

GFMD Friends of the Forum

Geneva, 11 September 2019

Civil Society Statement by Stéphane Jaquemet, Director of Policy, ICMC

Let me start by thanking the four governments that have so far generously contributed to the civil society budget for 2019. Our gratitude to Germany, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Canada. We have received some 400'000 US\$, out of a budget of 678'000 US\$. We will do our utmost to save money and spend less, but we would still need at least 100'000 US\$ to pay for air tickets and hotel rooms for civil society participants from low-income countries. Our focus is to ensure, in particular, that women leaders, migrants, youth and grassroot organizations are well represented. Unfortunately, without financial support, diversity of representation cannot be guaranteed.

Civil Society has almost finalized its concept note for the Civil Society Day in Quito and a draft has been shared with the Ecuadorian Chair. Based on the commitments adopted in Marrakech last year, the central theme will be around civil society's contribution to shaping migration governance through a clear focus on implementation and partnerships for migrants and communities. This is a broad chapeau to be broken down into six sub-themes to be discussed in Quito:

1. Rights-based access to services
2. Criminalization of migrants and those assisting them
3. Labor migration: decent work and combatting exploitation on the workplace
4. Climate induced displacement
5. Mixed migration
6. Regular pathways, including regularization.

In addition to the sub-themes, there will be four cross-cutting prioritized elements:

- a) Championing child rights and youth participation (in particular through our support to the youth forum)
- b) Guaranteeing a gender-sensitive approach
- c) Navigating negative narratives
- d) Being diaspora inclusive.

The sub-themes will be discussed in small working groups, based on languages (English, French and Spanish), since there will be no simultaneous interpretation in the breakout sessions to save money. The inputs collected in the working groups will be summarized in a report to be presented during Common Space by the Civil Society Chair.

We are now finalizing the selection of Civil Society participants. Within the deadline, we received over 1400 applications, including 708 meeting all the selection criteria. We will now have the difficult task to make the final selection of the 220 people, who will be in Quito. The selection process includes a number of checks and balances to ensure fairness, and diversity of representation and voices.

We are indeed very happy to report that there have been very transparent and constructive exchanges with the Ecuadorian Chair in order for Civil Society and the other non-government mechanisms to make a meaningful contribution to the Common Space agenda.

We have had a very high level of coordination and a very friendly interface with both the Business Mechanism and the Mayors Mechanism and we hope that the three non-government mechanisms can identify joint priorities or concerns they can submit to governments in Quito.

Finally, we would like to thank the UAE, the 2020 GFMD Chair, for having initiated an early and very participative consultative process regarding next year's GFMD activities and priorities. This is deeply appreciated.

A last word about civil society. Traditionally, a number of civil society organizations have always organized in parallel to the GFMD Summit an independent People's Global Action (PGA) meeting. It was indeed the case last year in Marrakech and Quito will respect this very important tradition, with the PGA taking place on 18 November, the day before the beginning of the Summit. A number of the PGA participants will also attend the Summit. The PGA will be a full day independent program, focusing on an inter-regional dialogue on experiences, challenges, strategies and partnerships.

Thank you.