



Friends of the Forum intervention - GFMD Civil Society Mechanism

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The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism very much appreciates the commitment that Colombia has shown since taking up the Chairship, in particular the ongoing collaborative approach both in the programme design as well as in shaping the meetings.

This space is not something that we take for granted. In the past months, we have witnessed an increasingly hostile landscape for migrants and their communities, as well as international development and human rights as a whole. We have seen the increasing normalisation of rapid mass deportations, the dismissal of international legal obligations, and narratives criminalising migrants and even diversity in itself. Make no mistake, we are seeing threats to the very values of solidarity, human rights, and international cooperation. It is more pressing than ever that we have opportunities for open dialogue, like these provided by the GFMD, to ensure that communities and migrants are not left behind.

To ensure that a diversity of civil society contributions are part of the GFMD process, the CSM brings together the expertise of civil society around the world, across grassroots and migrant-led civil society organisations, as well as trade unions, NGOs, diaspora organisations and academia. Since the beginning of the Chairship, we have been building step by step civil society's own preparatory process in a 'Rumbo a Colombia'.

Similar to the 1st Preparatory Meeting, we again conducted online thematic dialogues, with over 400 civil society representatives from across the world participating in energetic discussions that identified 12 key elements for the success of a policy or practice. For these next two days, despite having to conserve our resources for the Summit, we have managed to bring 9 civil society delegates from 5 regions to represent the resulting priorities.

Amongst these, the overwhelming message was the crucial need for 4 things:

1. Contextualisation to local needs
2. Commitment and political will to ensure adequate investment
3. Accountability to beneficiaries; and

4. The leadership and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and affected communities, at all stages of implementation and levels of decision making

We look forward to sharing and discussing more of these insights from the ground at the Roundtables.

We also want to thank the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, GIZ, and the government of the United Arab Emirates for their continued support and commitment to civil society participation. Without them, we would not be able to have the robust participation and in-person representation that we do.

Finally, we want to encourage all the Friends of the Forum to make the most of the process's dynamic, concrete discussions. ***At a time when the world is most in need, we have this precious opportunity to build towards meaningful improvement of migration and development, we urge everyone to support Colombia in realising a GFMD that rises to the challenges of our time.***

Thank you.