

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Business Mechanism

Description

The **GFMD Business Mechanism** was created at the 2015 GFMD Summit in Istanbul as a pilot. It was then endorsed as a permanent feature of the GFMD at the 2016 Summit in Dhaka. It serves as a channel to bring the voice of business to the GFMD. (www.gfmdbusinessmechanism.org)

The Business Mechanism is coordinated by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the WEF Global Agenda Council on Migration. The office is hosted by the IOE in Geneva.

Objectives

Developing a public-private partnership to maximize the benefits of migration through facilitation of regular avenues of moving skills across borders, while at the same time minimizing the risks by combating abusive and unscrupulous practices.

The overarching objective for the Business Mechanism is to be considered as the voice of business in international dialogues on migration. The expertise of its growing business network should serve relevant international and regional dialogues.

2016 Financial report

The GFMD Business Mechanism is currently co-funded by:

Government of Switzerland:	80'000 CHF
The Coca-Cola Company:	20'000 CHF
European Commission:	90'000 CHF
IOE:	<u>50'000 CHF</u>

Total: 240'000 CHF

In addition, the Business Mechanism received in-kind contributions from IOE's partners Fragomen and the Council for Global Immigration.

These funds were allocated to:

- the coordination unit housed at the IOE;
- the participation of business federations representatives from least developed countries and SMEs in GFMD Business Mechanism meetings (flight and accommodation);
- the creation and update of the GFMD Business Mechanism website;
- business meetings and outreach activities (in Geneva and New York)
- research for and publication of the [Business Case for migration](#)

2017 Work plan

Areas of interest:

1. The need for skills/workforce mobility at all skills levels
2. Responsible recruitment and decent work opportunities
3. Access of refugees to the labour market
4. The role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development

The Business Mechanism will focus on a broader perspective on the role of business in migration governance, toward meeting the **Global Compact for Migration** to be adopted in 2018 by the United Nations Member States.

2017 meetings:

Date	Activity	Venue
3-4 April	GFMD Business Mechanism Thematic meeting in preparation for the GFMD Summit	Geneva
29 June	Business meeting at the GFMD Summit	Berlin
Second semester	GFMD Business dialogue on the UN Global Compact for migration	tbd
Second semester	Regional consultations on the business contribution to the Global Compact	tbd

Given the ongoing discussions on migration at the international level, including the Global Compact for migration, the Business Mechanism will need to scale up:

- Increase communication and visibility
- Raise awareness amongst the business community, the Governments and the civil society
- Outreach to worldwide business organizations
- Organise further business meetings across the regions
- Provide simultaneous translation (FR, EN, ESP) at all meetings
- Support the coordination unit
- Contribute to regional and international debates to bring the private sector's perspective
- Advocate for the business case for migration
- Conduct further research and survey
- Translate all documents (FR, EN, ESP)

The GFMD Business Mechanism will need to strengthen and develop new partnerships with governments and private companies to ensure fixed income and thereby the viability of the platform. Provided with a larger budget, the GFMD Business Mechanism could enhance its visibility across the globe and could also envisage an extension of its scope to other fora. In-kind contributions, human resources (secondment), and financial resources will be needed to enable the Business Mechanism to develop its potential.

2017 provisional budget:

Functioning (Expenses to run the GFMD Business Mechanism office, based in Geneva at the IOE)	Staff, including administrative support (accounting, financing, intern) Coordinating office space and facilities Staff travel expenses	USD 250'000
Activities (Conference venue, equipment, catering, interpretation, travel and lodging for business participants from LDCs and SMEs)	GFMD Business Mechanism Annual Thematic meeting Business meeting - GFMD Summit Regional meetings Possible other engagement: Global Compact for migration, IOM International Dialogue on Migration, ILO's initiatives, Bali Process, regional initiatives... Specific projects / research	USD 180'000
Communication / outreach (Awareness raising, external communication, social media, publications)	GFMD Business Mechanism website update Development of social media Publication, printing (for the four thematic working groups and the Business Mechanism per se) Translation costs (FR, SP, EN) Survey	USD 50'000
Total 2017		USD 480'000