

GFMD Business Regional workshop for South America

(Argentina, Chile, Ecuador Paraguay, Uruguay)

Business and Migration: Strengthening the dialogue between the Private Sector and Governments

Skills Mobility and Development: business perspectives on assessment and
certification of skills

9-10 October 2019, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Venue: Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, Sarmiento

Background Note

Introduction

The [Global Forum on Migration and Development](#) (GFMD) Business Mechanism, housed at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), organizes a regional workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on “Business and Migration: strengthening the dialogue between the private sector and governments”, with a special focus on business perspectives on skills mobility and development.

The [GFMD Business Mechanism](#), established in 2016, serves as a channel to bring the voice of the private sector to the intergovernmental GFMD. Its network of companies and employers’ organisations from all sectors and regions of the world raises awareness among governments of business needs on migration issues and highlights areas for collaboration. Through the Business Mechanism, the participation of businesses and employers’ organisations in government-led processes is facilitated, providing thereby the private sector perspective on migration and development policies.

Over the past three years, the Business Mechanism has published various documents¹ contributing to the global debate. In view of the implementation of the [Global Compact for migration](#)² (GCM), the network now aims at analyzing how these global recommendations can be implemented at regional level.

Background

International labour mobility is a key component of growth and competitiveness, both for companies and economies. The private sector is a major job provider and therefore not only contributes to the human resource development but also equally contributes to the growth and prosperity of the economy. In view of the demographic changes and the growing skills gaps, it is not always possible for business to harness local talent. It is under these situations, that the search of global talent and recruitment takes place. In addition, people migrate for better

¹ Link to the publications: <https://gfmdbusinessmechanism.org/polar/>

² The GCM is the first-ever United Nations global agreement on a common approach to international migration. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018. More information about the GCM process: <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

economic opportunities. The worldwide phenomena of migration and the increased globalisation has therefore led to ensuring safe, orderly and regular pathways for migration.

The GCM and the GFMD are therefore engaging in dialogue with different stakeholders including the private sector, to address various issues relating to migration and development. Governments and the private sector have a strong mutual interest in promoting more transparent, effective and humane migration policies, taking into account labour market needs.

It is with this background and to continue and expand on the ongoing dialogue that the GFMD Business Mechanism is proposing to conduct the regional workshop in South America to provide a platform to both the governments and businesses in Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to enhance dialogue between them on ways to enhance safe, orderly and regular pathways for migration.

The GCM promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships, including notably the private sector, to address migration in all its dimensions. The workshop aims at supporting the Governments in the region to implement the GCM. It will offer a platform for Governments and businesses to find concrete solutions that target the GCM objectives, including Objective 5 on enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, Objective 6 on Facilitating fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work and Objective 18 on investing in skills development and facilitating mutual recognition of skills qualifications and competences.

Objectives

These countries are championing the cause of providing safe and regular pathways for high, low and medium skilled migrants not only in their country but also within the region. There has been lot of progress made in these areas. The Business Mechanism would, therefore, like to take these dialogues further, especially, in the area of skills mobility, development, assessment, recognition and training within the region.

The objective of this workshop, therefore, is to bring together governments and business representatives, employers' federations from Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay to discuss policies related to *skills mobility and development in South America*. The platform will enable the governments and the businesses to enhance dialogue between them on ways to ensure that regulatory frameworks are adapted to businesses' needs. Safe and regular pathways responding to employers' needs will help reduce illegal activities, including corruption, human trafficking and people smuggling.

The outcome of the workshop will feed into the regional and global dialogue, including at the GFMD Summit to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 19 to 22 November 2019. A research paper will also be presented to complement the report of the workshop.

Structure

The workshop will be held over two days. The first day businesses would discuss amongst themselves to assess current migration policies and identify how these policies impact their operations. They will evaluate their domestic and regional skills needs and requirements and collate information to provide feedback on the design and implementation of the existing migration programmes, including in the area of responsible recruitment; and also assess how innovation can help in skills recognition and training programmes.

With this information, the private sector would meet with the government representatives on the second day and hold discussions to assess how migration policies could better address

the skills gap, skills recognition systems, skills matching programmes, and training for migrants and local workers. It is foreseen that these discussions would provide inputs to the governments, to understand how migration policies and practices affect business operations; provide an assessment of the skills and the job market requirements; and enable them to ensure that the regulatory frameworks take the businesses considerations, as employment and service provider, into account.

A report on the discussions would be shared with the governments and businesses.

Participants:

Multinationals based in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay and Paraguay, major national and regional employers, chambers of commerce;
representatives of the five governments (departments dealing with migration) only on the second day.