



## Advocacy Points for GFMD 3rd Preparatory Meeting

### GRT1: The impact of climate change on human mobility: Preventive action, humanitarian action and development

- **Towards long-term solutions and complementary policy frameworks**

It is necessary to work and advocate for integrating Climate Migration and Displacement issues into Nationally Determined Contributions and strengthen national and provincial policy measures. There is a lack of coordination and policy coherence between different actors, from local to national departments. Long-term thinking and solutions are needed in areas such as regular pathways, loss and damage, climate finance, data and ethical data management, protection, the right to stay, and inclusion.

- **Climate-mitigation efforts should include the right to stay**

Climate-mitigation strategies should include actions to ensure that people are able to stay if they wish to do so. Emphasis should be placed on adaptation and mitigation in home countries, and indigenous youth should be involved in the design and implementation of climate resilience and adaptation strategies.

The role of development in displacement risk reduction should also be recognised and addressed. Disasters are often a result of underlying vulnerabilities which increase the risk of displacement. Addressing root causes of climate change, including extractive industries, is crucial.

- **Regular migration pathways should safeguard equal rights for all**

It is important to consider what is necessary to ensure regular pathways, the progress being made in this area, as well as the need for protection for people moving in the context of climate change. Learning and development should also be considered in the context of regular pathways. Additionally, it is important to be mindful of the narrative that presents migration as adaptation, which is not always accurate.

- **Strengthen data gathering on cross-border displacement**

Data capturing is crucial to distinguishing between different categories of mobility and factors that contribute to it. This includes the focus on local capacity building to generate this data. There is a serious lack of data- and knowledge-sharing about cross-border displacement as a result of climate change, which can lead to the overlooking of many people in need of protection and experiencing development setbacks.

## GRT2 - Rights and migration: Working to ensure the health, safety and rights of migrants

- **Legal frameworks are essential in enabling human rights defenders' and civil society organizations' continuous work towards securing migrants' rights**

Creating a civic space that provides a safe environment for migrants is important as it enables them to exercise their freedoms. However, in many states, civil society organizations working with and for migrants face targeted legal and/or policy restrictions on registration, operation, or funding. There are also criminal sanctions for those who provide humanitarian aid and fundamental services to migrants, putting migrant human rights defenders at particular risk. Therefore, an enabling legal and policy environment is necessary to secure migrants' rights, especially when adopting the Whole-of-Society approach. It is important to acknowledge the problematic trend of closing civic space for human rights defenders and civil society working with migrants.

- **Action-oriented recommendation:** States should support the creation of enabling laws, policies, and practices to ensure that migrant human rights defenders and civil society organizations can continue working towards securing migrants' rights. Moreover, countries should uphold migrant workers' rights in all their memoranda of understanding, both in countries of origin and countries of destination. There should be a policy and mechanism in place to address grievances when migrants' human rights and labour rights are violated.

- **Labour rights are human rights**

A human rights-based approach is essential for the fair treatment of migrant workers. It is crucial to shift the focus of different governmental agendas towards a human rights approach to labour migration. The core of a rights-based approach should prioritise the rights of migrant workers, regardless of their migration status. This includes the right to self-organization and the right to be free from discrimination. It is important to highlight the challenges migrant workers face in accessing permits, citizenship, legal documents, education, professional/vocational training, and recognition of previous experience, academic credentials and titles.

## GRT3: Diasporas: Actors of regional economic, social and cultural development of regions

- **Political engagement of diaspora is a key pillar of inclusive decision-making**

Political engagement is crucial for individuals to regain their political rights to vote, be voted for, and to have a say in policy-making at a high level. Youth political engagement, as well as the participation of migrants and diaspora communities, can help promote voting among those who have the right to do so, and encourage people to be elected as representatives of their communities. Second-generation immigrants are a unique asset as they are often bicultural and can offer different perspectives. Therefore, it is essential to promote a sense of belonging within

migrant communities and diasporas. To build diaspora capacity, it is not just about creating an organization but more about how to include diaspora communities in the decision-making process and promote further political integration, such as granting them the right to vote.

- **Examples:** The African Diaspora Advisory Board is an example of diaspora political participation in the USA. The board is led by an executive director who is a second-generation Ghanaian American. In Europe, the Diaspora Advisory Board of Belgium is also inclusive of diaspora members who are consulted on diaspora matters by Belgian authorities and institutions.

- **Move beyond economic contributions of diasporas: Diasporas as dialogue enablers and peacebuilders**

When discussing the role of diasporas it is important to look beyond their financial contributions. Diaspora communities have significant political agency and can contribute to decision-making at social and political levels. Members of the diaspora act as crucial mediators between countries of origin and residence and play a vital role in building dialogue between Global South and Global North countries. Moreover, they are not only peacebuilders but also vectors of peace who can contribute more concretely to dialogue and mediation. It is essential to recognize the value of their contributions and provide them with a seat at the negotiation table on issues concerning conflict-ridden countries.

- **Multigenerational diaspora communities and their transformative impact**

Multigenerational diaspora communities are involved in times of crisis, bring cultural richness to the countries they live in, and contribute to development and humanitarian efforts in both countries of origin and countries of residence. The issue of identity and belonging is important for multiple generations. Youth diaspora are at the forefront of how diasporas are engaged and supporting communities in countries of origin and residence with a multi-stakeholder approach. They are shaping the current perspective on migration and need to be highlighted in development efforts.

- **Example:** In consultations with youth diaspora – including first, second, third generation and historic diaspora – youth are at the forefront in leading how diasporas are engaged. Current perspectives on migration are being shaped by youth who are supporting communities in host and home countries. The GFMD process needs to highlight diaspora youth in communities, their cultural capital and contributions to development.

- **Create common ground for diaspora engagement and local development interventions**

Despite being a powerful force, diaspora initiatives often fail to communicate and cooperate. Therefore, there is the need to establish more opportunities for collaboration among diaspora

organizations across different continents such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Diasporas play a significant role in local development.

**Example:** FORIM in France has contributed to development activities similar to those carried out by development agencies. To ensure diaspora organisations can effectively operate, funding is key. In Mexico, the 3-for-1 program (now 2-for-1) allows for pilot programs through which migrants can invest in development. Diaspora groups also need political rights, such as the right to vote in their home countries. We require people to advocate for us in our countries of origin.

- **Promote inter-regional dialogue between regional diaspora communities**

It is essential to promote collaboration between African and Latin American diaspora communities, who frequently encounter similar challenges. Inter-regional dialogue is critical to fostering closer cooperation among diaspora communities and amplifying the voices of diaspora in advocacy, policy dialogues, and policymaking.

#### **GRT4 - Labour migration: Promoting the economic inclusion of migrants**

- **Re-focusing labour migration policies around long-term labour migration schemes and regular pathways**

In the current post-COVID scenario, there has been a shift away from human-centered approaches to labour migration and a growing emphasis on temporary and short-term labour programs. However, it is important to note that there are also realities of permanent and long-term employment. To promote interest in regular pathways for permanent residency and family reunification, it is critical to highlight these opportunities. This is especially true for industries such as service and care – where a significant number of women are employed – as well as in the informal economy.

- **Social protection and sustainable employment should be at the core of labour migration policy**

Gender issues must also be addressed, including health requirements in cases of injuries and, in some cases, fatal accidents. Concerns about who will cover medical expenses and the tying of employment to a single employer are also important. To address these concerns, it is necessary to explore alternative employment arrangements that are not tied to a single employer. Additionally, it is essential to promote sustainable employment in destination countries while ensuring that labour migration is based on rights and governed by international labour standards. Collective bargaining and access to social protection and justice must be extended to all workers, regardless of their migration status. This should be the goal of any labour migration policy.

- **The unequal recognition of visas is a major cause of exploitation for migrant workers**

Rising concerns over the abuse and violations committed by state forces at the border highlight the need to promote legal migration pathways. Obtaining visas has become a major concern due to the prevalence of discrimination between skilled and unskilled labour, as well as good and bad labour, ultimately leading to worker exploitation and quasi slavery labour conditions.

- **Need to have more countries of origin and migrant workers involved in the development of labour policies**

When discussing labour migration, it is crucial to consider more than just specific migration programs. Instead, we need comprehensive public policies that involve the participation of countries of origin. To achieve this, it is necessary for countries of origin to demonstrate greater commitment and provide adequate financing. Any discussion on labour migration must prioritise the integration of migrant workers and recognize them as individuals with families. Therefore, it is essential to include familial protections in labour programs as well.

#### **GRT5 - Improving the perception of migration in public opinion through narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse**

- **Reframing the narratives on climate-induced migration**

The narratives on climate adaptation and resources need to be reframed to consider the impact on migrants and families left behind. Climate-induced mobility may be forced, meaning that some people are compelled to leave their countries of origin. There is often a tendency to see migration as the most attractive adaptive strategy to climate change. However, the focus should be on the right to stay, as highlighted in the [IPCC report](#). Indeed, if there are no other choices, people may choose to migrate. But, unfortunately, there are no safe pathways for many migrants. It is crucial to ensure that the messages around climate adaptation are centered on migrants' experiences, and messaging from civil society can help advance a migrant-centered approach.

- **Narratives are context-specific and driven by national socio-economic policies and discourses**

Narratives on migration are defined by borders and visa regimes, and shaped by the concept of "otherness". In order to understand the issue of current narratives towards migration we need to start by addressing the root causes, such as the EU-Tunisia deal, border policies, development inequalities, and extractive economies.

Even when the media highlights the stories and cultural diversity of migrants they still tend to see them as "the others" and not as an integral part of the communities they live in. True inclusion will only be achieved when migrants are fully integrated into political and cultural programs as an integral part of the community.

#### **GRT 6: Multi-level governance: Bringing together various stakeholders for improved migration management**

- **Governance is multifaceted and multi-stakeholder**

Governance is not just limited to specific themes such as labour and political rights, but rather it is a Whole-of-Society issue that involves governance at all levels and covers a broader range of migrant issues. Civil society plays a pivotal role in amplifying the voices of affected communities, including forcibly displaced people. The leadership of migrants themselves should be given priority.

Collaboration among stakeholders and various mechanisms is essential for ensuring access to justice. It is imperative to reinstate the business and human rights agenda. The private sector should provide expertise and employment opportunities while conducting due diligence to address violence in the labour market against migrants.

- **Effective governance structures need coordination, accountability and partnership with civil society**

To improve governance structures systematically, it is crucial to make infrastructure available to civil society and grassroots organizations, even if they are unregistered. Participation in governance activities requires accountability, feedback and coordination between humanitarian organisations and civil society organisations. Migrants, their families, and future generations should be considered as stakeholders in multi-level governance. Addressing root problems, implementing reforms in legislation, and public policy are necessary for achieving this goal.

- **Increased financial support for civil society that is accessible and flexible**

Increasing capacity for civil society and grassroots organizations is essential. Flexible, multi-year, non-project-based funding should be available to civil society and migrant organizations, not just legally and financially registered ones, but also informal groups.