

11th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (5-7 December 2018)
Adoption Conference of the Global Compact for Migration (10-11 December 2018)
Marrakech, Morocco

BUSINESS PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT

I. What happened in Marrakech?

The 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit took place on 5-7 December under the co-chairmanship of the governments of Germany and Morocco. For the third consecutive year, the IOE led a business delegation to the GFMD, through the Business Mechanism, a channel for interaction between the private sector and governments. More than fifty representatives of companies and employers' organisations participated in the events, demonstrating support for multilateralism in the management of migration. A business meeting was hosted as part of the GFMD program, and business speakers were included in governmental roundtables, as well as in the opening and concluding sessions of the GFMD.

At the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which was held from 10–11 December, 164 nations met under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to formally agree upon the Compact. Erol Kiresepi, the IOE President, was invited to deliver remarks on behalf of the private sector community at the opening of the GCM Conference.

In the margins of the Conference, the IOE leadership held bilateral meetings with Ministers, the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, the President of the General Assembly (PGA), María Fernanda Espinosa, and the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Antonio Vitorino.

In addition, the IOE participated in and co-hosted numerous side events on 8–9 December. A side event was hosted by companies and business organizations on partnership with the private sector on 8 December ([The concept note can be found here](#)).

II. Takeaways of the 11th GFMD Summit (5–7 December 2018)

The Business Mechanism was engaged during the whole GFMD Summit, advocating for regulatory frameworks and migration policies that take into account labour market needs. In the opening ceremony, Roberto Suárez Santos, IOE Secretary-General, recalled the main goal of the Business Mechanism: migration policies that support sustainable enterprises and therefore job creation and economic prosperity. He also provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the Business Mechanism in various regions to promote the business case for migration, thereby contributing to ensuring a continued dialogue between governments and the private sector on labour mobility issues. Finally, he presented the new IOE Position Paper on migration to be launched the following day. ([IOE Secretary-General GFMD Opening Statement can be found here](#))

In the concluding session, Lynn Shotwell, Vice-Chair of the Business Mechanism, recalled the pillars on which the Business Mechanism focused its efforts: ([Lynn Shotwell's GFMD Closing Statements can be found here](#))

1. ensuring transparent, predictable and efficient mobility for workers across the entire spectrum of the labour market;
2. using technology to match migrants' skills to employers' needs and to facilitate the recognition of credentials across borders; and

3. promoting fair and responsible recruitment.

In addition, panel speakers from IOE member organisations CGEM (Morocco) and EMCOZ (Zimbabwe), informed the Summit with their business perspective, which was much appreciated by the audience.

- **GFMD Business meeting (6 December 2018)**

Under the theme “Implementation of the GCM: how business will judge success in the 21st century world of work”, the business meeting addressed the need for migration policies to take into account the realities of labour markets. Moderated by Lynn Shotwell, Vice-Chair of the Business Mechanism, and Stephanie Winet, Head of Stakeholder Engagement of the Business Mechanism, the session started with story-telling: keynote speakers from the Government of Qatar, from Randstad, and a business leader operating in the retail industry in the Maghreb, shared their experiences of implementing migration reforms, in analysing the global skills shortage and in accessing manpower to run a business.

This was followed by a panel which made clear that the private sector had a stake in well-regulated migration, that employment was key to economic opportunity and prosperity for all, that public-private partnerships were needed to trial solutions, and that technology may be a force for positive change. The meeting examined data on the global competition for talent. It was reported that, in some countries, more people were retiring than entering the labour market and that, in others, talented individuals were leaving for better opportunities. Everywhere there is a digital skills gap, and much more must be done by all stakeholders to ensure that everyone is provided with the education, training and soft skills needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

The business community was encouraged by the multi-stakeholder, innovative pilot projects taking place across the region to better align skills development, migration policies and economic needs. Migration should be an economic choice and not an economic necessity; and, in fact, data was presented that found fewer people willing to move for employment opportunities than just six years ago.

➔ **Outcome: IOE policy paper** [[link to the paper](#)], which highlights the following pillars:

1. The needs for skills mobility and the challenges faced by companies to access skills, in the context of complex political frameworks and with the perspective of drastic talent shortages;
2. The business engagement in supporting governments to put in place enforcement mechanisms, thereby protecting migrant workers;
3. The importance of efficient partnerships with governments and public institutions.

III. Takeaways of the GCM Conference (10–11 December 2018)

The GCM conference was held to adopt a legally-non-binding document to guide governments in their migration management [[link to the GCM](#)]. The agreed document outlines 23 objectives complemented by inspirational action points that governments can use as they deem fit in their national and regional context. There was no signing ceremony; the sole participation of governments and statement in the plenary constituted their support for the document.

Erol Kiresepi, IOE President, spoke at the opening of the Conference on behalf of the business community, after the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nasser Bourrita, the UN SG, Antonio Guterres and the UN PGA, María Fernanda Espinosa. In his statement, Erol Kiresepi brought the economic perspective to a highly political issue, underlining also the importance of multilateralism in the management of migration. He recalled that the private sector had a three-pronged stake in well-regulated migration frameworks: to fill

skills shortages; to ensure social stability; and to contribute to the protection of the most vulnerable migrant workers. He stressed the need for cooperation between the public and private sector: employers need regulatory frameworks that support skills mobility and regular migration, and they can support governments in promoting regulations and enforcement mechanisms to ensure responsible recruitment. [\(IOE President's GCM Opening Statement can be found here\)](#)

After the Marrakech Conference, the GCM was formally adopted in New York by the General Assembly on 19 December with 152 countries in favour, 5 against, and 12 abstentions. A report of this meeting can be found [here](#).

➔ **Outcome: Private Sector Marrakech Paper** ([the paper can be found here](#)), a brief summary of the IOE policy paper, which will be circulated among UN officials and governments.

- **Bilateral meetings**

In the margins of the Conference, the IOE leadership team, including Erol Kiresepi – President, Roberto Suárez Santos – SG, and Stéphanie Winet – Head of Stakeholder Engagement, held discussions with the following:

- UN SG Antonio Guterres
- UN PGA María Fernanda Espinosa
- IOM DG Antonio Vitorino
- Turkey: Suleyman Soylu, Minister for Interior
- Qatar: Yousuf Mohammed Al-Othman Fakhroo, Minister of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs
- UAE: Nasser Al Hamli, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation
- Colombia: Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Netherlands: Mark Harber, Minister for Migration
- Denmark: Martin Hermann, State Secretary for Development Policy
- France: Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Secretary of State for the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Mexico: Jose Luis Gomez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN and co-facilitator of the GCM
- Switzerland: Simone Giger, Head of the Global Programme Migration and Development

The main messages delivered by the IOE at the bilateral meetings were the following:

- ➔ Presentation of the IOE and the Business Mechanism;
- ➔ Business perspective on migration and skills mobility in light of the skills shortage;
- ➔ Request for political support for the IOE's application for observer status at the UN General Assembly.

The UN stakeholders (SG, PGA and IOM) all gave very positive assessments of the work of the IOE and called for stronger engagement and more regular consultations with the IOE at institutional level. The governments shared their appreciation of having the private sector participate at the intergovernmental conference and highlighted the need for companies and employers' organizations to be more vocal at national level. Governments need in fact the support of the private sector to change the public perception on migration.

- **Side event with IOE's participation:**

The IOE participated in or co-hosted the following side events:

- Partnering with the Private Sector: The GCM and Business, co-hosted by IOE, USCIB, Fragomen, SHRM, Randstad
 - ➔ Best practice sharing with a multi-stakeholder panel composed of businesses, governments, IOM and civil society.
- Regional Dimensions in the Implementation, Follow-Up and Review of the Global Compact for Migration, co-hosted by the UAE, IOM, IOE, ICMC
 - ➔ Measures to be taken at regional level, through regional platforms (Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue, regional economic commissions), to manage regional migration flows.
- National Commitment, Inter-Regional Cooperation and Global Partnerships to Achieve Safe Migration, hosted by Qatar
 - ➔ Multi-stakeholder partnerships will be key in the implementation of the GCM, no government will achieve results unilaterally.
- Kickstarting Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, hosted by IOM
 - ➔ Commitment by governments and other stakeholders to implement the GCM.
- Realizing the Implementation of the Decent Work and Labour Migration Component of the GCM, hosted by ILO
 - ➔ Launch of a "Global skills partnership" including ILO, IOM, UNESCO, IOE and ITUC. This partnership should foster solutions that take into account skills development and migration and be used to implement the ILO skills program on migration.

IV. Conclusion/Next steps

The value of the participation of the private sector in intergovernmental debates on migration is recognised. Governments call for more interaction with organized business. The IOE will strengthen the work of the Business Mechanism through the creation of a steering committee that will contribute to the implementation of the GCM. IOE members are called upon to continue the dialogue at national level to ensure that migration policies take into account labour market needs.

Ecuador will chair the 2019 GFMD and will hold its Summit in Quito in November 2019. In the meantime, the GFMD Business Mechanism will host two workshops for business (place to be confirmed) and conduct research on the importance of well-functioning regular migration channels to reduce the risks associated with irregular migration.

The IOM will lead the Secretariat of the GCM. Regional review conferences are scheduled for 2020 (every four years), and a global review conference is scheduled for 2022 (every four years). Governments will decide on the sequence of meetings in the coming months.

To get an update on the work of the GFMD Business Mechanism, please visit: www.gfmdbusinessmechanism.org, and follow @GFMD_Business on Twitter.