



**UN DESA**



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

In observance of the



*Concept note and draft agenda*

**Expert meeting**

**International Day of Family Remittances:  
Supporting one billion people reach their own SDGs**

Friday, 14 June 2019 | New York, U.S.A.  
Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters

## Overview

Over the past two decades, remittances have emerged as an important contribution to the well-being of migrant families and the development communities of origin.

In 2018, migrant workers transferred US\$529 billion in remittances to their families in developing countries.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, remittances represented more than three times the annual flow of official development assistance (ODA) and exceeded foreign direct investment (FDI) for the first time. In 2017, the global number of international migrants was estimated to have reached 258 million, an increase of 49 per cent compared to 2000.<sup>2</sup> It is important to note however, that remittances are a private source of capital not to be equated with other international financial flows.

Remittances help to lift millions of migrant families out of poverty. Overall, these flows are believed to touch the lives of **one billion people**, either as senders or recipients. Remittances, the “human face of globalization”, allow migrants and their families to improve their access to health, education and housing, thereby helping to achieve their own Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group. [Migrant and Development Brief #31](#), 2019

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. [Population Facts. No. 2017/5](#), December 2017

It is in this context that one of the 2019 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) thematic priorities of Ecuador seeks to address the issue of remittances in the context of sustainable development, particularly by analysing the effects of remittances for the building and transformation of rural areas.

### **The International Day of Family Remittances**

In resolution 72/281, the General Assembly proclaimed 16 June as the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR).<sup>3</sup> The IDFR aims to raise awareness about the important contribution migrants make to sustaining their families in country of origin and the transformative impact of remittances across the SDGs.

Building on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SDGs,<sup>4</sup> the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** contains in Objective 20 an ambitious agenda to promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and to foster financial inclusion of migrants.<sup>5</sup>

The IDFR encourages the public and the private sector, together with civil society, to create a more favourable environment to maximize the impact of remittances and diaspora investments on the achievement of the **SDGs**.

### **Objectives**

The 2019 GFMD Chairmanship, in partnership with IFAD, IOM and UN DESA, is hosting an expert meeting aimed at highlighting the contributions of migrants to sustainable development through remittances and investment.

The event will provide a platform to exchange good practices, that can guide Member States, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of Objective 20 of the Global Compact for Migration.

The meeting has four main objectives:

1. To exchange practical examples and strategies of successful initiatives at national, regional and global level aimed at maximizing remittances and migrant investment for sustainable development and promoting financial inclusion for migrants and their families.
2. To explore the role of private sector entities involved in the remittance market as well as central banks in promoting the implementation of relevant goals and targets of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SDGs as well as Objective 20 of the GCM.
3. To promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop practical solutions for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the GCM.
4. To “explore options for policy makers at national and local levels to enhance positive and mitigate negative effects of migration and remittances in the transformation of rural areas” in response to the 2019 GFMD Roundtable 3.2

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<sup>3</sup> [United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/281, adopted on 12 June 2018](#)

<sup>4</sup> [United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/313, adopted on 27 July 2015](#)

<sup>5</sup> [United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195, adopted on 19 December 2018](#)

## Structure

The meeting will tap into the first-hand experiences of the international community, private sector entities, local and national authorities, practitioners and experts.

The meeting will open with brief welcoming remarks by the organizers. The opening will be followed by two multi-stakeholder panels, each of which will feature interactive discussions. A live discussion will engage the audience before closing the event.

The meeting will be in English and webcast on [UN Web TV](#).

## Contact

Please RSVP to the GFMD Support Unit at [support.unit@gfmd.org](mailto:support.unit@gfmd.org) and to Alessandra Casano at [a.casano@ifad.org](mailto:a.casano@ifad.org) no later than **Friday, 7 June**.

For substantive queries (if any) please contact Deepali Fernandes at [dfernandes@iom.int](mailto:dfernandes@iom.int). IFAD's Remittances Team ([remittances@ifad.org](mailto:remittances@ifad.org)) remains at your disposal for any questions and/or concerns.

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## Draft agenda

### International Day of Family Remittances: Supporting one billion people reach their own SDGs

10:00 – 10:40	<p><b>High-level observance of the International Day of Family Remittances: migrant contribution to development</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> 2019 GFMD Chair UN Secretary General/Deputy Secretary General/President of the UN General Assembly IFAD Representative   IOM Representative</p> <p><b>Format:</b> brief statements</p>
10:40 – 11:40	<p><b><u>Session 1:</u></b> <b>Partnerships to address challenges and opportunities towards achieving the 2030 Agenda</b></p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u> Remittances have the potential to contribute to development in a much greater way than they currently do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Thus what is the role of remittances in achieving the 2030 Agenda including in the context of the Financing for Development process and what has been achieved in this regard?</li><li>- What kind of partnerships (i.e. public-private, civil society-public and factors) through use of technology, fintechs, postal networks, financial literacy can contribute to this process?</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> IOM</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> UN Member States   Central Bank of Kenya   Financing for Development, UN-DESA   Western Union</p> <p><b>Format:</b> interactive panel discussion</p>
11:40 – 12:30	<p><b><u>Session 2:</u></b> <b>Hands-on GCM Objective 20: make it happen</b></p> <p><u>Guiding questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What are the determinants of costs and how can stakeholders such as central banks, private sector and international organizations contribute to making remittance transfers faster, safer and cheaper?</li><li>- What specific initiatives or PPPs can lead to maximizing the impact of remittances?</li><li>- Why are financial services linked to remittances one of the greatest opportunities to address the needs of remittance receiving families?</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> IFAD</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> UN Member States   Bank Negara Malaysia   GSMA   Equity Bank   World Bank Group</p> <p><b>Format:</b> Interactive panel discussion</p>
12:30 – 12:50	<p><b>Open discussion and interaction</b></p> <p>Interventions from i.e. permanent representatives supporting IDFR and other stakeholders attending.</p> <p><b>Format:</b> interactive Q&amp;A session</p>
12:50 – 13:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p>