

## GFMD Civil Society Days 2017 Participants' Evaluation

The Civil Society Days (CSD) of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2017 took place on 29 June and 1 July, on each side of the Common Space with governments on 30 June.

After the event, the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office (ICMC/MADE) invited all participants to fill in an evaluation survey, giving feedback on different aspects, proposing improvements and sharing ideas and approaches regarding outcomes and follow-up of the CSD.

Of the 254 civil society delegates, 62 responded to the survey [24%], another 2 were representatives of international organizations and 1 was a government.

### *Overall and notable ratings*

- **86%** of respondents thought that the GFMD 2017 **Civil Society Days programme** was good or excellent. **5%** believed it was poor or very poor.
- **65%** of respondents said that they **had interaction with governments during this year's GFMD that could to some extent lead to significant policy change**.
- **56%** of respondents thought that the **unusual schedule of the CSD this year** (i.e., before and after Common Space) was effective; but **44%** thought it made no difference or was not effective.
- In the highest rating on the survey, **97%** of those who attended the prelude **rally at the Brandenburg Gate** on 28 June found it inspirational.
- Among other notably high ratings of the survey:
  - **87%** thought the **opening speeches of CSD Chair Wies Maas and Co-Chair Berenice Valdez Rivera** were good or excellent.
  - **84%** of respondents said the **"Convergence Matrix"** was useful for the Working sessions.
  - Over **80%** thought that **Common Space structure, themes and civil society involvement** as discussion starters and moderators was good or excellent; but **51%** thought the **interaction between governments and civil society in Common Space** was only average or poor.

### *Key feedback and recommendations from this Survey*

1. On the **format** of CSD, Common Space and full GFMD programme

- To not separate governments and civil society physically and ensure open, mutual participation and interaction in all 3 spaces of the CSD, Common Space and government days

- To continue and evolve the concept of simultaneous Outreach Meetings that were piloted in Budapest, Dakar and Katmandu this year, to include more regions and more youth
- To provide an ample open space as well as moments for smaller discussions and networking, to ensure inputs and exchange of smaller organizations; keeping plenaries short and concise
- To reach out more to migrants on the ground and ensure bigger media coverage – both can be achieved with a local event outside the conference (like this year’s Prelude at the Brandenburg Gate 28 June).

## 2. On **agenda and themes**

- To keep strong focus on the Global Compact for Migration and closely monitor the governments’ implementation
- To continue discussing return/readmission/reintegration
- To keep the focuses on children on the move (but distinguish them from “other vulnerable migrants”) and ethical recruitment in labour migration

## 3. On **interaction with governments**

- To make sure governments are participating and engaging in the CSD and Common Space
- To continue and expand the small issue-and region-specific “tea” (and/or breakfast and lunch) tables with civil society leaders and governments
- To keep pushing for stronger civil society participation in government roundtables
- To continue strong co-leadership in Common Space and foster a more focused discussion
- To think about binding commitments or at least demand accountability by governments

## 4. On **follow-up and preparation of the next GFMD CSD**

- For the ISC and GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office, to consolidate GFMD Civil Society recommendations in a document and circulate among governments, asking them to commit
- For civil society, to continue monitoring and contributing to the two Global Compact Processes, but also examine the implementation of the UN “Together” Campaign
- For the ISC and Coordinating Office, to circulate frequent updates on the outcomes of GCM consultations, to organize conference calls to strengthen joint messaging and foster interaction, and to consolidate civil society’s input in a meeting before the governments’ stocktaking meeting
- For local / national CSOs to implement the results on the ground and involve the respective governments

## Overview of questions and answers

The participation was anonymous. Total number of respondents: 65

All questions were optional. Particularly emphatic comments (partly abridged) have been selected to reflect most common and significant thoughts.

Nr.	Questions											
1	Please indicate whether you participated as a member of civil society, government or international organization.	1.5% Government		3.1% Intl Org		95.4% Civil Society						
2	Were you a moderator, formal discussion starter or rapporteur during the 2017 GFMD Civil Society Days?	5 moderator		12 formal discussion starter		5 rapporteur						
3	Were you a moderator, formal discussion starter or rapporteur in Common Space?	1 moderator		6 formal discussion starter		7 rapporteur						
4	Overall, how would you rate the GFMD Civil Society Programme 2017?	3.1% Very poor	1.5% poor	9.2% average		58.5% good		27.7% excellent				
Comments	<i>Active involvement of youths as well as a strong focus on children's rights was of great added value/ the agenda did not serve to prepare for the Global Compact / too many plenaries took worthy time off discussions in working sessions / GFMD felt more focused, as it was centred around the upcoming compact/ Excellent emphasis on concrete solutions and measurable outcomes; Interactions with governments still too limited / Unfortunate that not all CSD participants had access to Common Space/ Having the civil society days running parallel to the government days was limiting the influence on the Forum/ excellent to have Common Space in between the 2 CSD / for the first time there was a big Latin American delegation, great to be able to speak Spanish / Civil Society didn't have a big influence on topics that were not on the governments' agenda/ The GFMD has to be a space of exchanges and not of speeches/ Lack of focus given to the topic of 'Reintegration and Return'</i>											
5	Can you please tell us which past editions of the Civil Society Days and/or High-level meetings at the UN General Assembly you or your organization attended?	5.6% CSD 2007	5.1% CSD 2008	7.3% CSD 2009	6.7% CSD 2010	7.9% CSD 2011	7.9% CSD 2012	11.8% HLD 2013	10.7% CSD 2014	16.8% CSD 2015	7.9% HLS 2016	12.3% CSD 2016
6	How would you rate the density of the programme schedule?	24.6% Too packed		72.1% Just right		3.3% There was more space						
Comments	<i>Good to have the side events separately, not squeezed during lunch break / there should have been more "open space" / proposal of a "wrap up" per day</i>											
7	How would you rate the unusual structure of the Civil Society Days programme this year, with Day 1 taking place Thursday, the day before Common Space, and Day 2 on Saturday, after Common Space?	26.2% not effective		18% no difference		55.7% effective						
Comments	<i>Pro: strategy session after Common Space; Contra: governments were occupied on the 1<sup>st</sup> CSD and left before the 2<sup>nd</sup> CSD / it would be even more effective if Common Space would be the second (and not the last) day for governments too / All CS delegates should be in Common Space to make use of this structure</i>											

8	<b>If you attended the Prelude at the Brandenburg Gate Wednesday evening, what did you think of it as an opening to the Civil Society Days?</b>	0% Not inspirational	3% Indifferent	97% Inspirational		
Comments	<i>It would be great to start each GFMD with something symbolic, inspirational and grounded like this. / The event gave a voice to the ones that are really concerned / There could have been a bigger media presence/ It was the most important moment as we heard testimonies of activists even though there was no formal exchange</i>					
9	<b>If you attended the Pre-CSD Meeting Space at the Bosch Foundation on Wednesday 28 June, did you find this space useful?</b>	3.1% no	18.7% Indifferent	78.1% Yes		
10	<b>What did you think of the overall theme of the Civil Society Days, Safe, Orderly, Regular Migration Now: Mechanics of a Compact Worth Agreeing to?</b>	5% not good	1.7% indifferent	93.3% Good		
11	<b>How would you rate the first morning's opening ceremonies and plenary debates on the first Civil Society Day, Thursday 29 June?</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Ceremony speeches of Chair Wies Maas and Co-chair Berenice Valdez Rivera</li> <li>Speeches of German government officials Beate Grzeski, Elke Löbel and civil society leader Bernd Bornhorst</li> <li>Inspirational speaker Noah Sow</li> <li>"Updates on the Global Compact for Migration" with Laura Thompson, Francois Crepeau and Gregory Maniatis</li> <li>Presentation by Sra. Blanca Arely Gomez de Melgar</li> <li>Keynote by UN SRSG Louise Arbour</li> <li>"Action Now on the Global Compact for Migration" with panellists Gibril Faal, Ignacio Packer and Michele Levoy</li> </ul>	-	-	13.3%	36.7%	50%
		-	10%	26.7%	50%	13.3%
		3.3%	6.7%	18.3%	40%	31.7%
		-	1.6%	14.7%	54.1%	29.5%
		-	-	20.7%	55.2%	24.1%
		-	-	8.2%	60.6%	31.1%
		-	4.8%	6.4%	59.7%	29%
12	<b>Do you have any recommendations for a name or kind of inspirational speaker for future GFMDs? If yes, please add details</b>					
	<i>Oscar Jara Holliday of Costa Rican educational network CEP Alforja / Amartya Sen / Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie / Atta de Tolk (Atta the Interpreter) from Syria, lives in the Netherlands, spoken word &amp; hiphop artist / Enrique Morones de Angeles de la Frontera / theatre groups / academics / migrants &amp; refugees from the ground / local authorities</i>					
13	<b>How would you rate the closing plenaries and closing ceremonies on the second Civil Society Day, Saturday 1 July?</b>					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The Global Compact: prospects for content and shared interests" with Wies Maas, Berenice Valdez Rivera and Gibril Faal</li> <li>Concluding Debate I on "Next Steps we will take on Baselines, Redlines and Common Messages" with William Gois, Monami Maulik and Pav Akhtar</li> <li>Concluding Debate II on "Next Steps we will take in the regions", moderated by Wies Maas</li> <li>Concluding Debate III on "Capital Strategies" with Claudia León, Peter Aeberhard and Pietro Mona</li> </ul>	-	1.7%	15.2%	49.1%	33.4%
		-	1.8%	17.8%	55.3%	25%
		-	1.9%	28.3%	49%	20.7%
		-	4%	22%	40%	34%

14	<b>How would you rate the following during the Civil Society Days</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participants' conference kits (folder of key documents)</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Food</li> </ul>	-	1.7%	18%	52.4%	27.9%
		-	-	1.7%	41.7%	56.7%
		-	1.7%	10%	51.7%	36.7%
15	<b>Outreach meetings: How useful do you think it was to hold outreach meetings in Budapest, Dakar and Kathmandu simultaneous with the first Civil Society Day plenary sessions?</b>	35.2% Did not know	3.7% Not useful	13% Indifferent		48.1% Useful
Comments	<i>Great idea and tool for inclusion / in the future one could use technology to create more interactivity with the external participants / should be done in Latin America as well / These outreach meetings should take place in the countries of origin and in countries of destination</i>					
	<b>Working and Special Sessions: What is your overall rating of the Working and special Sessions you attended on Thursday and/or Saturday in terms of guiding questions; moderation, discussion starters, relevance, outcomes. Please only rate the Working and/or special sessions you attended.</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Session 1: Safe, orderly and regular mechanisms for Children on the Move and other Migrants in Vulnerable Situations</li> <li>Working Session 2: Safe, orderly and regular mechanisms to create welcoming societies for Migrants in the face of growing Xenophobia</li> <li>Working Session 3: Safe, orderly and regular mechanisms in return and reintegration</li> <li>Working Session 4: Safe, orderly and regular mechanisms of migration in the context of work, including Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers, Labour migration and Regularization</li> <li>Special session 1: Green room on civil society baselines, redlines and common messages towards the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</li> <li>Special session 2: Mechanisms for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration where work is not the principal driver –focus on resettlement, private sponsorships and family reunification</li> <li>Special session 3: Climate and environmental change and migration</li> </ul>	5.3%	-	5.3%	63.1%	26.3%
		-	5.9%	11.8%	52.9%	29.4%
		-	5%	15%	50%	30%
		-	3.7%	11.1%	66.7%	18.5%
		-	3.8%	3.8%	65.4%	26.9%
		-	5.9%	-	58.9%	35.3%
		-	-	25%	56.2%	18.7%
17	<b>Of the above listed themes, do you think any should be repeated, evolved or changed? Please specify the session, and add details if you like.</b> <i>Focus on Children on the Move / Xenophobia and social inclusion / return and reintegration / ethical recruitment with more ethics / corporate responsibility for climate change / "Migrants in vulnerable situations" and children should be treated as separate topics/ Safe, orderly and regular mechanisms of migration in the context of work</i>					
18	<b>Could you recommend any participants in the above sessions to be discussion starter(s) or moderator(s) in similar future sessions? Please specify the theme(s) accordingly.</b> <i>Caroline Horne (Destination Unknown) on Children on the Move / Michele LeVoy / John K. Bingham / William Gois / Ahmed Bugre / Emeka Obiezu / Louise Arbour/ A participant in theme 4 from the organisation ATIMA in Morocco</i>					

19	<b>Rapporteurs: How would you rate the following reports?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report of the Grand Rapporteur on the second Civil Society Day, Saturday 1 July (Rex Varona)</li> <li>Report of the Rapporteur on Children (Milena Franke)</li> <li>Report &amp; Bridging Paper of the Rapporteur on Women (Carolina Gottardo)</li> <li>Consolidated report back from the Outreach Meetings (Vincent Tournecueillert)</li> </ul>	1.8%	3.6%	10.7%	58.9%	25%
		-	-	22.6%	52.9%	24.5%
		-	1.9%	15.1%	58.5%	24.5%
		-	-	15.7%	60.8%	23.5%
20	<b>How would you rate the Reporting Templates prepared for each working and special session?</b>	1.8%		16.4%		81.8%
		Not useful		Indifferent		Useful
21	<b>How useful did you find the Convergence Matrix as a preparatory document for each CSD session?</b>	3.6%		12.5%		84%
22	<b>What is your overall rating of the unusual organization of this year's Common Space on Friday 30 June?</b>					
		<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content / themes</li> <li>Interaction between governments and civil society</li> <li>Format (big but short framing sessions followed by longer and smaller focus sessions)</li> <li>Strong involvement of Civil Society as discussion starters and moderators</li> </ul>	-	1.9%	17.6%	60.8%	19.6%
		1.8%	20%	31%	34.5%	12.7%
		-	1.8%	23.6%	56.4%	18.2%
		-	-	12.3%	47.4%	40.3%
23	<b>How do you assess the methodology of this years' Common Space, with rapporteurs from the corresponding civil society working or special session acting as discussion starters in Common Space?</b>	-	1.8%	5.5%	66.7%	25.9%
24	<b>How would you rate the report back from the Grand Rapporteur of Common Space, Gibril Faal on Common Space and during the opening Civil Society Day 2 plenary on Saturday 1 July? To what extent did the report reflect the discussions, recommendations, practices, and indicators that came out of the different framing sessions?</b>	-	5.4%	16.4%	49%	29%
Comments on Common Space	<i>Expand the limit of 200 civil society participants able to access Common Space / there should have been interpretation for all sessions / the relationship between Focus and Framing Sessions needs to be clearer / we have to move from a protocol space to a dialogue / more governments have to attend, listen, interact / the grand rapporteur's report of did not reflect the richness of the Common Space discussions / the timing for the rapporteur to include all reports from the different sessions in his report back was too tight / Gibril's report marked some important recommendations and worries of civil society towards the governments</i>					
25	<b>If you have attended the GFMD before, do you think that access to the government days was better or worse than in previous years?</b>	5.5%	36.1%	13.9%	30.5%	13.9%
26	<b>How do you rate the selection procedure of delegates for the Civil Society Days this year (due to the unprecedented shortness of only 6 months between the 2016 GFMD in Bangladesh in December and this year's GFMD, the International Steering Committee opted for the first time to not open a global open application process- but select delegates only from among those who participated in Bangladesh or were identified by a list of 60 civil society networks around the world)?</b>	1.8%	1.8%	18.2%	32.7%	30.9%
						Not aware 14.5%
Comments	<i>The selection process was very good and should be replicated in future GFMDs/ Allowed to ensure continuity in the discussions even though it is important to keep in mind an open application process to have some new reflections / more transparency would have helped / thanks for opening the platform for all regions and funding e.g. Latin American networks to attend. Still, delegates from the global north are predominant</i>					

Nr.	Questions	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
27	<b>How would you rate the number and diversity (in terms of regional and sectorial representation, youth, governments present ...) of participants?</b>	-	-	33.3%	55%	11.7%
28	<b>Who was missing?</b> (would you recommend any changes for future GFMDs?) <i>Refugee representatives / LGBT / East Africa/ MENA and Gulf / Caribbean / Pacific and Oceania / Global South / governments / media / private sector / academics</i>					
29	<b>How useful were the information emails sent out before the event?</b>	-	1.8%	10.9%	58.2%	29%
30	<b>Did you find the website useful in preparation of the event, during and after?</b>	-	6.8%	25.4%	40.7%	27.1%
31	<b>What do you think of the social media aspect, in particular the level of activity and usefulness of posted tweets, articles, press releases before, during and after the GFMD?</b> <i>It would have been nice to have a social media guide with lists of prepared tweets, graphics, hashtags, handles of influential governments/organizations/UN agencies/panellists / delegates should be more committed to interact / local press should be involved</i>					
32	<b>What did you think of the overall working conditions/set up of the venue of the Civil Society Days (Hotel Palace Berlin)?</b>	-	-	6.9%	58.6%	34.5%
Comments	<i>Handy to have all conference rooms on one floor / the display center on a separate floor wasn't ideal / Civil society doesn't need luxury, more money could be invested in financing participants</i>					
33	<b>Were you satisfied with the support of the organising staff and volunteers during the event?</b>	-	No	100% Yes		
34	<b>Did you have any interaction with governments during this year's GFMD that may lead to significant policy change?</b> <i>Switzerland / Germany / Mexico / Sweden / India / Philippines / Nepal / Korea / Ghana / Uganda / Nigeria / Morocco / Mexico / Ecuador / Bolivia</i>	34.6% No		36.5% To a certain extent		28.8% Yes
35	<b>What do you take away from this GFMD Civil Society Days that matters for your daily work?</b> <i>The importance that should be given to children rights in the global compacts / Positions by governments and Civil Society on a realistic and action oriented GCM / Discussion of post-reintegration was needed / Understanding the global political environment better, namely that governments are looking for the right to forced return of migrants and aim to secure their borders / a good foundation to discuss fiercely about return, readmission and reintegration / We must work hard to bring the voices of grassroots, regional and development organizations to the arenas of the compacts / good leadership examples / results should be more applicable to daily work / personal contacts with Civil Society and government representatives working on the same issues that my organization is working on/ greater vigilance and awareness given to the place and orientations of issues regarding return, readmission, reintegration and detention</i>					
36	<b>What follow-up actions would you like to see materializing between now and the GFMD Civil Society Days in Morocco in December 2018? If you can, please specify how these actions should be initiated and by whom?</b>					



	<p><i>By the steering committee and ICMC- send out updates, e.g. on outcomes of the government consultations / Coordination calls for the GCM process to strengthen common messaging from civil society during the stocktaking and negotiation phases. Initiated by members of the Action Committee, but open to participation by all / Joint civil society advocacy on a global compact for human mobility that is worth agreeing too. The ISC/Core Group/ Action Committee should take the lead, and NGOs should free up resources to invest in this joint work / individual interactions with own governments / ICMC/MADE should consolidate recommendations in a document and circulate among governments / informal and voluntary 'working groups' or 'networks' on certain topics or regions could be created. ICMC could propose this and then anyone could create such a group or join in /more civil society work on the ground, fighting not only for migrants' rights, but also for the right to live peacefully in communities, which are threatened by (trans-)national corporations / governments should develop a tangible policy on return and reintegration. EU Return directives should be reviewed by the EU parliament / Active engagement on the international, regional, national and local levels by all stakeholders in the creation of robust Global Compacts for Refugees and for Migrants</i></p>
37	<p><b>What should be the focus of the next GFMD Civil Society Days and/or Common Space in Morocco?</b></p> <p><i>Labour migration / Implementation of commitments and accountability at the national &amp; local levels / national strategy and action plan to implement Global Compact on Migration/ monitoring and complaint mechanisms for CS on implementation of GCM / Return and Reintegration / Detention of Migrants / Transnational Cooperation / Climate Change / Internal migration in Africa / tackle root causes of migration / ensure human rights focus in Global Compact</i></p>
38	<p><b>Going forward, do you think the GFMD continues to exist in its current form, and if not, what would you like to see changed? (e. g. more room for interaction between governments and civil society?)</b></p> <p><i>Yes, it's an important space for learning, advocacy and exchange. / More access to government discussions, perhaps through regional representatives / Outreach meetings should be developed to include more participants, especially youth / More interaction and use of innovative methodologies like World Café / we need binding commitments / Maybe consider GFMD governmental days and CSD being conducted at the same time entirely, allowing for closed and open sessions as in UNFCCC negotiations / I wish the GFMD could be more purposefully connected to tracking and monitoring of progress on the implementation of commitments/ It should be more accessible for the common public / Involve more workers on the ground - especially in the Asia/Pacific region and church people / develop a roadmap with actions to be taken until the next GFMD, to check on afterwards/ GFMD should continue but its effects should be made more visible in the lives of migrants across the Globe</i></p>
39	<p><b>Further comments</b></p> <p><i>Since we have focused Global Compact in our discussion this year, the UN initiated global campaign on racism and xenophobia, "Together", needs to be examined as well / Don't cut into questions or coffee breaks, both are important opportunities for people that have invested a lot to come / An excellent GFMD overall, well-conceived, well organized, well implemented. Congratulations! / Thank you for all the efforts of the organizers - your untiring labour and desire to continue to bring hope and better life for migrants are admirable. Mabuhay kayo!</i></p>