

## Civil Society Mechanism intervention at GFMD Friends of the Forum

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(Check against delivery)

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The Civil Society Mechanism welcomes the Co-Chairmanship of France and Senegal with both **enthusiasm and expectations**. To us, this co-Chairmanship is an 18-month process, or a journey, and its key activities provide all of us with benchmarks along the way, to collectively advance our knowledge and commitments, and to jointly design and implement concrete solutions on each of the key priorities.

These **six priority themes** identified by France and Senegal very much reflect civil society's own vision and some of our key thematic priorities in migration. We applaud these choices and look forward to contributing to the conversations. We will do so by bringing forward the **best expertise and experience** from our vast global civil society community, as it often combines migrants' lived experience and grassroots work with migrant communities, with **cutting-edge knowledge** on each of the issues - at the global, regional, national and local levels.

In line with that, our mechanism plans to set up **six civil society working groups** dedicated to each of the priority themes. These will engage civil society experts and representatives at all levels, and be driven by outcome-oriented goals. These working groups will begin setting up from next month onwards, and will be active throughout the entire co-Chairmanship.

In addition, we also take this opportunity to **pledge our own civil society contributions** towards this co-chairmanship, especially by activating our civil society thematic working groups to feed directly into the roundtable teams as discussed earlier. In doing so, we believe that we can fully utilize the next 18 months to produce concrete outcomes and make significant progress on our shared agendas, thus ensuring that this upcoming GFMD becomes a truly unique opportunity for multilateral and multi-stakeholder action on migration and development.

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**Regarding our own preparatory activities**, our civil society constituents have already started mobilising for the GFMD's 18-month process. This includes our West African colleagues as well as our African diaspora in Europe, who are preparing their support for the launch event in October, with civil society preparatory consultations to take place in Abuja and Dakar.

In addition, our **climate colleagues**, who work closely with the Platform on Disaster Displacement, are also beginning discussions to provide inputs and expertise towards the launch event as well as other opportunities to advance the discussion on climate and migration.

Similar **civil society preparatory events** will take place prior to each key GFMD activity. Our mechanism will strive to ensure a diverse, representative and expert **participation** of civil society and migrants themselves in all of these, and in the Summit in particular, *where civil society typically mobilizes around 200 participants globally*. Dedicated spaces will also be provided to NGOs and migrant organizations in France, Senegal, and their respective regions, for enhanced participation and collaboration in the GFMD.

We also stand ready, *at the request of the co-Chairs or Member States*, to **co-organise and contribute** to any of the GFMD events and discussions as relevant.

As was the case with previous chairmanships, all these will of course need **financial resources** and support, including from governments. We hope to discuss this in more detail in the coming weeks and months.

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Finally, we would like to re-emphasise the **high level of cooperation** that we enjoy between our GFMD non-state mechanisms and youth component, and we hope to build and enhance that even further during this co-chairmanship. In addition, we also express our appreciation for the interim administrative support provided by IOM, and in particular to Barbara Sidoti – the mechanism liaison – who has played a pivotal role in ensuring that we were always informed and could fully engage in all aspects of the GFMD during this period. We hope the practice of such a liaison role will continue and be institutionalised within the new secretariat.

Your Excellencies, dear co-Chairs. Please know that you can count on the civil society mechanism's full support and engagement throughout this co-Chairmanship. We look forward to working closely together, with all States and stakeholder mechanisms, towards a very robust and productive GFMD. Thank you.