

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR JORGE LOMÓNACO, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO IN GENEVA AT THE GFMD 2017-2018 FIRST
MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP**

Geneva, Switzerland, 1 February 2017.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Germany and Morocco for taking forward, as co-chairs the GFMD 2017-2018, and to thank both countries for convening this First Round of Preparatory Meetings.

At the same time, I wish to congratulate Bangladesh for its successful IX FMMD summit in Dhaka, in December 2016.

While preparing the X edition of the GFMD, we recognize this valuable effort as a clear sign of the growing interest of the international community on international Migration and the commitment of the members States to promote a regular, order and safe migration based on a human rights approach.

We are in a unique situation. Not only for the duration of this process, scheduled to end this June, but because of the convergence of several other processes as well as new and potential challenges.

While the international community faces the worsening of humanitarian situations, we are engaged in the process of implementation of the sustainable development agenda (ADS2030), the New York Declaration on Migrants and Refugees and the ongoing process towards a Global Compact for migration.

However, we face enormous challenges. We possibly are at an inflection point. The risk of going backwards instead of forward is real. Multilateralism in general and the values and principles that we all share are under attack.

We should avoid historical regressions and we should privilege dialogue and concertation. The GFMD has been a privileged space for advancing constructive ideas and is therefore in a very good place to contribute to protect and advance an agenda of shares values and objectives.

As we know, Migration is not just a fact of life: is a “mega trend” of the 21st century. The GFMD discussions have shown that unilateral security measures, based on protectionist approaches, are ineffective.

Public policy, based upon prejudices, exacerbates xenophobic ideas, discrimination, and the violation of human rights of Human Rights. Those are wrong policies, both from a practical and moral point of view and will have serious social consequences.

While ill-conceived security measures do not stop human mobility, but they do foster the risks, the vulnerability of migrants and endanger their lives, while increasing the costs of migration and creating incentives for organized crime.

The GFMD has contributed during the last 10 years to find consensus in promoting a secure and orderly human mobility, with coherent public policies based on information and based on shared responsibility and benefits.

In this context, Mexico welcomes the presentation of the concept note and expresses its commitment to contribute constructively to its improvement throughout this process.

We support the focus more on international migration and development, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the active participation of the GFMD into the High Level Political Forum and the preparatory process of the Global Compact on Migration.

Finally, Mexico will be pleased to co-chair along with Canada the Roundtable 3.2: “Strengthening Cooperation – Enabling Civil Society Contributions in Migrant and Refugee Assistance and Integration”.

Thank you.