

Speaking points

Third informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing

Panel 2 “National level perspective on the whole-of-society approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular 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.
- Let me begin by expressing our appreciation to the Co-Facilitators and the SRSG for this opportunity to share about the reflections of the GFMD as the biggest multi-stakeholder process on migration and development.
- Although the GFMD is mainly a state-led process, it is not a “state-only” process. It has long recognized the importance of engaging with other stakeholders at the national level, notably with the civil society, the private sector, local authorities and parliamentarians.
- The GFMD thematic recollection from 2007 to 2010, a report recently submitted to the UN SRSG Ms. Louise Arbour and to the GCM Co-Facilitators of the GCM, highlights the importance of a national-level perspective on the whole-of-society approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. It affirms that partnerships among governments, civil society, the private sector and other national actors can contribute to a coherent migration policy-making and governance.
- A whole of government and a whole-of-society approach that effectively integrates norms and standards can ensure the effective protection and social inclusion of all migrants. It can also strengthen governments’ capacity to address migration in a coherent, holistic and coordinated way.
- In this regard, the GFMD report illustrates policy options and options for practical actions, as well as policy and practice examples taken from the GFMD’s Platform for Partnerships’ (PFP) database.
- Since the whole-of-society approach was first raised at the GFMD Summit in Athens in 2009, succeeding GFMD meetings tackled crucial migration issues such as integration, governance, public perception and partnerships, which call for the engagement of all concerned national stakeholders.
 - **On integration:** GFMD has emphasized that migrant integration requires an inclusive approach, involving a “whole of society.” Moreover, as integration happens mainly at the local level, engaging local institutions is crucial (schools, local governments, associations). Through their grass roots presence, non-state actors can complement the efforts of the national governments to engage and assist migrants in their daily life, and hereby help promote diversity and more harmonious societies.
 - **On coherence of policy and action:** The GFMD introduced the concept of mainstreaming of migration policies across different sectors in order to promote coherence and coordination of policies and implementation at the national level. This approach is particularly important in the context of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

- **On governance:** The GFMD has advocated for a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder and participatory approach that includes representative of local governments, the private sector, CSOs and leaders of immigrant and diaspora communities, to address the complexity of current migratory flows.
 - **On public perception,** a whole-of society contributes to better inform the general public about the contributions of migrants to societies of origin and destination, and to countering the negative narratives about migration and migrants.
 - **On the role of local authorities,** the Forum sees local actors as key partners and advises to empower local authorities and decentralized administrative agencies in order to best fulfil their crucial role.
- Several practices that foster partnerships between governments, civil society, the private sector and other actors at the national level have been widely shared in GFMD discussions. Some of them are prominently featured in the GFMD Platform for Partnerships database.
 - a. **Local Immigration Partnerships:** (Canada): a mechanism through which the Citizenship and Immigration Canada supports the development of community-based partnerships and planning around the needs of newcomers in Canada
 - b. **House of Resources** (Germany): the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) provides funding for micro-projects, rooms or advice and to help civil society organization in making their work more professional.
 - c. The **Mauritius Diaspora Scheme** was established to acknowledge the contributions of the diaspora and leverage the potential of diaspora members. Through incentives, the Diaspora Scheme aims to attract members of the Mauritian Diaspora to return and participate in the economic development of the country. Those who are eligible receive benefits including income tax exemption and import allowances. (via [GFMD PFP](#))
 - d. To address human rights among migrant children and youth, the government of Indonesia has collaborated with civil society organizations and the private sector in providing education for children of **Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia**. These civil society organizations have built community learning centers – crucial to Indonesian migrant workers living in remote areas of Malaysia – and partner with private sector enterprises that employ educators (via [GFMD PFP](#))
 - I invite you to look at other examples in the GFMD Policy and Practice database.