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Co-Facilitator of the Consultations to Agree the Modalities for the International Migration Review Forum

H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations – New York
Co-Facilitator of the Consultations to Agree the Modalities for the International Migration Review Forum

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Excellencies,

RE: GFMD Inputs to the International Migration Review Forum

In my capacity as Chair 2019 of Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), it is an honor to write to you as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations to determine the modalities and organizational aspects of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), ahead of your upcoming visit to Geneva.

As you are aware, the Global Forum on Migration and Development has contributed to the global dialogue on migration and development and played a significant role in facilitating discussions that led to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the subsequent adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM).

That contribution is recognized within the preamble to the Global Compact, and a role is envisaged for the GFMD in the Compact with regards to its implementation, follow up and review, as stated in paragraph 51 of the GCM:

*“We invite the **Global Forum on Migration and Development** to provide a space for annual informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum”.*

As incumbent GFMD Chair, I am mindful of Ecuador’s responsibility to sound off and convey to the Co-Facilitators the perspectives of GFMD participating Member States and stakeholders on the GFMD’s added value and potential contribution of the GFMD to the IMRF, including GFMD’s reporting to the IMRF. To this end, and in line with the state-led and inclusive nature of the GFMD process, the Chair sought to gather the inputs of all Member States, GFMD Observers and non-state stakeholders (civil society, private sector and local authorities) through an informal consultation meeting in Geneva on 4 April 2019. Attached you will find the **summary report** of this informal meeting, which presents a wide

array of elements and ideas suggested by government and non-state GFMD actors during the meeting, as well as in writing.

On my part as GFMD Chair, I would like to highlight some elements that have been repeatedly mentioned by participating member states:

1. The GFMD must continue to maintain its character as a state-led, voluntary, informal and non-binding process, which fosters partnership, cooperation and voluntary sharing of knowledge and experiences, and includes the voices of civil society, the private sector and local authorities.
2. While contributing positively and constructively to the IMRF, the mandate and value of the GFMD should not be reduced solely to the roles attributed to it by the GCM, but must continue to be focused on facilitating dialogue that span the whole spectrum of migration and development, including emerging and potentially contentious issues outside the scope of the GCM.

Furthermore, as current GFMD Chair, I wish to communicate to you my views on how GFMD can provide a space for informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and relay information on best practices and innovative approaches, at the behest of Member States, to the IMRF. I thus submit the following points for your consideration in advance of the publication of the zero-draft resolution.


- The GFMD should be invited to report to the IMRF on exchanges taking place within GFMD meetings, workshops, roundtables, and summits related to the objectives of the Global Compact. Such reports may include relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches, and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the GCM.
- In order to facilitate the presentation of these dedicated reports, the resolution of the IMRF could provide a standing invitation to the Chair and/or Troika to highlight outcomes related to the GCM objectives from the annual GFMD Summits.
- Consistent with paragraph 43 c) iii. of the Global Compact, which calls for the development of a global knowledge platform and making use of the existing mechanisms, the resolution should put specific emphasis on GFMD's Platform for Partnerships as a tool to compile and curate information aligned to GCM objectives submitted by Member States that highlight best practices, key developments and general trends, for submission to the IMRF.
- The GFMD could seek synergies with regional consultative processes to take advantage of GFMD as a platform for annual global reporting on regional initiatives, as better coordination is essential to avoid duplication between processes.

I trust that these points will be taken into consideration in your deliberations on the modalities and organizational aspects of the IMRF.

I look forward to welcoming you at the Friends of the Forum meeting and the bilateral meeting with the GFMD Troika on May 29 in Geneva.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Santiago Chavez Pareja
Vice Minister for Human Mobility
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador
GFMD 2019 Chair

