

## **Executive Summary: GFMD Recommendation to the 2018 HLPF “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”**

As an intergovernmental body, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has been invited to provide substantive input to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), showcasing its contribution towards the 2030 Agenda in general, and particularly for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respective targets that are most relevant to GFMD’s mandate. Taking up this invitation, the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration under the co-chairmanship of Germany and Bangladesh prepared the following GFMD contribution along the template for submitting HLPF contributions. The report is based on references of GFMD Summit meetings, workshops, sessions of the Platform for Partnership (PfP) and Common Space discussions. It analyzes the interlinkages between the goals in focus of the 2018 HLPF and migration. In addition, it examines how interventions in the migration context in GFMD countries – ranging from small-targeted projects to wider programmes or reforms – have contributed to achieving the goals featured in this year’s HLPF. In line with the 2018 HLPF theme to “create truly inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies,” the report provides insights into the issues of migrants’ access to services and migration in the context of climate change and disasters.

While Goal 17 explicitly focuses in target 17.18 on disaggregated data on migration, the **goals subject of in-depth review in HLPF 2018, display several implicit links to migration.** Since migration connects countries of origin, transit and destination, the establishment of partnerships (**SDG 17**) to manage migration is inevitable.

When it comes to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, **migration holds huge potentials** as well as challenges (**SDG 11**). On the one hand, many cities depend on internal and international migrants, because they fill labor gaps, transfer values, knowledge, innovation and investment in form of remittances of the diaspora. Through them, cities can grow economically, culturally and socially. On the other hand, due to the trend to move to urban areas, many cities face increasing demands for goods and services, such as affordable and clean energy (**SDG 6**) or access to clean water and sanitation (**SDG 7**). Depending on the context, migrants face **barriers** to access these services. These can be attributed to high costs, to limited knowledge of their rights and how to claim them, and underlying political and institutional factors that discriminate against them.

Unsustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity (**SDG 15**) as well as production and consumption patterns (**SDG 12**) may increase the negative consequences of climate change. This is often associated with the successive loss of livelihoods, habitable land and security. In result, and potentially due to further political or socio-economic considerations, people may decide to migrate. Specifically, in the case of slow-onset disasters, migration can be an adaptation strategy to cope with the adverse effects of climate change.

Based on this analysis and the examination of project examples from the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) that can be linked to the SDGs reviewed in HLPF 2018, the report formulates following recommendations:

- **Involving a wide range of stakeholders** ensures projects are more effective and sustainable.
- **Engaging the diaspora** can increase the impact of certain interventions, both through mobilizing resources available and increasing their legitimacy and potential sustainability.
- **Adopting regional approaches** can be a valuable way to link national and international-level efforts to address migration and development, and can enable sharing of experiences between countries with similar opportunities and challenges even beyond project completion.
- **Embedding capacity building** elements into interventions are a key method to improve their sustainability.
- **Consolidating and sharing data** on impacts of interventions on an ongoing basis is important and needs to be improved.