

## **GFMD Recommendations to the Global Compact on Migration**

### **CLUSTER 6:**

#### **IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND REGULAR PATHWAYS, INCLUDING DECENT WORK, LABOR MOBILITY, DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT MEASURES**

Since the [2006 High Level Dialogue](#) and the 2007 Belgian GFMD Chairmanship, the Forum enabled a shift of the migration and development paradigm by promoting legal migration as an opportunity rather than as a potential impediment for countries of origin, transit and destination. Seeking to find regular pathways, including by promoting decent work and labor mobility, has therefore been a reoccurring objective since the initiation of the GFMD. With the launch of the Business Mechanism at the 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit in Bangladesh, this issue has been firmly anchored in the GFMD process. Also, the issue of circular migration gained increased attention in the most recent discussions. In line with the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the GFMD has taken up discussions on increased international cooperation on access to and portability of earned benefits, enhanced recognition of foreign qualifications, education and skills, lowering the costs of recruitment for migrants, and combating unscrupulous recruiters<sup>1</sup>.

In order to build opportunities for labour and skills mobility, the Sutherland Report recommends strengthening the architecture to govern labour mobility, *inter alia* by ensuring coherence at the national level; forming a global alliance of labour sending states; developing model employment contracts and bilateral and regional labour migration agreements as well as a multi-agency support function to facilitate such agreements; and establishing a multi-stakeholder platform on skills mobility.<sup>2</sup> Acknowledging the high fees and fraudulent practices especially in low-skilled labor recruitment, the [Sutherland Report](#) recommends the following measures: a) help prospective migrants finance at non-exploitative rates; b) align national laws, policies and regulations with ILO's Principles and Guidelines for Fair Recruitment; c) monitor and enforce compliance with recruitment regulations; and d) promote consolidation and professionalization in the recruitment industry<sup>3</sup>. Looking at the following GFMD recommendations listed below, member states have already addressed some of these issues in their previous discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> [Addis Ababa Action Agenda \(AAAA\)](#), § 111.

<sup>2</sup> [Report of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, A/71/278, \(Sutherland Report\)](#), Recommendation 5

<sup>3</sup> [Sutherland Report](#), Recommendation 4.

Past GFMD discussions have come up with a significant number of recommendations around the relevant topics. These include (selection):

*(1) Labor mobility/circular migration as a possible alternative to irregular migration;*

- Adopt **circular or temporary migration schemes** and remove limitations on circular migration.
- Foster **global skill partnerships** between countries of origin and destination that encourage skill creation and skill mobility among potential migrants.
- Promote **one-stop-shops** in countries of origin and destination for information on the migration cycle to minimize the “information asymmetry” and promote circular-migration schemes for migrants.

*(2) Ethical recruitment of labor migrants*

- Protect mainly female – but also male – migrants through: – the **adoption of gender-sensitive labor migration policies and practices** ensuring decent working conditions, protection in vulnerable employment markets, social security standards, participative decision-making involving female sectors and action against employers who do not respect migrant rights, to protect migrants and optimize the development effects of migration.
- Develop **codes of ethical recruitment**, particularly in the health sector, and the further disseminate of lessons learned from existing codes of conduct.

*(3) Skills recognition and development*

- Promote **cooperation mechanisms between countries of origin and destination for better job matching** and skills recognition.
- Evaluate the **educational and professional qualifications of asylum seekers at an early stage** of the procedure in order to adapt integration processes according to the asylum seekers qualification and the host countries’ labor market needs.

*(4) Non-exploitative financing for migration.*

- Foster exchange of knowledge and experiences on **gender-responsive legal, social and financial protection** measures for migrants through bilateral and multilateral dialogue and other platforms.
- Help promote **a race to the top among recruiters** by working with private-sector employers and recruiters towards having employers pay the cost of recruitment rather than migrants (as it is usually the case with highly skilled professionals).

## Guiding questions for the discussion:

A number of recent UN documents, such as the [2030 Agenda](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), provide a framework – although not legally binding to states – that addresses a number of migration and development-related challenges. With this in mind:

- How can the GCM facilitate sustainable implementation of commitments in international standards and frameworks related to the topics covered by this thematic cluster?
- How can the GCM further advance relevant recommendations and good practices shared within the GFMD and affirmed in several UN documents, notably the [Sutherland Report](#), the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)<sup>4</sup> and the latest [Report of the Secretary General on Migration](#)<sup>5</sup>?
- Which current challenges, if any, are not yet sufficiently covered by existing international standards and frameworks and therefore require specific emphasis by the GCM?

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<sup>4</sup> [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), A/Res/71/1.

<sup>5</sup> [Report of the Secretary General on Migration](#), A/70/59.