

**11<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Global Forum for Migration and Development  
Marrakech 5 December 2018**

**Opening Session**

German Co-chair Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme

Anrede,

Dear friends!

The leaders of the world including German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** are on their way to Marrakech to confirm their **commitment to the Global Compact** for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Our **Moroccan hosts have undertaken tremendous efforts** to prepare for this unique double summit.

Je suis sûrement aussi impressionné que tous les autres invités de ce cadre magnifique crée pour nos discussions et manifestations.

As German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who would have preferred to be with us already today, phrased it – and I quote :

“ Almost the entire world community has agreed on a common and coherent approach to such a controversial topic as migration. This is a courageous and **encouraging sign for effective multilateral action.**

The Global Compact is the response of the international community to a challenge which **cannot be efficiently dealt with in an isolated national manner.**

While already the preamble of the Global compact highlights that national **sovereignty is neither restricted nor transferred by the Compact, respect for basic human rights is also indisputable.**

The guiding principle of the Compact is the **reduction of irregular migration** and its negative consequences.

It is about addressing its **root causes**, to give people **perspectives for decent living in their home countries**. No one should be forced to leave his or her home, to the effect that migration becomes **an option, not a necessity**, and the overall **volume decreases**. The German government stands ready to **support anyone in his or her efforts to attain these objectives**” Unquote.

Now we are here **to jointly commit to and celebrate our future partnership**, but also to bring it to the ground, to the world beyond conference tables.

Therefore I ask:

Which are the first steps we should take to implement the GCM?

What are the first challenges for GFMD to address? And how should this be done?

And – very importantly – are there new trends which we must not overlook?

Let me come to this last question first.

After 10 years of GFMD, we are fortunate to have a group of eminent **migration experts** who carried out a **review of GFMD** under the aegis of two very distinguished former chairs: Ambassador Gnesa and Ambassador Conejos. And we are grateful for the elaborate analysis and the wide range of tools and options pointed out by their very detailed report.

During the coming days I am looking forward to also listening to the voices of **private sector, civil societies and local administrations.**

Local administrations in particular are first in line to deliver to the people.

**The importance of the local level can therefore hardly be overrated!**

**Why do growing parts of society in some countries of transit and destination, perceive migration as a challenge** rather than a benefit for their communities?

What is your assessment?

I would argue, that this is the **result of** large mixed migration flows and a **lack of migration governance**, resulting in predominantly irregular migration **in the past.**

Therefore the **GCM is the remedy.**

But **how do we prove to local communities that their needs are always taken duly into account**, when they do not see this explicitly mentioned in the GCM?

We can point out, that it is the first and **primary obligation of every government to look after the wellbeing of its citizens**. This obligation is one of the pillars and preconditions of national sovereignty.

It **needs no further specification** or international agreement.

Whereas there **have not been any global guidelines on standards for the treatment of migrants before the GCM**, except the obligation to respect their basic human rights.

But local communities will only be **convinced of the benefits of migration if they are tangible on the ground**, in their everyday life.

Therefore, **let us explore, how we as GFMD** and how we, the governments who adopt the GCM **can help to make migration a success on the ground**.

Which techniques has GFMD to offer ? Migration Labs? More exchange between local administrations ? Fieldtrips ? We are looking forward to hearing your advice counting on your expertise.

There is **no better place to address this issue than GFMD**.

Because **GFMD is the market place** at the center of the new GCM ecosystem, the shortcut for all stakeholders to find a competent interlocutor or partner, a toolbox, a catalyst and a safe environment for open discussion, confidence building and experiment.

Allow me to underline **some specific entry points** into the implementation of the GCM and migration in general. We believe these issues **should be at the core of our future joint efforts**:

1. **“Global Skills Partnerships “**: we are prepared to extend our engagement regarding bilateral agreements to prepare qualified labor in countries of origin for job vacancies in countries of destination. The **GFMD** can facilitate these partnerships.
2. **Legal identity and adequate information**: All countries need to respect the right of all individuals to a legal identity by providing all their nationals with proof of nationality and relevant documentation. In the migration context we need to know, whom we are dealing with, to determine how best to proceed. “Proof of legal identity” is the precondition for almost everything that the Global Compact offers to migrants. And, very importantly, it will considerably improve the narrative about migration in countries of transit and destination.

3. **Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons:** We need to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, e.g. those who have been smuggled or who are victims of human trafficking.

The **German contribution to the International Organization for Migration alone in 2018** amounts to more than **100 Mio. USD**. Far more than half of this were used for programs in **Africa**. Much of it was spent to protect people from the risks of irregular migration or to **assist their return and reintegration at home and to stabilize their communities**.

4. **Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Displacement**: Germany very much welcomes that the GCM highlights the importance to protect disaster displaced persons and to cooperate to this end with the **Platform on Disaster Displacement**. We support this platform and urge those who share our concern to join the effort.

We need more effective **disaster risk reduction** and **climate change adaptation**. We need to implement the **Sendai Framework** for better disaster preparedness, early warning and action. And we need forecast based financing.

Finally:

**Intraregional migration:**

During last week's IOM-Council we have heard many examples for **good cooperation on migration in different regions of the world.**

This is increasingly important and deserves our attention, since intraregional migration is accounting for more than half – and in some regions more than 80 % - of the total migration. We welcome that regional Organizations like the African Union, ESCAP, Mercosur, ASEAN, not to mention the EU, have already contributed considerably to migration management in their respective regions.

We therefore **welcome the leadership shown by Ecuador, the incoming GFMD-Chair** on this subject.

We are **looking forward to the Ecuadorian Chairmanship**, convinced that the nature of today's migration requires a truly international approach- we will only be successful together.

Last but not least, allow me to thank the government of Morocco and in particular my friend, Mr. Nadir and his team for two exciting and productive years in partnership and friendship.

Thank you for your attention.