

GFMD Business Roundtables
22 January 2020
Centro de Convenciones Metropolitano de Quito, Ecuador

In 2019 the GFMD Business Advisory Group focused its efforts on regional dialogues to better address and tailor partnerships according to regional challenges. Two regional workshops were held in North Africa and South America and two research papers were conducted on the impact of migration policies on businesses. Both papers will be launched at the GFMD Summit in Quito. In 2020, two regional workshops are earmarked for the Middle East and Asia, as well as related research papers.

At the GFMD Summit, the GFMD Business Advisory Group convened regional roundtables for Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. The objective was to lead focused discussions with delegates on the impact of migration policies on businesses in the regions, according to the regional and local challenges. Employers shared best practices on what type of regulation or system proves to be successful, in terms of migrant workers integration, their access to employment and skills recognition. A frank and open dialogue took place to improve the understanding of the governments' and the businesses' realities.

The Roundtables were an unique opportunity at the GFMD Summit for governments' delegates to meet employers based in their region and to highlight potential areas of cooperation.

The Regional Roundtables comprised of two Stocktaking sessions and two forwarding looking sessions:

1. **Stocktaking Roundtables for Africa and Latin America:** The Roundtables served to follow up on the regional workshops. The participants analysed the findings and recommendations from the Regional Workshops and papers and strategized with the regions as to future collaboration.ⁱ
2. **Forwarding Looking Roundtables for Asia and Middle East:** Consultations took place with delegates about the forthcoming regional workshops. Discussion centred around the impact of migration policies on business specific to Asia and the Middle East on skills mobility, skills matching, training, recognition/equivalence of skills. The Roundtables for Asia and the Middle East explored possible research topics for the two regions and identified collaboration with the private sector in future endeavours.

General guiding questions that were raised in the Roundtable discussions:

- How do existing migration policies in the regions/countries concretely impact businesses?
- From a business perspective, what would be an ideal migration framework for skills mobility, skills recognition and skills development?
- What are the legal challenges businesses face at the national and regional level in terms of skills mobility? What steps are in place to facilitate bringing skills which are not locally available? Are the visa policies easy and flexible especially work permits? Are work permits granted for short- or long-term, for spouses?
- What are best-practices of public-private partnerships in the areas of skills mobility/skills development/skills matching that have proven to be successful in the region?
- Are there channels for public-private consultations on migration issues in your country/region? If not, what are the obstacles to such channels? Are there programmes in place for returning migrants?
- Data collection - do you have a system where you collect data on the patterns of skills mobility both inward as destination country and outward mobility as a sending country?

Structure: Informal and interactive.

Participants: Open to businesses and governments from the related region or beyond to listen in.

Roundtable 1:	08.30-9.30 hrs	Looking forward: Regional Roundtable for Middle-East
Roundtable 2:	9.30-10.30 hrs	Stocktaking and looking forward: Regional Roundtable for Africa
Roundtable 3:	14.00-15.00 hrs	Stocktaking and looking forward: Regional Roundtable for Latin America
Roundtable 4:	15.00-16.00 hrs	Looking forward: Regional Roundtable for Asia

ⁱ The reports of both regional meetings can be found on the GFMD Business Mechanism website: www.GFMDBusinessMechanism.com