

## **GFMD Friends of the Forum Meeting Geneva, 19 February 2025**

### **GFMD Business Mechanism – priorities and roadmap**

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

- Chair, thank you for the invitation to share the business priorities with the GFMD Friends of the Forum. I speak on behalf of the Business Advisory Group on Migration, housed at the IOE, which brings private sector input to the GFMD.
- We are pleased to share key updates on our work. First, we have updated the six position papers that form the foundation of our contribution to the roundtables. These papers will continue to evolve as we integrate new insights and best practices.
- Additionally, we have launched the first video of our narrative campaign, which is now available online. This campaign is designed to highlight the positive economic impact of migration and raise business views. It will support Roundtable 3 by exploring the role of media in shaping migration narratives. In the coming days and weeks, we will be recording interviews of business leaders for additional videos, which will be published over the next months to further enrich the conversation.
- Our report on skills shortages in targeted Latin American countries is progressing. We have begun work in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay, focusing on the skills required to accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies. A key component of this research is assessing the extent to which immigration frameworks in these countries facilitate the mobility of workers with these essential skills. This will contribute to RT 4 on climate change.
- We have a business delegation present in Geneva for the roundtable discussions taking place later today and tomorrow. You have heard the practices of the founders of six tech start-up, alumni of the IOE Migration Challenge, a start-up competition that we organised in past GFMD editions. The six founders are here with us, ready to exchange with all of you. As part of this engagement in the roundtables, we will share best practices from a business perspective on the six themes under discussion. We are particularly honored to co-chair Roundtable 6 on technology and digitalisation alongside the Governments of Georgia and Ecuador. I thank them for the great collaboration.
- Artificial intelligence presents a transformative opportunity for migration management. The rapid advancement of AI technology is undeniable—it is becoming smarter at an extraordinary pace, with some tools gaining two IQ points every six months. We must embrace these opportunities to enhance migration systems, increase efficiency, and ensure transparent, secure processes.
- From automating work permit applications to enhancing identity verification, these technologies offer significant benefits. Countries with digital migration processes in place demonstrate how innovation can improve service delivery, transparency, and security. Digital identities empower individuals with safe and portable credentials. Blockchain technology, digital wallets, and advanced authentication tools are revolutionizing this space, reducing fraud while enhancing accessibility. For digital identity to reach its full potential, systems must communicate effortlessly across borders. So how can blockchain and AI make an impact in areas like skills recognition for migrants? What role can



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credential issuers, validators, and holders collectively play in building a system of trust that enables digitalized skills validation? We will be discussing this tomorrow.

- The GFMD format provides a unique space for exchanging ideas and strengthening partnerships. We invite all stakeholders to join us tomorrow morning at Roundtable 6, where we will explore policies and practices that leverage technology to improve migration processes. A number of promising practices will be presented. Please take this opportunity to connect, exchange insights, and explore potential collaborations.
- Thank you.