

Date 14/11/2018

For immediate release

Media advisory

2018 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Civil Society Days

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

Switzerland, Geneva- The first week of December 2018 will be of momentous importance for the international migration agenda. The so-called Marrakesh “Migration Week” from 4 to 11 December will see government leaders and their delegation from countries all over the world participate in 8 days of migration-focused events and activities, starting with the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) on 4 December. That week will finish with the UN high-level [Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), the culmination of a two-year inter-governmental process to develop and negotiate this document.

Civil society organisations, including migrants themselves, will be engaged and active throughout the entire week, as they have been for every step in the development of the Global Compact, as they were during the adoption of New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015.

In this context, 300 civil society delegates from more than 75 countries from every region of the world will come together for the GFMD Civil Society Days to strategize, share practices, and engage with governments on critical migration and development issues. Many will stay in Marrakesh for the remaining events throughout the week.

Overview of the GFMD Civil Society Days agenda:

This year’s GFMD Civil Society Days will launch the Migration Week on 4 December, under the title ‘Goals, Compacts, Action: Human mobility that works for migrants and societies’. The GFMD Civil Society Days will be chaired by Ms. Roula Hamati, International Advocacy Manager with the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants in Lebanon, and co-chaired by Mr. Mamadou Goïta, Executive Director at the Institute for Research and the Promotion of Alternatives in Development /Africa in Mali and Mr. Hamza Ibrahim, from the Swedish National Youth Council. This Chair will deliver the joint recommendations and messages from civil society to governments on Friday 7 December, during the Closing Ceremony of the GFMD.

During the two days of civil society discussions, the focus will be on the following themes:

- Actions responding to the drivers of forced displacement, including due to climate change and environmental degradation;
- Actions ensuring safe, dignified and rights-based transit, entry, reception and return;
- Actions ensuring decent work, labour rights and fair recruitment;
- Actions ensuring the social, economic and political inclusion of migrants in communities.

Tuesday 4 December

Civil Society Day 1:

Recommendations Day: discussions will focus on developing key messages and recommendations for governments during the GFMD Common Space, a half-day dedicated to a dialogue between governments, civil society and other stakeholders.

Wednesday 5 December

Common Space: The programme for Common Space is jointly developed by the GFMD Government Chair and civil society. This year Common Space will focus on the changing landscape of global migration governance, and how the many existing examples of joint implementation and multi-stakeholder partnerships can inform the follow-up and review of the Global Compact.

Thursday 6 December

Civil Society Day 2:

Commitments Day: This is a day for civil society commitment, strategy and reflection: discussions will again be centered around the four themes mentioned above, providing space for joint strategizing for the rest of Migration Week, as well as – more importantly – for civil society coordination beyond Marrakesh - with a particular focus on building global civil society advocacy on migration issues, and keeping the momentum on the implementation on the Global Compact for Migration.

Friday 7 December

GFMD Government Day 2 with Civil Society Participation: For the first time, all registered civil society participants are invited by the Moroccan Chair to participate fully in the entire second day programme, including the Platform for Partnerships and the Official Closing Plenary of the GFMD.

Media accreditation: Journalists interested in participating in GFMD Civil Society Days please contact:

Giulia Rindi, rindi@icmc.net, +41229191038

For more information about the programme and logistics please check : <http://madenetwork.org/civil-society-days-2018-gfmd-2018>

Background:

Recommended by Mexico, the GFMD 2010 Chair, and appointed each year since then by the subsequent GFMD Chairs, Switzerland, Mauritius, Sweden, Turkey, Bangladesh, Germany and Morocco, the International Catholic Migration Commission established and has managed a GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office since 2011. ICMC works closely with an International Civil Society Steering Committee (ISC) of some 30 civil society leaders from around the world to develop, implement and monitor GFMD activities.