

**GFMD Friends of the Forum Meeting  
Geneva, 6 November 2024**

**GFMD Business Mechanism – priorities and roadmap**

Statement delivered by Stéphanie Winet, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

- Chair - Ambassador Gallón - thank you for the invitation to share the business priorities to the GFMD Friends of the Forum.
- I speak on behalf of the Business Advisory Group, which brings private sector input to the GFMD. Since the launch of Colombia chairship, our Executive Committee met in September and defined the 2025 workplan, with concrete deliverables to be presented at the GFMD Summit in Colombia. We call on member states' attention to seek potential interest to partner with us on one or several of our planned activities.
- Aligning with GFMD's thematic priorities, we have developed six position papers on each priority area, which will serve as the foundation for our discussions and evolve as we move forward. We are also crafting a narrative campaign to support roundtable 3, which focuses on media's role in shaping migration narratives. Additionally, we are building policy recommendations on climate change and mobility, drawing on insights from last year's "[Green Borders](#)" Report<sup>1</sup> to enrich the discussions at roundtable 4. Finally, we will work on a major report on skills shortages in targeted countries in Latin America, in particular in the transition to low carbon economies; we will assess how migration pathways could help alleviate the skills shortages.
- The skills shortages that many industries face around the world will be the basis/the driver of our contribution. We will address work permits for spouses, apprenticeship program for the younger generation, legal pathways to transition to low-carbon economy, regional cooperation to allow skills mobility within regions, harmonized skills recognitions system and fair recruitment practices.
- We will contribute in particular to roundtable 6. We are honoured to co-chair roundtable 6 on technology and digitalization alongside the Governments of Ecuador and Georgia. From a business perspective, digital tools like AI and blockchain offer tremendous promise to streamline immigration processes and verify skills efficiently and securely. These technologies are game changers that can enhance transparency and accountability in migration systems. The true value of technology lies not just in its ability to streamline processes—it is in its power to support governments' strategic goals for skill acquisition and retention, as well as a lever for economic development.
- It is estimated that over 1 billion people around the world lack official proof of identity. Digital identity leveraging blockchain technology can simplify processes. Blockchain has the potential to streamline skills recognition by connecting credential issuers with validators.

---

<sup>1</sup> Business Advisory Group on Migration / Deloitte, "[Green Borders: Climate change and business mobility](#)", January 2024

- Digitalization in migration is already transforming many countries' systems. Addressing these risks and ensuring equitable, fair systems is critical as we expand digital migration tools. We are eager to explore opportunities and challenges together at the session tomorrow and bring a greater understanding of how these tools can benefit everyone. Please join us at the roundtable tomorrow to learn, exchange and share.
- This year, the GFMD's new format—with smaller, multi-stakeholder group discussions—presents a unique opportunity for deeper collaboration. To succeed, we need engagement from all GFMD stakeholders, governments, civil society, local authorities, and businesses of all sizes. Importantly, small and medium enterprises, as well as tech start-ups, companies from the Global South, should have a voice at the table. For this first session, we are pleased to have a small group of business representatives, including from the tech start up ecosystem, two alumni of the Global Tech startup competitions that we convened over the past four years. Please do reach out to us to engage directly.
- We are excited to contribute and collaborate through the GFMD process and look forward to impactful outcomes at the 2025 Summit.
- Thank you.