

Global Forum on Migration and Development Annual Business Meeting

The impact of migration policies on the ability for businesses to recruit or retain skills

Date & Time: Wednesday, 22 January 2020, from 11:00 to 13:00
Venue: Centro de Convenciones Metropolitano de Quito, Ecuador

Background:

In 2019, the Business Advisory Group to the GFMD met in three regions (North Africa, South America and Middle East) to discuss with governments the impact of migration policies on businesses and to find together solutions that can maximize the benefits of migration while reducing its risks.

There is a well-documented reciprocal relationship between migration, economic growth and development. In the long run, the creation of capitals or capabilities - be they social, financial, human, cultural, intellectual or economic - affect the ways people migrate from one country to another chasing new opportunities. While development is intrinsically dependent on the mobility of human beings as well as their decision to migrate, it is also reliant on the willingness of policy-makers to enhance migrants' capabilities and strengthen avenues for legal migration. Well managed migration not only is a necessary and positive economic and social force, but it is also a vehicle for fulfilling personal aspirations, for balancing labour and supply and demand, for sparking innovation and for transferring and spreading skills.

The labour market needs and migration policy interests of the private sector vary greatly among companies, industries, countries and regions. But all employers, as well as their employees, benefit from clear, predictable, transparent and efficient national immigration laws and policies that permit the movement of workers when and where they are needed.

The recommendations that emerged from the 2019 GFMD business workshops were the following:

- Stronger engagement with the private sector when crafting migration policies
- Enhanced regional cooperation
- Improved transparency and intra-governmental coordination
- Improved legal pathways for employment
- Better leverage of technology for enhanced migration management
- Facilitated skills mobility for employment
- Adoption and implementation of responsible recruitment policies and practices

The reports of the workshops, as well as both research papers can be found on the GFMD Business Advisory Group [website](#).

This fourth meeting of the GFMD Business Mechanism as part of a GFMD Summit will be an opportunity to discuss these recommendations at a global, as well as a regional level with representatives of businesses and governments.

Agenda:

Opening: business priorities in regular migration

- **Roberto Suarez Santos**, Secretary General, International Organisation of Employers ([IOE](#))
- **Yanira Caraza**, Event & Analyst Coordinator LATAM, [Seedstars](#)

Need of the hour: skills mobility and development - Regulatory frameworks that support skills mobility for the benefit of all

- **Austin Fragomen**, Chairman, [GFMD Business Advisory Group](#) (Ellen Yost to speak on behalf of Austin Fragomen)
- **Alberto Echavarría Saldarriaga**, Vicepresidente de Asuntos Jurídicos, Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia ([ANDI](#))
- **Ana Polanco**, Expert in Technical Cooperation at the Migration Programme, Enabel Morocco (Belgium)

Regional focus: Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations from the 2019 Regional GFMD Business Workshops

Launch and presentation of two research papers:

- **Murtaza Khan**, Managing Partner, [Fragomen](#) Middle East and Africa

Outcome of the North Africa Business workshop:

- **Mohammed Touzani**, Project Manager, Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc ([CGEM](#))
- **H.E. Neveen El-Husseiny**, Minister Plenipotentiary, Director for Refugees, Migration and Combating Human Trafficking, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Egypt

Outcome of the South America Business workshop:

- **Manuel Terán Moscoso**, External Advisor, Cámaras de Industrias y Producción del Ecuador ([CIP](#))

Concluding remarks

- **H.E. Santiago Chavez Pareja**, 2019 GFMD Chair
- **H.E. Nasser bin Thani Al Hamli**, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation, 2020 GFMD Chair