

## **Opening Keynote**

**Mr. El Habib Nadir, Co-Chair of the GFMD 2017-2018**

**December 05, 2018, Marrakech**

**Excellencies,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Directors of the Intergovernmental Organizations,  
Ambassadors;  
Distinguished Parliamentarians;  
Distinguished delegates, representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society, private sector, academics and media;  
Ladies and gentlemen.**

I would like to welcome you to this eleventh edition of the GFMD in this great and beautiful city that is Marrakech. A mythical city, a melting pot of human civilisations and a truly multicultural city. A city in Africa; a young and hopeful continent in all aspects.

I would like to welcome you to this eleventh edition of the GFMD in this great and beautiful city that is Marrakech, a mythical city, a melting pot of human civilisations and multicultural and open city. A city in Africa, a young and a promising continent in every way.

I would like to thank all the participants here today for accepting our invitation to participate in this high-level event, which is one of the most important annual meetings dealing with migration in relation to development. This 11th edition of the GFMD is under the overarching theme "Honour international commitments to unlock the potential of migrants for development".

It is also the end of the two-year co-presidency with Germany, which happened in symbiosis and harmony. It was an example of a successful North-South cooperation on a respect and mutual understanding basis.

During this co-chairmanship we discussed the whole spectrum of migration issues related to development, including controversial issues. And this is where the strength of the GFMD lies. Because the discussions are free and the exchanges serene and fruitful.

Also, I am pleased to express my congratulations to our German partners for the efforts made to ensure the success of this co-chairmanship of the Forum.

I would like to pay tribute to Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme and his team, for the climate of mutual trust with the Moroccan team, and the convergence of views. I must say that there was a symbiosis and a perfect harmony between our two teams.

My thanks also go to all the stakeholders: Governments, international organizations, civil society, private sector, researchers, experts ... for their significant contribution to the success of the forum and for the ideas, the proposals, and the richness of the debates and exchanges throughout the preparatory process. Similarly, as part of our joint action, we have accompanied the process of developing the Global Compact on Migration, and it is a great honour for Morocco to be selected by the United Nations to host the conference for the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration. We are thankful for this confidence and responsibility entrusted to us.

### **Ladies and gentlemen;**

We felt that after 10 years of existence of the Forum, it was necessary to launch an evaluation, and we were assisted in this endeavor by a panel of high level experts including former GFMD Presidents, and I want to pay tribute to them for their tremendous work and will be presented on the last day of the forum as part of the "Future of the Forum" session.

It will be an opportunity to move forward the tremendous work accomplished throughout this decade, when the Forum has become a major consultation and exchange process in the field of migration related to development.

Indeed, our Global Forum has made a lot of progress since its first edition in 2007 in Brussels. And we have the immense honor of welcoming Ms. Declercq who is the first chair of the forum.

In its own way, every state that Chaired the GFMD, marked it by its footprint, addressing new topics and new channels of communication between governments, international organizations, civil society and private sector. We are so delighted this year to open a new migration dimension namely the important role of local authorities in migration issues. We are so happy to welcome Mayors and representatives of local authorities.

Each annual meeting was an opportunity to forge new partnerships between states and other stakeholders. Our Forum has always been responsive to migration news, and it has had successful actions such as the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda and its role in the process of developing the Global Compact for Migration. safe, regular and orderly. Similarly, the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees explicitly recognized the important role of the GFMD.

Thanks to an inclusive approach, regular consultations and follow-up activities, today it is more than an annual conference, but a truly dynamic international process.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

We are experiencing a historic turning point marked by the will of the international community to take a step forward towards global governance of migration. Only collective action and renewed cooperation based on shared responsibility and development can maximize the positive effects of migration on host countries, countries of origin and the migrants themselves.

If we want to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for a world of peace, prosperity, and dignity for all where no one is left behind, we must promote diversity and the human rights of migrants.

Human mobility is a global phenomenon, it is a fact, it cannot be curbed, but it must be well managed for the interest of the countries of origin, destination and the migrants themselves.

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased with the interest generated by the Global Forum on Migration and Development, as evidenced this year by the number of participants from all continents (135 countries) and international organizations. There is no need to remind you of the enormous challenge that migration is, one of the most important issues of the 21st century. The launch today of the 11th edition, on the eve of the adoption of the first international instrument on migration, gives us the opportunity to take stock of migration issues that interest all of us, countries of origin, transit and destination.

We want to strengthen this important platform that can foster new forms of cooperation between different stakeholders, while keeping its specificity as a state-led process, where the latter can come with ideas, can present models, practical and useful experiences. The aim is to identify what is working well, to fill gaps, to advance thinking through constructive dialogue away from the weight of formal international meetings.

To conclude, I welcome you once again to this edition of the Forum in Marrakech, the ocher city. I am convinced that the debates and exchanges during this forum will lead to concrete results and recommendations for migrants and communities of origin and reception.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**