



Friends of the Forum intervention - GFMD Civil Society Mechanism

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Thank you Ambassador for the floor. The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism appreciates the efforts that Colombia have made into drafting a rich programme for the year, and welcomes the selection of pressing thematics. We thank the Chair and the GFMD Secretariat for bringing us together, and appreciate the efforts to innovate and enhance the dialogue and interaction between stakeholders.

I am happy to be representing the GFMD CSM, which facilitates civil society engagement and participation into the GFMD process, both in the GFMD activities as well as through consultations, bringing together representatives from across civil society including large NGOs, faith-based organisations, trade unions, academia, grassroots, migrant and diaspora organisations and more.

We are happy with the enthusiastic participation that our civil society constituency has displayed for Colombia's Chairship so far, and are working to fulfil to the best of our abilities the demand, from both civil society as well as our generous Member State donors, for more participation and engagement of grassroots and migrant-led organisations. Since the start of the Chairship in April, we have:

- Held robust regional consultations in July on the programme, and thank Colombia for taking into account civil society input.
- Held 2 thematic dialogues for each RT thematic in preparation for the Roundtable Consultations for the 1st Preparatory Meeting to capture and represent as many inputs from across civil society- in particular grassroots organisations, migrant and diaspora communities- across the world.

Looking forward, we have established working groups for each thematic, to help promote the leadership of our diverse network, and enhance our contributions and participation. We are excited and honoured to co-chair RT5 on Regional Cooperation and Integration with the Governments of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, and hope to support fostering further regional and cross-border understanding and shared objectives. We are looking forward to working with each of the RT co-chairs to make progress in each respective area of migrant rights, protection, and contributions to development. We hope to also call upon Member States within the GFMD community to invest in the GFMD process, as well as engage with us to expand our potential impact- we would be more than happy to work closely with any MS interested in

advancing a particular thematic. However, we are also concerned about the multi-stakeholder aspect and limitations on the diversity and global representation of the process:

- Echoing and in support of the earlier message from the Business Mechanism, we want to highlight our joint proposal of a pooled fund to ensure the sustainability of stakeholder participation in the GFMD process.
- So far, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the Governments of Switzerland, through SDC, as well as the Government of the United Arab Emirates for their generous contributions to supporting civil society participation.
- However, with our present resources, it is likely that representation from across our constituencies will have to be reduced particularly for the Preparatory Meetings, thus reducing the capacity for us to have the robust multi-stakeholder dialogues that make the GFMD special and that is at the core of this year's process.
- We are also very concerned about the lack of language accessibility for the Preparatory Meetings. We will be discussing key questions and elements building up to the Summit, and a format that only allows for engagement in English will pose a significant challenge to a majority of civil society from the Global South—especially from Africa and Latin America.
- This was briefly discussed at the Steering Group meeting, to start the conversation on finding solutions, but we must emphasise that we run the risk of having engaging discussions that exclude a significant proportion of the world, and without migrant representation from the regions that need to be heard the most.

We are looking forward to an engaging 1st Preparatory Meeting and to testing out the new modalities for discussion. We are sure we will all collectively learn from this 1st Preparatory Meeting, and we hope there remains room to adjust the modalities, if needed, to ensure both quality discussions as well as diverse multi-stakeholder dialogue, for which language justice remains crucial.

Once again, we thank Colombia and the GFMD Secretariat for their leadership. We look forward to our continued partnership and to working closely with the GFMD community.

Muchisimas gracias Embajador.