

2018 Global Forum on Migration and Development
Marrakesh, Morocco
Civil Society Days, 4 & 6 December

Goals, Compacts, Action: Human mobility that works for migrants and societies

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Concept Note

Introduction and context

The migration agenda has undergone a seismic transformation since the 2017 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Berlin last June. While we have witnessed the expansion of populist and far right politics, as well as the insidious "othering" of migrants and minority religious, cultural and ethnic groups around the world, there have also been clear strides made towards positive global governance and an attempt to cement consensus with regards to the treatment of migrants around the world.

Following through on the commitments made in the New York Declaration for Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in 2016, Member States of the United Nations came together in the first half of 2018 to negotiate a text that reflects the contemporary challenges associated with international migration. The result: a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (the 'Global Compact' or the 'Compact') that promises a "360-degree vision of international migration, and recognises that a comprehensive approach is needed to optimise the overall benefits of migration". The expected adoption of this Compact in Marrakesh the week after the GFMD will herald a new era of global migration governance.

At the global level, the Compact is being coined as "the end of the beginning" for migration governance. In some ways, this is true. The perception and position of migration has shifted irrevocably from an outlier to central in the global inter-governmental architecture. However, to civil society actors who have worked for decades for the realisation of migrants rights at the national, regional and global levels, the value of the Compact will not be measured by the words it contains, but by the change it achieves. For civil society, this Compact offers new means and possibilities for us to *continue* our work. And so, one of the tasks before us during these Civil Society Days is to understand how the Compact can enhance our work for and with migrants at every level, but especially at the local and national levels.

Equally important is the need to explore how civil society can contribute to and shape the implementation, follow up and review of the Compact. We must ensure that this expertise, borne of years

of on-the-ground work, and interaction with migrants themselves, is recognised in the new migration governance architecture. States have the primary responsibility to translate the commitments made, into clear policies and actions, but they will not do this alone. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) will play an important supporting role. Under the new leadership of Antonio Vitorino, the IOM will become the main reference point on migration within the UN. As such, it will act as the coordinating body and secretariat of a new 'UN Network on Migration', supporting states in implementing and reviewing the implementation of the Global Compact. It is important then, that we gain a greater understanding of the role of IOM, as well as other intergovernmental agencies and the UN Network itself, so that we, as a movement of civil society in all its shapes and expertise, can understand the added value - and necessity - of our own work, while also engaging with other key stakeholders in the field of migration.

The Compact was neither developed, nor will it be implemented, in isolation. The full name of the Global Compact for "safe, orderly and regular" migration is nearly identical to the wording of target 10.7 of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), with the link between migration and sustainable development made clear throughout the text. The document also makes clear reference to a range of binding international human rights instruments upon which it is based.

While it is not yet clear how the mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda and the two Global Compacts will feed into and work with each other, a task to set ourselves during the Civil Society Days is to consider how all of these mechanisms can be connected and informed by our own work oriented around the rights of migrants. And while we as civil society are implementors, we are also monitors. With now two inter-governmentally adopted agreements committed to safer human mobility, it is time to explore how, when we or others measure the progress of one process, we connect this with efforts to measure the others.

For over ten years, civil society has come together in the GFMD space to strategize and advocate, as well as to share and be inspired by each other. The recommendations from the Civil Society Days discussions in Berlin's GFMD 2017 formed the basis of the [Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact](#), an important contribution to the ongoing advocacy effort around the Global Compact and signed by over 250 civil society organisations. Also, within the process to develop the Global Compact, civil society held numerous national, regional and global thematic consultations. The GFMD continues to provide an important space for civil society and government actors to share perspectives and to help bridge policy with practice. The GFMD Civil Society Days this year will serve to explore how to engage with all of these and to compliment – not replicate – our advocacy and action towards or in each one, and how we stay connected in this. Within this discussion and guided by the [12 Civil Society Recommendations for the Future of the GFMD](#), it will be important to reflect on the ways the GFMD can refine, rejuvenate or even reinvent itself to ensure that it is fit for purpose in the years ahead.

Civil society participation

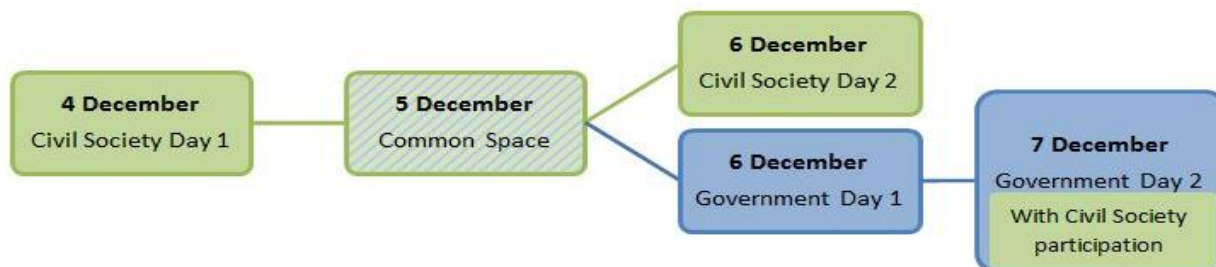
In 2018, the GFMD's Civil Society Days will be attended by 280 representatives of civil society from over 75 countries, as well as over 40 non-civil society observers including government delegates, foundations and international organisations.

This participation reflects:

- an almost perfect **1:1** gender balance.
- Over **20%** of our participants this year are youth delegates, under the age of 35
- **55** regional, national and thematic networks active in migration and development around the world.
- Almost **42%** of the civil society delegates are migrants, refugees or members of the diaspora (defined as migrants or the children or grandchildren of migrants), with **44%** of delegates working for a migrant-led organisation.
- Migrant/Diaspora NGOs are the predominant NGO group (**30%**), with almost equal number of human rights and development NGOs (**25%** and **24%** respectively). The remaining are split

between trade unions and workers organisations (13%), Youth groups (5%), the academic community (2%) and representatives from the private sector (1%).

Civil Society Days Structure and Programme



The GFMD Civil Society Days will take place in the first week of December, kicking off “Marrakesh Migration Week” - eight days of events and activities that culminate in the intergovernmental conference to adopt the Global Compact for Migration. The ICMC Coordinating Office, in close consultation with the International Steering Committee has defined the scope and programme for the Civil Society Days, bearing in mind related events taking place throughout Migration Week.

The Civil Society Days will again overlap with the Government Days. As illustrated above, the programme for governments will begin with Common Space on Wednesday 5 December, with the Government Days falling on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 December. The Civil Society Days (CSD) will be split, with Day 1 on Tuesday 4 December (the day before Common Space), and Day 2 on Thursday 6 December (the day after Common Space).

For the first time, all registered civil society participants of the CSD are invited by the Moroccan Chair to participate fully in the Platforms for Partnerships and the Closing Plenary, taking place on the second Government Day of the GFMD on 7 December. This, in addition to the joint programme with governments in Common Space, is an important acknowledgment of civil society’s role in these processes and in line with Recommendation 3 of Civil Society Recommendations for the Future of the GFMD.

The structure this year allows us to focus the discussions of Civil Society Day 1 much more intently on preparing civil society’s collective voice and interaction with States in Common Space. Civil Society Day 2 can then provide a space to look ahead, both towards the rest of Migration Week and beyond, and plan next steps for civil society advocacy and action.

Civil Society Days:

- **Day 1, Recommendations Day:** discussions will focus on developing key recommendations for governments. The main conclusions of each session will feed directly into the corresponding focus sessions of Common Space (TBC).
- **Day 2, Commitments Day:** discussions will focus on preparations for the rest of Migration Week, as well as civil society commitments in the short and mid-long term.

The Civil Society Days 2018 programme [see annex 1 or click [here](#) for most recent Programme]

The 2018 GFMD Civil Society Days will include a mix of plenary sessions, interactive parallel working sessions, special sessions and networking spaces, as well as a number of side events. Each of the working sessions will convene groups of about 60 – 90 civil society delegates plus a smaller number of additional observers. The working sessions centre on four broad thematic tracks, all relating directly to recommendations from the 2017 GFMD Civil Society Days in Berlin and subsequent Now and How: TEN

ACTS for the Global Compact as well as the final draft of the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration.

Structure of Civil Society Days 2018

DAY 1

OBJECTIVES OF RECOMMENDATIONS DAY

- Identifying civil society redlines and baselines related to the theme, picking up where relevant from any advances or obstacles in the context of the Global Compact negotiations.
- Exploring constructive or innovative ways to approach the themes, gathering examples of practices and partnerships for issues related to the theme, that are seen as challenging to implement
- Preparing common recommendations, messages and actions on the themes to bring to governments in and beyond Common Space.

DAY 2

OBJECTIVES OF COMMITMENTS DAY

- Continuing to share knowledge, lessons learned and current priorities/challenges for civil society actors in their different sectoral or national contexts.
- Discussing a civil society strategy on how to advance the issues of the theme at the policy and implementation level. Prepare messages for governments, in Migration Week and beyond.
- Discussing civil society's strategy post-Marrakech on how to effectively engage with governments in the implementation phase any beyond at the sub-national, national regional and global level.
- Discussing the responsibilities of civil society in implementing the GCM, how to ensure a coordinated approach that builds on the current momentum.

METHODOLOGY

A. Parallel working sessions: Afternoon, Day 1 (4 December) and Morning, Day 2 (6 December).

The working sessions on both civil society days will be divided into the following four themes:

Theme 1: Actions responding to the drivers of forced displacement, including due to climate change and environmental degradation.

Theme 2: Actions ensuring safe, dignified and rights-based transit, entry, reception and return.

Theme 3: Actions ensuring decent work, labour rights and fair recruitment.

Theme 4: Actions ensuring the social, economic and political inclusion of migrants in communities.

Working sessions will be structured largely around the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration that relate most specifically to the given theme. At the same time, discussions will also pay close attention to areas of interlinkages with the 2030 Agenda, other aspects of the GFMD agenda (such as GFMD Common Space), and other civil society movements throughout Marrakesh Migration Week and more broadly.¹

Translation will be available in English-French-Spanish

¹ Please see annex1 for detailed breakdown of themes

Guiding questions for working groups:

In addition to being guided by the specific elements above, throughout the working sessions participants will be invited to bear the following questions in mind:

Day 1 - Recommendations Day

1. What three priority messages related to this theme should be brought to governments and other stakeholders in Common Space the following day.
2. What good practices or effective multi-stakeholder partnerships are/have/could respond to challenges related to this theme?
3. What policies and practices exist that are counter-productive in responding to challenges related to this theme, and can ways be identified to improve them?
4. What is one key achievement related to this theme that should be attained before the first meeting of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022?
 - Who are the key stakeholders to achieving this goal?
 - What first steps must be taken to implement this change?

Day 2 - Commitments Day

1. What was learned from the discussions with governments during Common Space that informs/influences civil society strategy around this theme
2. What ways are/have/could civil society take a leading role in the implementation of this theme, as it relates to objectives of the Global Compact and other global commitments?
3. What existing civil society structures, networks and initiatives work on this theme, and how can we link with other movements to amplify our voice and impact?
4. What key collective civil society action(s) related to this theme should be taken in 2019, during the first year of Global Compact implementation, and at which level

Working session rapporteurs and link with Common Space

Each working session will appoint up to 2 rapporteurs, who will complete a template in order to 1) prepare civil society messages for Common Space following CSD 1 and 2) report back to the plenary session at the end of CSD Day 2. The session leads will also identify a delegate to brief back on the Common Space session in the working session on Day 2.