



**GFMD Dialogue**  
**on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

Palais des Nations, Geneva, 6 April, 2017

Room XXIV

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**Working Session I:**

**GCM Cluster 1: Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance**

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This session focuses Cluster 1 of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, on the issue of human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance. This theme is a very integral part of the annual discussions at the GFMD platform since the inaugural chairmanship of Belgium in 2007, where it was highlighted that human rights was an essential prerequisite to migrants contributing to development. Subsequent chairmanships have addressed the topics of social inclusion, integration, discrimination, combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance in various roundtable discussions, thematic workshops and side-events. Recommendations include adopting legislations and procedures to ensure protection and non-discriminatory treatment of migrants; promoting a comprehensive approach in preparing a model of protection for migrants, which is supported by legal and institutional mechanisms that look after migrants' interests at every stage of the "life-cycle" of migration, i.e., pre-departure, on-site, and return and reintegration; as well as encouraging collaboration between local and national authorities that work on migration/integration issues and also to invite support from diaspora groups to combat xenophobia.

The objective of this session is to identify key policy recommendations and best practices, drawn from GFMD reports, that might be of particular relevance for GFMD's contribution to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

**Key recommendations from GFMD Discussions**

1. Host countries need to better understand the development benefits they derive from their immigrants, both temporary and longer-term. Basic services in health, education and social welfare, coupled with sound anti-discrimination laws and practices and promotion of inter-cultural dialogue, were needed. (2009)
2. Promote engagement of bilateral, regional, and multilateral partnerships, enhance domestic consultative decision-making process that involves migrants and their families, and form a

system of regulation, protection, reintegration and support, which involves the private sector. (2008)

3. Address root causes of racism and xenophobia, by empowering teachers and educators to play a major role in combating negative perceptions, especially in shaping young people's outlook. (2012)
4. Ensure that migrants are provided with comprehensive information relating to their rights and access to justice. (2008)
5. States could create an enabling environment for diaspora to live their transnational experiences by increasing their mobility options and facilitate their productive activities by creating a level playing field between diasporas and local populations and by ensuring portability of social rights (including the payment of pensions), multiple re-entry visas, dual citizenship, etc. (2007)
6. Promote information, research and data to assist the public to understand better migrants and migration. The importance of gender-disaggregated data was also emphasized to help counter discrimination and prejudice against women. The research agenda would include understanding the nature of migrant flows – which are often more varied and complex than the public appreciate - and how they contribute to the societies of destination and origin. (2012)
7. Effective engagement with and through the media was identified as key to building and sustaining the essential public support for effective migration policies. (2012)
8. Encouraging collaboration between local and national authorities that work on migration/integration issues and also to invite support from diaspora groups in this process. (2013-2014)

### **Guiding Questions:**

1. What partnerships and collaboration between source and destination countries can be organized to protect the rights and wellbeing of migrants, in particular for migrants in vulnerable situations?
2. What best practices and innovative approaches can be implemented at the national and the local level that would promote social inclusion of migrants?
3. How can States enhance collaboration with private actors, including media, civil society, academia or the private sector, on combatting racism, xenophobia and discrimination?