world was also emphasized to exchange practices and work together. In this context, the value of the Global Mayoral Forum on Migration and Development was highlighted.

- Several practices that focus on local partnerships and cooperation are showcased in the GFMD Platform for Partnerships database.
 - [The Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project](#) (MC2CM) brings together experts and cities to contribute to improved migration governance at the city level. The project works with a host of cities such as Lisbon, Vienna, and Beirut to increase the knowledge base on urban migration and to foster peer-to-peer dialogue to support mutual learning on specific urban challenges, such as social cohesion and the provision of basic services. (via [GFMD PFP](#))
 - [Workeer](#) is another local initiative that aims to lead the training and job market platform in Germany for refugees. The purpose of the platform is to create a suitable environment where refugees meet employers who are receptive towards them. With the help of employer and applicant profiles and numerous job offers in a multitude of industries across Germany, Workeer facilitates the first contact and exchange between refugees and employers. (via [GFMD PFP](#))

- I invite you to look at other examples in the GFMD Policy and Practice database.