

## GFMD Closing Ceremony

Marrakech, 7 December 2018

**Lynn Shotwell, Vice-Chair, Business Mechanism**

- Co-chairs, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I am honoured to report on the Business Mechanism meeting which took place last evening.
- We are proud to have the largest and most diverse representation from the private sector in the history of the GFMD. The business delegation includes more than 50 people. Not only is every continent represented, we have large businesses, small businesses, entrepreneurs and CEOs sharing their ideas. We are also very happy that so many of you joined us last night.
- Private sector engagement has indeed come a long way since the first GFMD and we thank you for the warm reception and engaging conversation. We are ready for action and look forward to continuing to work with you at the regional and national levels on the low-hanging fruit and long-term challenges.
- Last night our keynote speakers and panels made clear that the private sector has a stake in well-regulated migration, that employment is key to economic opportunity and prosperity for all, that we need public-private partnerships to experiment with solutions, and that technology may be a force for positive change.
- We examined data highlighting the global competition for talent. In some countries, more people are retiring than entering the labor market. In others, talented individuals leave for better opportunities. *Everywhere*, there is a digital skills gap and we all must do more to ensure that all people are provided with the education, training and soft skills needed for the jobs of today - and the jobs of tomorrow.
- We were encouraged by the multi-stakeholder, innovative pilot projects taking place across this region to better align skills development, migration policies and economic needs. Migration should be an economic choice and not an economic necessity; and, in fact, we heard some data that fewer people are willing to move for employment opportunities than just six years ago.
- But the fact is that we live in an interconnected, global economy and we must ensure that safe, orderly and regular migration is a part of this world. The Business Mechanism is ready for concrete action.
- Last night we also heard clearly that business needs to be more vocal and visible. In fact, we heard we need to “come out of the closet.” Allow me to share with you where our focus has been and where it will be.

- For the past several years, the Business Mechanism has focused its efforts on three pillars:
  - ensuring transparent, predictable and efficient mobility for workers along the *entire* spectrum of the labor market;
  - using technology to match migrants' skills to employers needs and to facilitate the recognition of credentials across borders;
  - and, promoting fair and responsible recruitment.
- These pillars are elaborated in our papers and the Business Mechanism will continue to focus on them while also showcasing technological solutions to these challenges.
- We will build on the regional structures begun this year to a better job of telling our stories. We *have* many examples of how migrants contribute to a strong and innovative economy thereby creating opportunities for all and we know we need to share this more broadly.
- Working through the Business Mechanism, and with continued financial support, we will gather our collective data, document our practical experiences, and drive a positive narrative on migration.
- We look forward to working with the GFMD chair Ecuador to tell our stories.
- Thank you.