Summary Advocacy Points for GFMD June Workshops

Day 1: Culture, Narratives and Human Mobility

- Diaspora and migrant organisations need to build inter-alliances and work closely together as part of wider civil society.
    - Differences in understandings and embracing of identities amongst diaspora must be safely unpacked within communities, and allied organisations must advocate for connections and inclusion.
    - heritage development

- Rounded, accurate and complete migration narratives are needed, emphasising migrant contributions (both economic and cultural), commonalities across shared humanity between communities in origin, destination and transit countries.
    - Awareness of the effects of narratives must be understood and embedded within and beyond media into education and public policy. This includes effects on political climates and voting.
    - Migrant stories must not be overlooked in host / transit countries and must be supported by historical, fact-based systems to understand root causes of migration. Myths and inherited ideas of migration and development must be deconstructed.
    - Common denominators between cultures (e.g. shared cultural aspects, mentalities, approaches) across migration routes are still under-identified and are critical to integration efforts.
    - Discourse needs to be holistic- going further than the positive contributions of migrants into understanding human lives at stake, and real impacts.

- Systemic and historic exclusion and inequalities for diaspora and heritage community members must be addressed, particularly access to representation / decision-making, advocacy and culture.
    - The continued exclusion of diaspora and non-Western narratives, issues and understanding of migration and related issues must be systemically addressed, and their inclusion facilitated. Importantly, these narratives and experiences must not be reframed in a Eurocentric manner and must be told and championed by their origin communities.
    - Discriminatory barriers to access must be eliminated. A key example is for both home and diaspora-based Africans, who are often prevented from studying their own cultures and histories due to the continued holding of cultural artefacts, historical objects, and art taken during colonisation in Western museums and galleries. Scholars, students and cultural enthusiasts then face barriers such as inability to obtain visas, and lack of funding.

- Further data on diaspora contributions and influence on cuisine, culture, and origin, destination and transit economies are crucial to discourse around culture and narratives. These contributions must be illustrated both quantitatively and qualitatively to accurately capture their effects.

Regional / National Examples

- **MENA (CCRM Consultations):** Culminated in a statement by MENA civil society around their regional voice in the GFMD. Gulf regional priorities include: the importance of building alliances between migrant and diaspora organisations, the need for media to assist with the fight against xenophobia, the need to open safe spaces with accessibility considerations, accessible and further partnerships and cooperation between governments, the amendment of laws for working hours with regards to climate change, creating sustainable conditions for workers (e.g. aircon, umbrellas), and the need for climate adaptation for migrant workers' housing and other working conditions and considerations.
- **LAC (Colombia)**: Experience as a transit country to USA. Venezuelans historically recorded, but more recently also people from Bangladesh, Afghanistan etc who want to pursue the American dream. Experiencing increasing discrimination and xenophobia against migrants, migrant communities finding it difficult to integrate into host countries. Public policies often have negative impacts on public discourse, and stories of migrants are overlooked with no real system to understand root causes or the stories themselves.
- **FORIM:** held a campaign related to movement and diaspora, example of specific words correlating to negative aspects felt by communities. Highlighted the effects of narratives on current the political climate / voting. Promoted as good practice the intercultural exchanges between different diaspora groups. Interculturality should be central to dialogues with governments in both countries of origin and residence.
- **Africa (Diaspora):** looted African artefacts from the colonial era continue to put Africans themselves at a disadvantage in terms of being consumers of culture and diaspora consumerism – museums enable confrontation with ourselves. Relationships with objects in Museums must be further understood and considered, as well as the effects on tourism both being experienced and still to be unlocked due to lack of historical object returns- e.g. Ghana over the last 20 years has focused on heritage tourism. 1.5 visitors spending billions into the economy.

Day 2: Climate and Human Mobility

- Data needs to be robust, comprehensive, and the inclusion of community-based framing and bottom-up data must be at its core.
    - Need for shift in antiquated and institutional perspectives around 'good data'- research projects and programmes need to be connected to civil society organisations for on-ground perspectives.
    - Community knowledge and other non-traditional data sources and actors must be seen as key, particularly local and indigenous actors, civil society, and other at the

grassroots. Further emphasis must be placed on qualitative data to bring human stories and lived experiences into equal importance with numbers and statistics.

- o Key questions must be embedded into all data collection and research ethics: what kind of data, and what are the ethics in collecting, analysing, storing and disseminating data? These considerations need to be embedded into the DNA of all research, and communities in the global South must be consulted.

- Context-based solutions, regional perspectives and localisation must be urgently expanded and embedded as the default for policymaking.
  - o Disconnects between local, regional, national policies must be addressed, particularly those due to an antiquated 'one size fits all' approach to policymaking.
  - o Frontline communities must be embedded in all solution-making. Local knowledge must be embraced, including from spiritual and faith-based leaders and sources-particular from local and indigenous communities.
  - o Unequal data collection across the globe must be addressed, with particular attention to certain geographic regions and areas still severely lacking data in comparison to breadth of local diversity and issues.
  - o Implementation and policy development needs to be localised, and inclusively designed with the community, based on local-sensitive and specific, bottom-up data. Example given of relocation issues moving fishing communities to inland areas due to lack of consultation with the community and local leaders.
  - o Lack of trust amongst the community towards researchers and data collectors must be addressed. Policy decisions should be inclusive towards local community participation, and transparency of data usage purposes. Time durations to make policy decisions should also be streamlined and optimised as much as possible, to ensure that communities can see the concrete outcomes of data collection efforts.

- Political will is urgently needed to create any kind of change. It is needed to:
  - o Create and facilitate community-centred and sustainable conditions for robust research, and for CSO research programmes.
  - o Implement the robust mapping efforts needed to enable localisation and context-specificity.
  - o Prevent and anticipate risks, in particular proactive preparation for climate-related drivers of migration, and the effect resource management needed to adapt. Dedicated resources are urgently needed to collect data on negative factors, invest in proactive modelling, and implement technology where it is needed (Senegal example: where a water shortage is being experienced but known water desalination technology is not being implemented).
  - o Include and compensate for considerations that vulnerable communities lack capacity to adapt and prepare, especially amongst the most vulnerable peoples (e.g. women, children, people with disabilities) who must be specially considered and protected.
  - o Included and embed migration and development in ALL climate adaptation plans, beyond just as a development issue but also within emergency response.

- The right to return and remain within your own country must remain a first option to all who desire it, beyond the right to move / migrate. Need to ensure that right to return is always an option, and all efforts taken to preserve roots to the territory (livelihoods, culture etc).

Indigenous models cannot be sacrificed and core worldviews from outside the West must be preserved.

Regional / National Examples

- **Pacific:** Found from Pacific and other countries that people are reluctant to give details to data collectors as they are not sure how the data will be used.
- **LAC:** Caribbean Disaster and Management Agency data collection presents a good example of the importance and need for active engagement between communities and data collectors, as well as the agencies implementing policies. Lack of trust within communities stems from feeling 'used' for data. Thus, mapping work done by the government agency with help of communities was crucial in implementing and designing active engagement.
- **Africa (Madagascar):** Local experience with disaster and risk management showcases the importance of community embeddedness and preparedness. The national disaster management agency prepares the community for a cyclone through a protocol that starts 2 days in advance, designed to build community resilience- e.g. reinforcement of houses, stocking of non-perishable foods. Agency works closely with communities. Activating these protocols already in place meant that they have a lot of experience and knowledge accumulated around risks and emergencies. With Covid, these pre-existing protocols helped put in place pandemic response initiatives.