

13 March 2017

**GFMD Business Thematic Meeting, Geneva, 3-4 April 2017**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure to cordially invite you to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Business Mechanism Thematic Meeting on **3 and 4 April 2017 in Geneva**. The event will be an excellent opportunity for business leaders to define businesses' priorities on labour mobility issues and to dialogue with governments on pressing migration issues of concern to business. The aim is to explore how to use the GFMD Business Advisory Group to influence migration policies in order to enhance the mobility of skills across borders.

Why it is important for you and your company to attend?

**1. Advise Governments how to Decrease the Difficulty and Cost of Recruitment**

The meeting will help shape policy that would ease recruitment efforts, decrease costs, and help scale your business. Improvement in migration policies and frameworks will allow your company to attract and retain top talent. The dissemination of evidence-based regional and global data indicating benefits from talent flow is necessary. Your expertise and experience are invaluable as we refine migration policy recommendations.

**2. Share Strategies for Integrating Immigrants into Your Workforce**

The demographic challenges will make it harder to fill positions in your company. The economic case for migration is well proven. The private sector is a key actor in integrating immigrants into the workforce and thereby contributing to closing the skills gap.

**3. Help to Shape the Rules of the Game**

The United Nations member states are negotiating a historic compact that aims to establish a global framework for managing migration. We are giving business a voice in the negotiations. We offer an avenue to contribute to the solutions of one of the largest current global challenges: the vast number of migrants moving around the globe.

**4. Network with Peers and Engage Policymakers**

We bring together business representatives from around the world and from a variety of industries. Our events convene representatives from national governments and international institutions, giving you a chance to hear from policymakers and share your perspectives.

**5. Acquire Tools to Navigate the Complex World of Migration Policy and Regulation**

Business and migration intersect in many ways. The Business covers a wide range of migration issues, giving you a fuller understanding as to the complexities of migration policy.

The GFMD Business Mechanism was endorsed as a permanent feature of the GFMD during the 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit Meeting in Dhaka under the Bangladesh GFMD Chairmanship in December 2016. It is a channel to bring the private sector's perspective to the GFMD. The upcoming Thematic Meeting provides an opportunity to address different topics related to migration and to refine the private sector's contribution to the 10<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit of 28-30 June in Berlin, under the co-chairmanship of Germany and Morocco.

Representatives from the business community and governments acknowledge that in light of rapidly changing population patterns and dynamics worldwide, labour markets are increasingly faced with skills shortages at all levels; leading to growing skills competition on a global scale.

In this context, we would be honoured to be able to count on your participation on 3 and 4 April. We fully appreciate that you have a very heavy schedule, but would very much welcome your joining us for as long as time permits. I have attached the tentative programme, which be fully finalised in the coming days.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

**Linda Kromjong**

*Secretary-General, IOE*

**Austin Fragomen**

*Chair of the Business Advisory Group*