

Consultation of the United Nations Network on Migration with Civil Society and other stakeholders

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- Thank you for the invitation to contribute to this consultation. I represent the private sector/the Employers on this panel.
- What results do we want to achieve? How to get there? The UN Network is mandated with the task of supporting governments in the implementation of the GCM. This is a very concrete mandate that should lead to concrete actions and results. Every UN agency engaged in this UN network will have a key role to play according to its expertise. And understanding how to meaningfully partner with stakeholders will facilitate the task of the UN agencies and of this network toward a successful implementation of the GCM.
- Why are Employers here today?
- Not only because we are one of the three constituents of the ILO, one of the executive committee members of this Network. But, as main Employment providers, we are aware of the upcoming challenges that we will face in our workforces: demographic realities leading to a growing skills gap will call for more flexible and well-regulated migration systems that allow Employers to have access to skills wherever they are, and to move talent wherever they are needed.
- As you know, the IOE coordinates the Business Mechanism to the GFMD. It has organized a group of businesses that have actively engaged in the GCM process, from the consultations to the negotiations. This group understands the UN processes, the UN language and the UN codes. As naive as this may sound, this is not the case for any random business person.
- The group has dedicated time to formulate recommendations to the governments and to share its expertise based on business realities across various countries, industries and sizes of companies. The IOE has members in 147 countries, employers from developed countries, as well as from developing countries, struggling with different battles. Yet all agree that skills are becoming scarce and training is not adapted to their needs and to tomorrow's labour market needs. From Bangladesh to Berlin. From Boston to Colombo.
- How can we strengthen these efforts and build upon them to support the Network?
- At the GCM adoption conference in Marrakech, the IOE President outlined how to best partner with the private sector. Relying on its expertise, on its knowledge, on its best-practices in using immigration system proves to be successful.

- At global level, the IOE stands ready to provide expertise to one of the working groups.
- At national/regional level, the broad and global network of the IOE can be used to ensure that Employers are at the table when programs are set up. Ex: Engaging with employers in Sri Lanka in identifying local skills needs may be useful to develop programs that can respond to their needs in the booming construction industry. Engaging with employers in both sending and receiving countries to forge partnerships that tailor both training and skills needs. Engaging the tech industry in the Silicon Valley or even in the booming tech centers in Ghana may support efforts on leveraging technology.
- Those are just ideas, out of many more we have, that can help the UN Network in its efforts to support the Governments.
- A meaningful engagement of the UN Network with the private sector will be key towards successful implementation of the GCM. We look forward to further engagement in appropriate format for discussion.

Thank you.