



## A guide to the GFMD civil society programme

### WHAT IS THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT?

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The **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** is a state-led, informal, voluntary, and non-binding process which plays an important role in the global debate on migration and development. The GFMD was established during the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) in 2006 - however remains apart from the UN system. The GFMD encompasses a series of meetings and activities each year, culminating in an annual Summit. It provides a **flexible, multi-stakeholder space** for stakeholders to analyze and discuss sensitive issues, create consensus, propose innovative solutions, and share policies and practices around migration and development.

The GFMD has resulted in many strategic partnerships over the years, and in a sense paved the way for the drafting and adoption of the Global Compact on Migration [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\)](#), following considerable advocacy stemming from the [New York Declaration](#) on Refugees and Migrants. Another major accomplishment of the GFMD process is the explicit inclusion of migrants and migration in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### WHAT IS THE GFMD CIVIL SOCIETY DAY (CSD)?

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Civil society has its own space within the GFMD - [Civil Society Days \(CSD\)](#), - during which civil society leaders from all over the world gather to **discuss critical issues related to migration and development**, share experiences and good practices, strategize, as well as dialogue and advocate with State actors and other stakeholders. Since the creation of the GFMD, civil society has advocated for both its own space within the GFMD and for interaction with Member States. The Civil Society Days are **self-organized**: civil society sets its own agenda and its activities remain independent from the government-led GFMD process.

The CSD meetings feed into the GFMD Summit: *civil society delegates prepare key messages and recommendations which they share with governments and other stakeholders during the GFMD's "Common Space."*

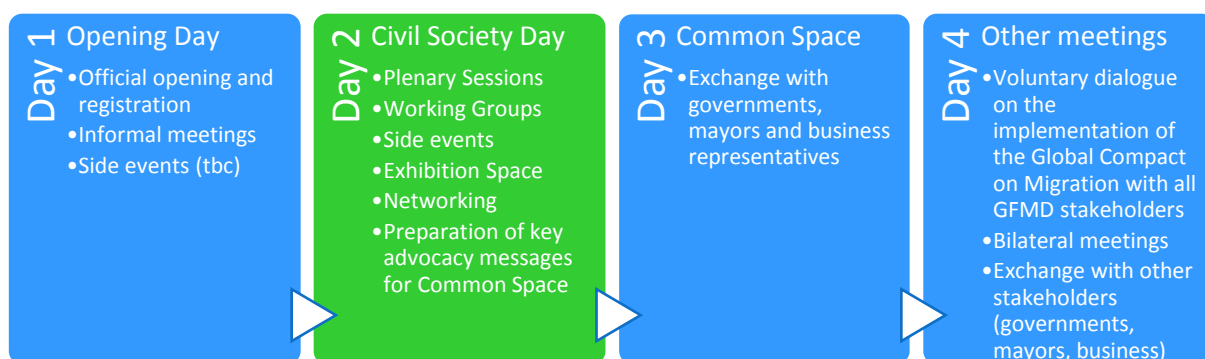
The CSD creates an important space for civil society actors from all over the world, with a diverse range of backgrounds, expertise and contexts, to **share their experiences, dialogue and engage constructively on key issues**. The results and recommendations drafted during these meetings are then presented to governments and other stakeholders in the GFMD’s “Common Space”.

Since 2011, the CSD and other GFMD civil society activities are coordinated by the [International Catholic Migration Commission](#) under the guidance of a civil society International Steering Committee (ISC).

In previous years the CSD have taken place over multiple days in conjunction with the GFMD, in 2019 the CSD will occupy only one day, in favour of a more open multi-stakeholder process.

## CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN THE 2019 GFMD

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**Blue Events:** Events open to all stakeholders (governments, civil society, mayors, business representatives).

**Green Events:** Civil Society only. The other mechanisms will have their meetings in parallel.

*The GFMD Summit will take place from 19 to 22 November 2019 in Quito, Ecuador. The precise structure of the summit still needs to be confirmed. The above visualization reflects the current tentative programme.*

## MAIN ACTORS OF THE 2019 CSD ORGANISING

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- **CSD Coordinating Office - [International Catholic Migration Commission \(ICMC\)](#)**

Since 2011, the International Catholic Migration Commission acts as the CSD Coordinating Office to coordinate and implement the organization of the CSD and their link to the government-led GFMD process.

- **[International Steering Committee](#)**

The International Steering Committee (ISC) is the decision-making body of the CSD. It advises and guides the CSD Coordinating Office to develop, implement and monitor GFMD activities. The ISC groups together about 30 civil

society organizations and networks active in migration and development worldwide at global, regional, national and grassroots levels, with broad sectoral, geographic and gender balance.

➤ **Ad-Hoc Regional Host Committee**

In 2019, a group of Latin-American and Caribbean regional civil society leaders will support the ISC to incorporate regional priorities into the civil society programme, nominate a 2019 CSD Chair from the region, participate in regional GFMD preparatory activities, and other Latin-America and Caribbean related matters.

➤ **National and local civil society**

Each year, national and local civil society is invited to participate in the GFMD process. It is an opportunity to bring national and local priorities and challenges into the discussions at the global level, exchange with other civil society actors as well as government representatives. National civil society is welcome to organize its own preparatory process ahead of the GFMD, by holding national consultations and meetings in order to prepare key messages and select representatives to participate in the global Summit. Each year, a number of seats are reserved for national civil society representatives in the CSD.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

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Participation in the GFMD Civil Society Days is open **to all sectors of civil society**, including diaspora and migrant organizations, human rights, faith-based and development NGOs, labour **unions** and representatives from academia, think tanks.

Due to limited space, and to ensure diversity and representation of participants, applicants are selected according to a predetermined selection criteria and screened by International Steering Committee to ensure an appropriate spread **of sectoral, geographic, age and gender diversity, as well as relevant experience and knowledge** on migration and development issues.

**There is a 4-step application process:**

**Step 1:** Application process. Networks who wish to send representatives to the GFMD Civil Society Days, and individuals who wish to participate, fill in an online application form prepared by the Coordinating Office. N.B. Network representatives and individuals will be asked to fill out *different* application forms. **This application process will be opened in August.**

**Step 2:** If, as has been the case since the beginning of the GFMD in 2007, more applications are received than the space that is available, the ISC will conduct a selection. The selection will be made with a view **to achieving a balanced representation of regions, levels, gender, age, community, and thematic priorities.**

**Step 3:** Selected applicants and networks will be informed of their successful application in September.

**Step 4:** Selected delegates will be asked to confirm their participation by registering for the CSD. A waiting list will be developed to fill openings that are created as a result of cancellations or failures to register.

#### **Funding for participation**

*Please note that being selected unfortunately does not mean that there will be funding available to support every participant. Each year, only very limited funding is available to support the participation of civil society delegates. Selected delegates or networks are encouraged to look for funding opportunities themselves to support their participation.*

#### **Contact**

For more information, please consult our [GFMD Civil Society Website](#) or write to us at any time: [contact@gfmdcivilsociety.org](mailto:contact@gfmdcivilsociety.org)