

GFMD 2020 UAE Chair

Theme 6: Fostering Partnerships to Realise Migration-Related Goals

Background Paper

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This background paper draws on consultations with the Friends of the Forum in late October and early November 2020 and on discussions among member states and three mechanisms held on September 14, 2020, the OECD Regional Dialogue held on July 7, 2020 and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue on July 9, 2020. Useful inputs were received from Belgium, Canada, El Salvador, Georgia, Nigeria, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Civil Society, Mayoral Mechanism, the Business Mechanism, ICMPD, IFAD, OECD, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank and KNOMAD.

These discussions were guided by the following questions set out in the [GFMD Concept Note](#):

Q1: In your experience, what are the main challenges when establishing partnerships on migration?

Q2: In your experience, what are the main challenges when implementing partnerships on migration? What has worked and what has not?

Q3: How can partnerships be oriented towards beneficial development outcomes, keeping in mind the future of human mobility and future of work?

Q4: How can we assess the outcomes of a partnership and identify what works and what doesn't?

Q5: What are the challenges when reporting partnerships at a regional and global level?

The **plan of the paper** is as follows.

Section 1 sets out the motivation behind theme 6 on partnerships.

Section 2 describes key requirements for making partnerships effective.

Section 3 contains selected recommendations.

Section 4 describes a proposal for a Concessional Financing Facility on Migration for enabling partnerships.

Section 5 contains the guiding questions for discussion at the GFMD Summit.

1. Motivation

Viewing migration from a development lens can be the basis for building effective partnerships on migration. Migration is integral to economic development since people need to move from lagging places and sectors, and growing places and sectors require increased supply of labor and skills. Migration can be highly beneficial if the risks and challenges – some real, some perceived – are properly managed, through effective and innovative partnerships among various stakeholders.

In 2019, there were around 272 million international migrants, equivalent to around 3.5 percent of world population ([UN DESA 2019](#)). Nine out of ten international migrants are “economic” or “voluntary” migrants. Around 46 percent of emigrants from developing countries went to high-income countries; but, contrary to popular belief, the share of emigrants from developing countries (the “South”) going to other developing countries was larger than the share going to the “North” defined as high-income countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Intra-regional migration was significant in Sub-Saharan Africa, where more than two-thirds migrated within the continent ([World Bank 2019](#)). It was also significant in Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and South Asia. Migration is set to increase, driven by income gaps, demographic imbalances, and climate change.

The share of migrants in the global population increased from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.5 percent in 2018 ([World Bank 2019](#)). However, during the same period, the share of migrants in the high-income OECD countries increased from 10.2 percent to 13.9 percent. While the increase in international migrants in the high-income OECD countries was smaller than in high-income countries outside the OECD, notably the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the increase in the OECD area has led to widespread concerns about possible large and sudden influxes of migrants. In part such concerns were fueled by a 21 percent annual increase in the number of refugees during 2015–2018; during the same period, the annual increase in the number of economic migrants was 1.2 percent.

Migration generates huge welfare gains for the migrants, the sending and the receiving countries. At the same time, migration also poses complex challenges. Migrants and their families tend to gain from migration the most in terms of increases in income and better access to education and health services. Migration contributes to empowering women, either as migrants themselves availing economic opportunities or as recipients of remittances. Child mortality is reduced after migration. However, these benefits are hindered by the discrimination and difficult working conditions that immigrants face in many host countries. Origin countries benefit through increased remittances, investments, trade, and transfers of skill and technology, resulting in reduced poverty and unemployment. In 2019, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries reached \$554 billion, more than three times total development aid and larger than foreign direct investment flows ([World Bank 2020](#)). On the negative side, emigration of skilled workers can affect the delivery of health and education services in small economies. The destination countries (including both high- and low-income countries) also benefit from migration through increased supplies of labor, skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Migrants also pay taxes and contribute to social security systems. However, evidence on the effect of immigration on the wages of native-born workers in destination countries remains mixed: some studies indicate small negative impacts on wages of lower-skilled native-born workers, whereas others indicate positive impacts when immigrants are skilled and complement the native-born workforce.

The COVID19 crisis has brought a new sense of urgency to forging partnerships in addressing immediate challenges facing migrants, host communities, and migrants’ families in sending

communities ([World Bank 2020](#)). For the first time in several decades, the stock of international migration is projected to decline in 2020. New migration flow has come to a halt, and return migration has increased, in response to economic recession and job losses in destination countries. Many migrants are stranded in the foreign countries, without jobs, inadequate housing and access to healthcare. Many are returning home to communities that are poorer, already in crisis of jobs and overwhelmed healthcare systems. Remittance flows are expected to decline by [\\$80 billion or 14 percent by 2021](#), which would rupture a financial lifeline to households, especially in low-income countries. Yet the importance of remittances as a source of external financing for poor countries will increase as foreign direct investment is expected to fall by one-third.

Supporting migrants through provision of health care is urgent not only to protect them, but also to protect citizens from contagion risks, especially in cities and rural areas that have a concentration of migrant workers. Cash transfers and social protection are needed to support migrants as well. Stranded migrants need support in returning home. There is an urgency to mitigate the impacts of the crisis on remittances and remittance services. By the end of 2021, at least 33 million additional people could be driven into hunger due to the expected drop in remittances alone ([World Food Programme 2020](#)).

Discussions of future partnership solutions can build on the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, **SDG target 10.7**, to promote safe and regular migration and specific targets such as reducing recruitment costs paid by migrant workers (indicator **SDG 10.7.1**), reducing remittance costs (indicator **SDG 10.c.1**), and increasing the volume of remittances (indicator [SDG 17.3.2](#)).¹ In addition, many SDG targets can be fully achieved only if migration and migrants are considered. Prominent examples are, **SDG target 8.8** to protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers and women migrants, and **SDG target 16.9** to provide legal identity for all. According to the United Nations, the global community's pledge to leave no one behind requires more than 24 SDG indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status.

2. Requirements for Effective Partnerships

The multi-dimensional complexities associated with migration necessitate effective partnerships among key stakeholders. Such partnerships can be established among various stakeholders within a country, but often, they must involve many nations. The effectiveness of any partnership is critically dependent on **(a) the availability of financial resources** to support implementation of agreed policy measures, accompanied by **(b) regular monitoring and evaluation** of programs to improve outcomes and **(c) adaptability** to changing circumstances.

While billions of dollars are spent every year by countries in efforts to manage border policies and enforcement of visa regulations that bring in a certain number of migrants with the right skill mix needed by the economy, evidence – in the form of irregular migration, exploitation of migrant workers and adverse public perception of migration – points to misallocation or inadequacy of financial resources. States have implemented thousands of migration programs, but systematic evaluation of such programs would help our understanding of how many of them did not work, why not, and how they could be improved. Basic data on migration that are needed for critical decision making and evaluation are not available, or they are not available soon enough. For example, the current COVID19

¹ The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) under its objective 23 calls for strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration by “mobilizing technical, financial and human resources from States, international financial institutions.”

crisis has left millions of migrants stranded and in precarious situations, but there are no systems for high-frequency monitoring of relevant data. Even before the crisis, millions of migrants had been detected by authorities to be undocumented, yet data on return migrants and their reintegration back into the home economies are lacking ([World Bank 2020](#)). Also, the crisis has underscored the importance of making migration programs adaptable to changing circumstances, such as pandemics, natural disasters and political conflict.

3. Recommendations

This section summarizes main recommendations on fostering partnerships from various consultations with the Friends of the Forum in late October and early November 2020 and on discussions among member states and three mechanisms held on September 14, 2020, the OECD Regional Dialogue held on July 7, 2020 and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue on July 9, 2020.²

Management of migration and governance must be carried out in a multidimensional manner, involving different stakeholders. Successful coordination of global processes depends on national-level coordination. According to the [Global Compact for Migration](#), a **whole-of-government approach** is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government. A **whole-of-society approach** promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, National Human Rights Institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance. The private sector, civil society and migrants themselves, especially women and the youth, are often missing from partnership arrangements; they should be included, although they are not a homogenous group.³ Besides designing and successfully managing a national policy of migration, a Whole of Government approach can prevent miscommunication and create coherence between national and regional (or global) policies.⁴

During the regional consultations, several initiatives were mentioned as successful examples of partnerships. Lessons from EU mobility partnerships, supported by EU-funded [Mobility Partnership](#)

² Forty-six organizations – including 19 governments, eight civil society organizations, eight mayors and local authorities, and two business representatives – participated in the breakout session on partnerships, in the OECD Regional Dialogue on July 7, 2020. The breakout session on partnerships at the Abu Dhabi Dialogue on July 9, 2020 brought together thirty-eight organizations – including 18 governments, 11 civil society organizations, and four business sector representatives.

³ The GCM negotiations were groundbreaking in galvanizing youth participation, culminating in a Youth Forum ahead of the Marrakesh Summit. Since then, under the leadership of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and with ongoing support by UNICEF and IOM, young people have become key partners in global conversations on migration. UNICEF has partnered with the International Detention Coalition (IDC) to convene a global multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at supporting States in addressing the practical challenges they face when putting in place alternatives to child immigration detention. The Cross-Regional Peer Learning Platform on Alternatives to Child Immigration Detention provides an umbrella for government experts to come together and engage in peer exchange, with technical support from a wide range of stakeholders.

⁴ An example of the inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordinated approach is El Salvador's COMIGRANTES program (National Council for the Protection and Development of Migrants and their families, 2011). El Salvador's programs have a special focus on reintegration of return migrants and promoting economic and social inclusion of the diaspora in the countries of destination. A useful reference on strengthening cooperation between local governments and civil society organizations is the background paper prepared by JMDI for the roundtable 3.2 co-chaired by Canada and Mexico for GFMD 2017-18.

[Facility \(MPF\)](#), include the need for a common framework and funding, and a robust coordination mechanism. Key elements for success are political will, trust, joint objectives, balance of interests and prioritization, and last but not the least, funding. The EU's [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) recognizes the need "to include the EU's relationships with third countries, as the internal and external dimensions of migration are inextricably linked: working closely with partners has a direct impact on the effectiveness of policies inside the EU."

Lessons from City-to-City Partnerships include the importance of **relationship between the national and local levels, capacity building, reshaping financial flows** from regional to local levels, and integration of migrants. Established in 2016 under the Urban Agenda for the EU, the [Urban Partnership on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees](#) brings together EU Member States, EU institutions, local authorities and civil society to discuss integration issues related to policy areas such as education, the labor market and housing. Cities across the world have expressed their readiness to welcome migrants and refugees from overcrowded camps. For example, under [the Eurocities Solidarity Cities Initiative](#), the cities of Amersfoort, Amsterdam, Arnhem, Barcelona, Bruges, Ghent, Groningen, Leipzig, Nuremberg, Tilburg, and Utrecht have offered to take in over 5500 unaccompanied children from overcrowded camps. In Italy, the [System for the Protection of Refugees and Unaccompanied Minors](#) is a publicly funded network of local authorities and NGOs which accommodates unaccompanied children and provides them access to legal and psychological counselling, education, health, teaching of the Italian language training. As a part of the [Mayors Dialogue on Growth and Solidarity: African and European cities taking action on human mobility](#), Milan and Freetown are currently developing a city-to-city partnership focused on mobility, local development and trade in fashion and textiles.

Identifying **skills gaps and skills matching as well as skills certification** are key areas of partnerships between businesses and governments. Skills mapping, skills upgrading, **mutual recognition of skills** and certification can help avoid "brain waste" (e.g., workers with specialized skills working in general professions), ensure appropriate remuneration to migrant workers, and facilitate their job market mobility including their ability to return home with skills acquired abroad. An interesting partnership example is [UAE-India Harmonised Framework for Skill Recognition and Certification](#) designed to address mismatch between workers' skills and requirements of employers. The program aims to improve skills mix in UAE labor market. Such a scheme is expected to enhance the rate of mobility for certified workers, improving job security and reducing vulnerabilities. Employers in the UAE are incentivized to participate in the program through reduced work permit fees.⁵

Employers are an essential partner with governments in crafting migration policies needed for jobs and strong businesses, labor markets and economies. Employers Federations and others in the private sector should be directly involved in decision-making on labor and skills migration policies. Consultations should not only happen in times of crisis. More importantly, health and disaster risk management mechanisms at national level should be put in place to ensure that this dialogue is a continuous process to prevent and/or better manage upcoming crisis. As a top-most priority, business and employers worldwide seek predictable and transparent migration policies that reflect demographic realities and labor market needs and facilitate the mobility of workers needed at all skills levels.⁶

⁵ Canada's Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) aims to empower regional partners and stakeholders to align immigration to address regional and local labor, economic and demographic challenges.

⁶ An example of an EU Member State-led bilateral partnership is the Belgian-Moroccan Skills Partnership for Labor Mobility (PALIM, [Enabel](#), the Belgian development agency). A 'Pilot Project Addressing Labour Shortages Through Innovative Labour Migration Models' (PALIM) offers further training to 60 Mexican graduates in view

Partnerships among origin and host countries are needed to support stranded migrants. Such support may include a **fund to support employers** to continue business without terminating workers or cutting wages. The need to **prevent wage theft** and facilitate migrant workers' access to compensation and benefits has become even more pressing during the current crisis.⁷ Partnerships are also critical to ensuring protection of informal workers and their access to social protection, healthcare and other services.⁸ Partnerships between source and host countries are required to enable and foster portability of social security. Bilateral agreements can help ensure proper calculation of social security contributions and its availability in times of public crisis.

A priority area for partnerships is **reintegration of returning migrant workers**, including through documentation of returnees and their needs, ensuring psychological and social support, recognizing their skills and creating decent work opportunities commensurate with qualifications, ensuring access to justice.⁹ Return migration has been on the rise since 2015 in many parts of the world, especially in Europe (due to a surge in asylum applications and later rejection of such applications) and the United States. COVID19 crisis has further accentuated return of migrants who have lost their jobs. In such cases, partnerships between sending and receiving countries could facilitate return of migrants to jobs in previous host countries when the economies recover. The success of these partnerships requires concerted efforts from countries of origin and destination, local authorities, civil society and the private sector.

The GFMD's promotion of informal discussions between diverse actors can play a valuable role in the establishment of concrete partnerships and cooperation. As an example, Canada, Ecuador and the GFMD Mayors Mechanism are working together to co-chair the [GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration](#). **The GFMD provides a safe space for informal yet constructive dialogue, identification of concrete solutions and forging action-oriented partnerships.** Over the years, the constituents of the Forum, channeled their efforts and actions towards building up and advancing smart cross-border partnerships with a view to protecting migrants and their families, to balance cooperation between states and other important actors (e.g. civil society, cities, the private sector) or to address the causes, challenges and effects of migration for development, and

of boosting their employment potential. Approximately half of them will be subsequently coached to find employment in Flanders. The project's budget amounts to 1.5 million euros.

⁷ Some civil society organizations (for example, Migrants Forum Asia) have called for the creation of an International Claims Commission, a specialized international quasi-legal body, to adjudicate on cases related to wage theft and other outstanding claims of migrant workers. This provides for multiple opportunities to form coalitions with private sectors, civil society and trade unions, and international organizations.

⁸ In countries of origin, there are prevailing collaborations between the government and civil society in areas of information provision, access to legal counsel, access to support systems, and aid. For example, in Nepal, the Safer Migration Project (SaMi) includes partnerships with private organizations to provide psychosocial counseling. In countries of destination, there have been initiatives that enable access to justice for migrants, such as in Singapore where the civil society works with pro-bono lawyers and courts. In Thailand Migrant Workers Assistance Center (MWAC) administered by the Department of Employment addresses document-related issues. Another example of a partnership, from a donor perspective, is "Promoting and Protecting the Rights of ASEAN Migrant Workers," also known as TRIANGLE in ASEAN, which aims to harmonize labor migration governance frameworks in the ASEAN region to maximize the protection of migrant workers and their contributions to equitable and inclusive growth in the region. Two investments (one from Global Affairs Canada and another from DFAT Australia) were successfully combined for this program.

⁹ These activities are undertaken, for example, in El Salvador's National Program of Care and Reintegration of Returned Migrants, a strategic priority for the presidential period 2019-2024. The program is executed through six service windows in locations with high concentration of returnees (San Salvador, San Miguel, Chalatenango, Usulután and Santa Ana) and a reception center, the Center of Integrated Care for Returning Migrants.

development for migration. In this respect, the GFMD can play a significant role in supporting the implementation of the GCM, complementing the activities of the UN Network on Migration.

Effective responses to the challenges and opportunities of global migration increasingly require international cooperation and partnership. In the unprecedented environment brought on by the COVID19 pandemic, international cooperation may be more important than ever as countries seek to meet their human rights obligations towards migrants and, simultaneously, recover from the economic damage caused by the pandemic, potentially looking to migration as one way in which to do so. Strengthening collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in the context of large cross-border movements is a key area of the Global Compact for Migration that could use more attention and support.¹⁰

A potentially lucrative area of partnership among stakeholders in origin and host countries is in the area of mobilizing diaspora resources – remittances, investments, skill and technology transfers, trade promotion, and philanthropic contributions. Facilitating the flow of remittances has been identified as a means of financing for development (SDG indicator 17.3.2). As mentioned earlier, in 2020, remittances are expected to decline significantly, but the decline in FDI is expected to be even sharper. Thus, the poor countries' dependence on remittances will continue to increase. Remittances are already more than three times the total of official aid.

In these times of financing difficulties, some initiatives that could be helpful are a **remittance matching fund** as part of the Africa Diaspora Investment Fund and the use of **diaspora bonds** as a generic funding mechanism, to mobilize investments from the diaspora. The Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom jointly launched a [Call to Action “Remittances in Crisis: How to Keep Them Flowing.”](#) in partnership with institutional partners, including the World Bank (KNOMAD) and the UNCDF. The coalition now includes thirty member states, UNDP, IOM, the International Association of Money Transfer Networks and the International Chamber of Commerce and several other organizations from the civil society and the private sector. The call to action includes a growing need to increase access to banking for migrants in foreign countries and their families back home; without a bank account, as sending money via digital channels is nearly impossible. Also, in response to the UN Secretary General's call for global solidarity in addressing the COVID pandemic, IFAD launched the [Remittance Community Taskforce](#) to come up with immediate measures to really address the impact of COVID on remittances.¹¹ This task force has extensively contributed to the discussion within the Financing for Development Process recently launched by the Prime Ministers of Canada and of

¹⁰ Ecuador has implemented many initiatives to host Venezuelan migrants. Canada is also working regional partners to address the needs emerging from the exodus of Venezuelan migrants and refugees through a range of development projects. In 2018 the Quito Process was initiated to promote communication and coordination between countries receiving displaced populations from Venezuela in Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the main objectives was to articulate a coordinated regional response to the crisis, and through this multilateral initiative the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan with the cooperation of the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform, was established. The Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) has 41 participants, including 17 UN agencies, 15 NGOs, five donors and two IFIs. The platform is being replicated at national level through the establishment of local coordination mechanisms in close collaboration with host governments. In total, more than 170 actors collaborate in this regional response through several working groups on information management, fundraising, integration, gender-based violence and support spaces, with specific response priorities on COVID19, education, food security, health, humanitarian transportation, labor inclusion, NFI, nutrition, protection, shelter and WASH.

¹¹ Partnerships can be supported by global campaigns such as the [International Day of Family Remittances](#).

Jamaica. The guidelines developed under the [Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative \(the MICIC initiative\)](#) could also be useful in this context.¹²

Significant financing for development can be mobilized by issuing [diaspora bonds](#). Savings of the diasporas from low- and middle-income countries are estimated to be in excess of \$500 billion. Israel since 1951 and India in 1998 and 2000 have successfully issued diaspora bonds to raise billions of dollars of financing. Nigeria raised \$330 million via a diaspora bond in 2017. Issuance of diaspora bonds could be facilitated through partnerships between origin and host countries and various regulatory and development bodies within each country.

4. Concessional Financing Facility for Migration – A Proposal for Enabling Partnerships

To be more effective, migration governance must embrace the power of partnerships and leverage available financial resources. Funds are not necessarily scarce but are presently spent in a piecemeal and uncoordinated manner.¹³ On the one hand, there is a need to channel resources in a more efficient and coherent manner. On the other hand, making partnerships between host and origin countries effective, innovative and adaptable to changing circumstances requires adequate funding. In other words, effective partnerships need to be supported by a **Concessional Financing Facility for Migration** with a carefully designed governance structure to ensure equal and voluntary participation.¹⁴ Designing well-defined and actionable proposals with a clear focus on the outcomes for joint action is key to securing contributions from donors. Availability of financial and human resources for dedicated capacity building is needed to ensure that all partners are working towards a common purpose.

Financing facilities have been created with some degrees of success in supporting transit countries hosting large refugee populations. For example, the European Union has provided support to Turkey (through the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, total funding €6 billion) and Africa (for example, EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, funding €4.2 billion).¹⁵ And the [Global Concessional Financing Facility](#) combines grants from donor countries with loans from multilateral development banks to provide concessional financing to middle-income countries (such as Jordan, Lebanon or Colombia) hosting a large number of refugees and displaced persons from other countries.¹⁶ The creation of [refugee](#)

¹² Pakistan's Remittance Initiative appears to be a successful effort to keep remittances flowing. Another successful partnership example appears to be ILO's, IOM's and AUC's Joint Labour Migration Programme.

¹³ For example, the EU Multiannual Financial Facility's [Neighborhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument](#) would have a funding of over €96 billion during 2021-27. In 2020, the [budget for immigration enforcement](#) in the United States reached approximately \$25 billion.

¹⁴ The financing facility in this context refers to funding to be used directly for migration programs. This is additional to, and distinct from, official aid for various development programs that indirectly affect migration. For example, the financing facility would support programs for training migrants or modernization of passport and visa systems, whereas official aid programs may finance job creation or infrastructure investment and thereby indirectly impact migration.

¹⁵ The EU budget for the [refugee crisis and improving migration management](#) during 2015-2017 totaled € 17.7 billion.

¹⁶ According to its 2020 Annual Report, the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) is an international effort launched in 2016 on the initiative of the United Nations, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank. Meeting in Lima for the International Monetary Fund (IMF)- World Bank Group (WBG) Annual Meetings, the leaders of the United Nations, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank Group convened representatives from more than 20 countries and international partners to discuss how best to help Jordan and Lebanon address the influx of Syrian refugees. On April 15, 2016 at the 2016 IMF-WBG Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C., the Concessional Financing Facility (CFF) was launched with US\$140 million in pledges. In

[windows under IDA18 and IDA19](#) (totaling over \$5 billion) has been instrumental in scaling up activities addressing refugees and forced displacement by the World Bank in collaboration with the UNHCR.

There are no large-scale financing facilities dedicated to addressing migration, however, even though migrants outnumber refugees – for every refugee, there are nine migrants. Two recent start-up financing arrangements are the [Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(MPTF\)](#) launched by the UN Network on Migration in May 2019, and the [KNOMAD-Migration Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund](#) launched by the World Bank in June 2020.¹⁷

The Migration MPTF assists Member States in their national implementation of the Global Compact. The Migration MPTF has five priority thematic areas: (i) promoting fact-based and data-driven migration discourse, policy and planning; (ii) protecting the human rights, safety and wellbeing of migrants, including through addressing drivers and mitigating situations of vulnerability in migration; (iii) addressing irregular migration including through managing borders and combatting transnational crime; (iv) facilitating regular migration, decent work and enhancing the positive development effects of human mobility; and (v) improving the social inclusion and integration of migrants.

The [KNOMAD-Migration Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund](#) (MDTF) aims to finance migration projects, capacity building and technical assistance in low- and middle-income countries. It has nine thematic working groups including labor migration, migrant rights and integration in host communities, data, and remittances and diaspora resources, forced migration, climate-driven migration, internal migration, and return migration and reintegration. Also, the KNOMAD-Migration Umbrella emphasizes a strong development approach: viewing migration through a development lens as well as viewing development through a migration lens.

Both Trust Funds have limited funding so far. According to its [June 2020 progress report](#), Migration MPTF has raised \$12 million, out of a first-year goal of \$25 million and an approved list of concept notes indicating a budget of over \$60 million. KNOMAD-Migration Umbrella MDTF has so far raised \$19 million; it aims to raise \$50 million by 2023.

The proposed Financing Facility would support programs and policy implementations in **all six themes identified by the GFMD**: governance of labor migration, skilling migrants for employment, leveraging new technologies to empower migrants, addressing gaps in migrant protection, preventing irregular migration, and fostering partnerships to realize migration-related goals. It would support technical assistance, peer learning, improving data and evaluation of programs, implementation of migration programs, including those that support the migration-related SDGs (reducing recruitment and

September 2016, at the Leader’s Summit on Refugees at the UN General Assembly in New York, the CFF was expanded to the global level by allowing it to support eligible countries anywhere in the world. Even as the Facility remained focused on helping Jordan and Lebanon address the impact of the Syrian crisis, CFF Steering Committee members recognized the need to quickly respond to future refugee crises that may emerge in other MICs. Indeed, after the unraveling of the political and economic crisis in Venezuela and the exodus of 3.7 million Venezuelans to neighboring countries and beyond, Colombia and Ecuador, host countries for fleeing Venezuelans, were welcomed as benefitting countries to the GCFF in 2019. The GCFF has proved itself a nimble instrument, responding quickly to changing circumstances. Whether it is adding new benefitting countries when the need arises, like Colombia and Ecuador, or allowing the restructuring of ongoing operations to address urgent crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it continues to prove its timeliness and relevance. So far, GCFF has approved \$622 million in funding to support projects worth \$4.2 billion.

¹⁷ There are several bilateral or regional financing mechanisms including the [Mobility Partnership Facility](#) (MPF) funded from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Internal Security Fund for Police Cooperation (ISF-Police) and the Internal Security Fund for Borders and Visa (ISF-Borders), managed by the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

remittance costs, increasing the volume of remittances), and pandemic or disaster-response programs.

Migration management is often tied to states' concerns about their sovereignty. Therefore, unconditional participation in the proposed Financing Facility (by grant recipients) is likely to be more effective than making participation conditional on either migration outcomes or other economic outcomes. For example, conditionalities attached to official aid policies for achieving migration outcomes are likely to result in economic and political distortions and raise risks to sustainability of the partnership structure.

Similarly, an equal partnership is more likely to be sustained than an unequal partnership among member states. It is proposed that all member states participating in the Financing Facility would have equal voting power. To enable all member states (large and small, high- and low-income) to join the Facility, a two-tier membership fee structure could be considered, with Part I countries paying a higher fee.

A more limited, non-financial partnership arrangement could be formulated for regular monitoring and review of migration programs and policies, and peer-learning, by establishing a **voluntary review framework**, similar to the G20 Mutual Assessment Process. Under this arrangement each partner country would voluntarily share a list of its policy initiatives relating to emigration and immigration. Such lists would be compiled and checked for consistency by a neutral observer and used as input for a report to be discussed at international and regional global forums including the GFMD.

5. Way Forward: Questions for Discussion

In conclusion, a *willingness* to participate in an effective partnership must also be accompanied by an *ability* to do so. For the implementation and effectiveness of partnerships, this Roundtable proposes the creation of a Concessional Financing Facility for Migration (similar to the [existing GCFF](#) for refugees) with equal and voluntary participation by Member States. The Facility would support the design and implementation of joint activities in all six themes identified by the GFMD: governance of labor migration, skilling migrants for employment, leveraging new technologies to empower migrants, addressing gaps in migrant protection, preventing irregular migration, and fostering partnerships to realize migration-related goals.

The key questions for discussion at the GFMD Summit are:

1. How to make financial resources available for implementation of partnerships? In other words, how to operationalize the proposed Concessional Financing Facility for Migration?
2. How to make the Concessional Financing Facility adaptable to changing circumstances?