



**Remarks of the United States Government Delegation  
Global Forum on Migration and Development  
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Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Colleagues:

We are pleased to participate in the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and we join the other delegations' expressions of appreciation to our host, the Hellenic Republic of Greece. We also thank the Government of Greece for its able chairmanship and for its leadership in stimulating discussion during the preparatory meetings leading to this GFMD, including on the future of this state-led, non-binding, dynamic entity.

All our countries are affected by international migration. The U.S. hosts large migrant populations – indeed, we are a country with a long history and tradition of welcoming immigrants, and we highly value legal, orderly, and humane migration for the benefit and protection of all.

We strongly support the responsibilities of States to protect the human rights of all people, including migrants, in their territories. We take this responsibility very seriously and urge other States to do so.

Migration is a cross-cutting and multi-faceted issue with links to not only development but also to human rights, refugee protection, and national security, among many others. There are also important new questions being posed: What are the effects of environmental factors on migration? What is the impact of the

world economic crisis? How do we address migration issues in conflict zones?  
What are the special needs of women and children?

While there may be more questions than answers for some of these issues, what is certain is that nations must work together on solutions. Migration is addressed in an ever-increasing number of international entities all around the world. Numerous entities have been specifically devoted to migration for many years, such as the Inter-governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum, and Refugees (IGC), the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM - Western Hemisphere countries), and migration dialogues in Africa, South America, and Asia (Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa, South American Conference on Migration, Bali Process). These processes have proven to facilitate frank discussions and collaborative approaches to address migration challenges. In recent years, many other entities such as the UN, EU, HRC, G-8, OSCE, OECD, WHO, and the OAS have also increased their attention to migration issues – especially human rights-related issues. Migration dialogues provide numerous opportunities to highlight new ideas, foster collaboration, and share best practices.

We look forward to participating in the events of the coming days, and in discussions of the future of the GFMD, as a state-led, non-binding entity that promotes collaboration in the support of migration and development. We welcome a proactive role for the Support Unit, which was expressly created to provide technical administrative support. It can play a key role in facilitating continuity of GFMD as chairmanship changes from year to year. We would also welcome a compilation of the accomplishments of each GFMD since Brussels. Finally, possibly one of the most important features of the GFMD, and also one of the measures of its success, is what happens after the Forum takes place. As a new entity, the GFMD is still experiencing a youthful enthusiasm. It is up to the member countries to help it evolve into a useful and viable entity that can offer expertise and enhance collaboration.

Thank you very much.