

GFMD Summit – Business Mechanism meeting

29 June 2017, Berlin

Ms. Linda Kromjong, Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers

- I am very pleased to co-host today this second Business Mechanism meeting in a GFMD Summit and would like to thank the GFMD co-chairs, the Government of Germany and Morocco, for making space in the busy GFMD Summit's agenda to host us for an afternoon of interaction between the private sector and governments.
- Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme, we thank you for your opening remarks. You enabled a trustful environment for the business engagement in this Summit and we are therefore very grateful.
- The Business Mechanism was endorsed last year as a permanent feature of the GFMD at the Summit in Dhaka. Its aim is to facilitate sustained interaction between migration policy makers and business leaders. Last year we presented The Business case for migration, in line with the SDGs.
- Since last Summit in December, we continued to refine our positions toward a global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. A GCM that would take into account labour market needs and, I would add, employers' needs. Employers, as main employment providers, can help governments define migration strategies and systems that can benefit governments, the economic sector and migrant workers themselves.
- The challenge for governments is to negotiate an international document based on facts and evidence, not on misperceptions. The private sector can therefore be a valuable partner to ensure that migration is an engine for increased economic efficiency and national competitiveness. Interventions to build and deploy skills that are executed without private sector buy-in and involvement risk poor outcomes.
- Businesses are frequent users of national migration systems. Their experience with the practical workings of immigration laws, procedures, and policies, as well as knowledge of emerging market and staffing trends, can supply important information to governments.

- In addition, governments are increasingly faced with the challenge of doing more with limited resources. There are many opportunities to alleviate pressures and deliver sound governance through public-private-partnerships
- Today, Austin Fragomen, the chair of the Business Advisory Group, will set forth recommendations elaborated by the Business community of the GFMD. Over the past year, thanks to the power of our networks, we have built a community of engaged business leaders. These leaders represent various sectors, across all regions of the world and of all sizes.
- Together we launched four business committees of experts that address:
 1. The need for international skills mobility
 2. Fair recruitment and decent work opportunities,
 3. Innovations for the integration of migrants and refugees to the labour markets
 4. The role of entrepreneurship and circular migration for development
- In each of the committees, we worked towards building a constructive positive narrative on migration and its benefits – a strong positive case for migration.
- We also started working on a sensitive political issue: irregular migration.
- The report that Austin Fragomen will present sets forth a set of recommendations that will be further discussed in the break-out sessions. The recommendations should help governments better understand our common interests. (There are printed copies available in the room, it can be also downloaded on our website: www.gfmdbusinessmechanism.org).
- In terms of process, we have to admit that the working methods of international conferences differ from the one of the private sector. We need to work together to find the best way to engage the business community in the GCM process. In this regard, our partner the WEF Future Council for migration, has shared with the SRSG and the co-facilitators interesting input on how to engage. We believe that the creation of the Business Mechanism and hence the Business Advisory Board to the GFMD is a good starting point. Its network and expertise should be used to its full potential toward the GCM.
- In this regard, we were delighted to bring the expertise of the Business Mechanism to the Colombo Process last May. We led consultations with

employers of the Colombo Process member states, which served to input our business report. Employers in the regions can bring valuable input in inter-governmental dialogues. This collaboration proved to be very useful for all stakeholders engaged. We strongly encourage national and regional dialogue between employers' federations and their governments on migration issues.

- When talking about partnership, we need to acknowledge the important contribution of the civil society to the GFMD process. We are pleased today to welcome civil society representatives in the break out sessions, and to share best practices on good collaboration on the ground.
- Before giving the floor to our first distinguished speaker, I would like to thank the donor that enable this platform to exist, namely the Swiss Government, the European Union, The Coca-Cola Company and the Bertelsmann Stiftung, that add to the IOE contribution. The Business Mechanism will need to strengthen and develop new partnerships with governments, as well as with private corporations, to ensure fixed income and thereby the viability of the platform.
- Step by step, the Business Mechanism builds its foundation to serve the purposes of the GFMD Chairs, but also of the UN membership. Today, we humbly try to bring the private sector's voice to the table. We trust this voice will be heard and we look forward to continuing the close collaboration with Morocco over the next year.
- This business meeting will be informed today by key players in the GCM process:
 - Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for international migration. Ms Arbour, will lead the United Nations toward the historic negotiation of the Global compact for migration.

[Louise Arbour remarks]

- Mr. William Swing, Director General, IOM. The IOM recently joined the UN family and plays an active role in the consultations phase that is running until the end of this year.

[William Swing remarks]

- Ms. Deborah Greenfield, Deputy Director General for Policy, ILO. The ILO recently adopted important conclusions on labour migration at the international labour conference, which gives ILO a concrete mandate in the GCM.

- [Deborah Greenfield remarks]
 - Thank you for setting the scene. In this framework, what are the private sector's contribution?
 - Austin, you are a very active chair of the Business Advisory Group to the GFMD. You worked on a business report that should feed the GFMD conclusions, input into the GCM and ultimately inspire governments while they work on improving their migration systems.
 - [Austin: presentation of the report]
 - [It should be 3:20pm]. We invite you to join a break-out session. We will be back in the plenary at 5pm sharp.
1. The need for global skills mobility – a GCM that strengthen the architecture to govern labour mobility (Weltsaal)
 2. The business case for responsible recruitment – the need for a GCM that boosts the implementation of existing international instruments (Ministeraal 1)
 3. The challenges of mixed migration for the GCM – engaging the private sector in skills partnerships and skills matching programmes (Europasaal)
 4. A GCM that recognizes the benefits of entrepreneurship and circular migration in the 21st century (Lesehof)