



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 February 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention a letter from Mr. Erol Kiresepi, President of the International Organization of Employers, and Mr. Austin Fragomen, Jr., Chairman of the Business Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and its annex “Partnering with the Private Sector in the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration: A Business Perspective”.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. ESPINOSA".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Partnering with the Private Sector in the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration: A Business Perspective ¹

The international business community welcomes the multilateral efforts undertaken by the United Nations and its Member States to adopt a non-binding instrument with the aim to further strengthen cooperation in managing migration. The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) calls for enhanced partnership with the private sector.

This paper which proposes the parameters of that partnership is based on the “[IOE Policy Paper on Labour Migration](#)”, launched at the GFMD Summit in December 2018.

Business and governments all have a stake in frameworks for safe, orderly and regular migration that:

- **Ensure well-functioning labour markets.** Regular labour mobility fosters innovation, productivity and entrepreneurship, and is essential to economic growth and development.
- **Foster skills mobility.** Increasingly, business models demand the frequent movement of personnel among countries and the cross-border recruitment of talent. Skills shortages are expensive and counter-productive, especially but not only for developing economies.
- **Promote responsible recruitment practises** to protects labour migrants from abuses. Fair and ethical recruitment services both serve business needs and work to protect vulnerable migrants.
- **Help to combat the negative public perceptions** of migration that are generated in response to irregular migration.

¹ The GFMD Business Mechanism is the private sector track of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). It represents a business network coordinated by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the largest network of the private sector in the world, with more than 150 business and employer organisation members across 140 countries.

What business asks of governments

- **Clear, transparent and efficient national immigration laws and policies** that permit the movement of workers when and where they are needed. Overly complex or too cumbersome systems hinder compliance with national laws and make it difficult for businesses to recruit individuals with the necessary skills and for individuals to advance their careers and to support their families.
- **Internal coherence, communication, and cooperation among government departments** in order to avoid delays and inconsistencies in the processing of immigration applications.
- **Consultation with business.** Companies are frequent users of national migration systems. Their experience with the practical workings of immigration laws, procedures and policies, knowledge of labour market needs and staffing trends, and the relative ease or difficulty of obtaining work permits in a given jurisdiction can be communicated to governments to benefit both the private sector and local economies.

How business can support governments

- **By contributing its experience and knowledge of best practices through consultations with governments.** The best practices that have been developed in the areas of skills mobility, skills recognition, and skills development can serve as important references and resources.
 - **By continuing to support fair and ethical recruitment initiatives and promoting appropriate regulatory framework for the employment industry under effective rule of law.** Companies alone cannot enforce regulations, but they can support governments in doing so.
 - **By working to change negative narratives.** Migration, when managed well, can be a vehicle for fulfilling personal aspirations; balancing labour supply and demand; sparking innovation; transferring and spreading skills. Companies can be a positive voice.
- **Very concretely**, with a view to assisting the governments to achieve the objectives of the GCM and to have an impact on the ground at local and regional levels, the Business Mechanism will:
- Host local/regional workshops to foster dialogue between businesses and national/regional authorities to find together the best solutions;
 - Conduct research to inform the debate with facts and figures;
 - Inform the GCM Review Conferences with the business perspective.



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voice for business

To:

Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative for International Migration to the UN Secretary-General;

H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly;

Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of the International Organisation for Migration;
States Members of the United Nations General Assembly

Participation of the Private Sector in the Implementation of the Objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

We, on behalf of the members of the undersigned organizations, welcome the efforts undertaken by UN Member States to adopt the GCM and underscore the importance of regulatory frameworks that allow regular international migration for the benefit of the economic health of our economies. In particular, we support the recognition of the concerns and priorities of the private sector, of the practical importance of improving migration governance and of the importance of partnering with the private sector in the implementation of the objectives of the GCM.

As stated by Erol Kiresepi, on behalf of the private sector, in the opening statement of the adoption conference in Marrakech on 10 December, we are pleased to present the private sector Marrakech paper (attached), entitled “**Partnering with the Private Sector in the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration: A Business Perspective**”. The brief paper which proposes the parameters of that partnership is based on the “IOE Policy Paper on Labour Migration”, launched at the GFMD Summit in December 2018 and highlights what companies need from governments, and how they can support governments in the implementation of the GCM at national and regional levels.

Demographic realities and business imperatives are driving the need for greater mobility of workers, in particular of skilled individuals, and the private sector increasingly relies on national migration systems in order to establish and maintain workforces around the world. At the same time, abuses associated with unethical recruitment practices and irregular migration bring attention to gaps in governance and failures of enforcement affecting large numbers of vulnerable people. Employers have a vital interest in the development and promulgation of clear, consistent migration policies and practices that minimize the challenges and maximize the opportunities migration provides.



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We commend the GCM's language relating to skills mobility and development, and the importance of the role the private sector can play. We appreciate your recognition of the importance of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) as an important actor in representing the private sector's interest, through your invitation to deliver the statement of the private sector at the opening ceremony of the GCM conference. The IOE will continue to engage on migration, by increasing and consolidating the network of the Business Mechanism.

We look forward to contributing our experience and expertise in order to assist governments at national and regional levels to design best practices for the implementation of the objectives of the GCM.

We would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to all United Nations Member States.

Yours sincerely,

Austin T. Fragomen, Jr.
Chair, Business Mechanism of the
Global Forum on Migration and Development

Erol Kiresepi
President
International Organisation of Employers

Annex: Private Sector Marrakech paper: "How to meaningfully partner with the private sector in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration".

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