Global Forum on Remittances and Development 2015

Celebrating the first International Day of Family Remittances

16-19 June 2015
Milan, Italy
The Global Forum on Remittances and Development (GFRD) is part of a series of ground-breaking and inclusive international forums organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, in collaboration with key partners. Over the last decade, these Forums have brought together stakeholders from all sectors around the world involved in the field of remittances, migration and development. The main focus of the Global Forums is to raise awareness, promote dialogue, stimulate partnerships and create long-lasting synergies among public and private sectors, and civil society actors. The Global Forums serve as the platform to share lessons learned and best practices, and have become a unique opportunity to discuss global remittance-related issues and find solutions to maximize the development impact of these flows.

The past editions of the Forum were held in collaboration with key regional and prominent international financial institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which launched the first International Forum in 2005 the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank.

### 2005
**International Forum on Remittances | AMERICAS**
Focused on Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Washington D.C. and organized by the IDB, after which the organization passed on to IFAD.

### 2007
**International Forum on Remittances | GLOBAL**
Global coverage, held in Washington D.C. and organized together with the IDB.

### 2009
**Global Forum on Remittances | AFRICA**
Focused on Africa, held in Tunis, in collaboration with the AfDB.

### 2013
**Global Forum on Remittances | ASIA**
Focused on Asia, held in Bangkok, and organized together with the World Bank.

### 2015
**Global Forum on Remittances and Development | EUROPE**
Focused on European and global markets, and development impact, organized by IFAD, the European Commission and the World Bank, to be held in Milan in conjunction with the Universal Exposition EXPO Milano 2015.
The GFRD2015: Europe

Over 230 million people currently live outside the countries they call home. The individual decisions to leave their families for destinations abroad are stories of great dedication and sacrifice, and have direct effects on development of countries of origins. Officially recorded remittances to developing countries are expected to reach half a trillion dollars this year, representing significantly more than all foreign direct investment to developing countries, and over three times larger than official development assistance. Simply put, remittances are an extremely important and stable source of private inflows to developing countries, helping to sustain the well-being and future prospects of millions of families.

Given their critical role, remittances continue to attract high-level domestic and international policy attention focusing on facilitating their safe and efficient flow, as well as maximizing their impact on economic growth and development. The quality and cost of remittance services can be among the most fundamental determinants of the ultimate impact of these flows. Such services vary significantly across remittance corridors, depending on market conditions in both sending and receiving countries.

No continent has more experience and ongoing involvement in remittances than Europe, being the source of enormous migration and resulting in remittances flowing back home. In the 21st century, Europe as a whole is a net sender of remittances; but in many European countries millions of families continue to rely on these flows.

The GFRD2015, co-hosted by IFAD’s Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), the World Bank and the European Commission, will bring together more than 300 experts and stakeholders to discuss and evaluate the great potential of remittances to and from Europe, and its global impact and implications.

General areas of focus:
- Identify the impact of remittances and economic implications in Europe and its related remittance corridors outside the continent;
- Facilitate the development of a remittances market more conducive towards financial inclusion;
- Develop effective Public-Private-People Partnership approaches in remittances and development; and
- Build a development framework to scale up successful strategies involving diaspora and remittances.

Main objectives:
- Support national governments in adopting favourable regulatory frameworks that promote low-cost remittances and greater financial inclusion;
- Highlight and demonstrate the importance of international and domestic remittances, particularly their impact when linked to other financial services such as savings, insurance and loans;
- Exchange worldwide best practices and market oriented models;
- Promote the scaling-up of successful initiatives involving the private sector as agents of innovation; and
- Contribute to the discussion and the thematic review of the post-2015 development agenda in the context of remittances, migration and development.

Register at www.RemittancesGateway.org/gfrd2015/register
# Preliminary agenda

## Public-sector day

**16 June**

**Celebration of the first International Day of Family Remittances**

In the afternoon, main discussions will focus on:
- Europe and its remittance corridors
- Policies and regulations
- Lessons learned, achievements, and current challenges
- European migration context
- G20 and GPFI development agenda
- Financial inclusion opportunities

Interactive Q&A sessions, and dedicated networking spaces and time slots

## Private-sector day

**17 June**

This day will be dedicated to:
- The remittance market context in 2015: Competition and transaction costs
- New technologies and non-traditional service providers to reach the “last mile”
- Public-private partnerships
- Opportunities and challenges in the remittance market
- Knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices

Interactive Q&A sessions, and dedicated networking spaces and time slots

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### Plenaries

are aimed at presenting the topic, and sharing best practices and lessons learned

### Parallel discussions

start with thematic presentations and are followed by an audience discussion, allowing interaction and exchanges among the participants

### Networking over coffee

breaks that allow the delegates to share their expertise and experiences, create synergies and strengthen partnerships
The Remittance Marketplace

The GFRD will host the Remittance Marketplace, which will run parallel to the Forum and provide a space for the private sector, development organizations and civil society stakeholders to exhibit their products, programmes and projects. It will also serve as a networking arena to promote partnerships and worldwide cross-learning experiences. Participants will learn about innovative business technology approaches to reduce transaction costs, and maximize the impact of remittances by linking them to other financial services. Up to 50 top companies will be invited to participate. These include representatives from migrant associations, remittance technology providers, commercial banks, MFIs, credit unions, money transfer companies, international organizations, financial regulatory agencies and donor agencies. The expected outcome of the Marketplace is the creation of stronger alliances and shared best practices with other key players in the remittance market.

Interactive Q&A sessions, and dedicated networking spaces and time slots

Civil society and development day

18 June

- Public, Private and People partnerships toward pro-poor and pro-profit investment models
- The potential role of the diaspora and its investment in countries of origin
- The importance of financial literacy to promote services and empower migrants
- The support of public policies to remittance-related initiatives to improve access to financial services.

Special meetings and workshops

19 June

A series of special events and workshops will be organized by partner organizations on the “Stella Polare” convention centre premises.

By invitation:
- Remittances 2020: IFIs’ strategic opportunities for development
- Pinoy Worldwide Initiative for Investment, Savings and Entrepreneurship
- Steering Committee of the FFR
- Steering Committee of the African Postal Financial Services Initiative
- Other special meetings

All photos taken at the GFR2013.
International Day of Family Remittances – 16 June 2015

The opening of the Global Forum will coincide with the first celebration of the International Day of Family Remittances, to be launched by IFAD. The purpose of this observance is to recognize and raise global awareness of the fundamental contributions made by migrant workers to the well-being of their families and communities of origin, and ways to promote policies and organization to maximize the development impact of these private flows.

The creation of an International Day for Family Remittances was unanimously recommended by representatives of the public and private sectors, and the civil society at the Global Forum on Remittances 2013 held in Bangkok.

Draft resolution of IFAD’s International Day of Family Remittances

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and Member States on 3-4 October 2013,

Recalling Resolution 55/93 adopted by the General Assembly, proclaiming 18 December as International Migrants Day, which calls for the protection of their human rights,

Welcoming the recommendation, unanimously endorsed by representatives of the public and private sectors and civil society during IFAD’s Global Forum on Remittances, held in Bangkok on 20-23 May 2013, to declare an International Day of Family Remittances,

Considering that in many developing countries, international remittances constitute an important source of income to poor families, projected to exceed US$500 billion annually from 2016 onward,

Noting that the transformative impact remittances have on access to education, food, health and housing is most apparent in communities of the developing world, particularly in rural areas where poverty rates are highest,

Recognizing the critical contributions of migrants in supporting their families living in fragile states and during times of crisis,

Recognizing the work done by Member States, the United Nations system and the role of civil society organizations in promoting the development impact of family remittances,

Recognizing the role of the private sector in developing cost-effective and accessible financial transfer services,

Noting that families, as basic units of social life, are major agents of sustainable development at all levels of society and that their contribution to that process is crucial for its success,

Stressing that South-South remittances can represent an important element for international cooperation among developing countries, in their collective pursuit of economic growth and sustainable development,

Mindful that millions of families in rural areas are also supported by domestic remittances sent by family members typically living in urban locations,

(a) Proclaims 16 June to be the International Day of Family Remittances,
(b) Invites all governments, private-sector entities, civil society representatives and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake special efforts in observance of this Day,
(c) Focuses attention on the receiving end of family remittances, and the need to capitalize on their potential to further help meet the economic, social and environmental challenges confronting developing countries, particularly in rural areas,
(d) Encourages the private sector to facilitate the sending of remittances and to link these flows to a range of financial services and products for migrants and their families,
(e) Invites civil society organizations to bring forward initiatives based on synergies and partnerships with international organizations, governments and the private sector, that enhance the development impact of remittances in communities of origin,
(f) Calls upon the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the observance of this Day.
Useful information

“Stella Polare” convention centre
The GFRD2015 will take place at the “Stella Polare” convention centre, located within one of Europe’s largest exhibition centres, and next to the main entrance of EXPO Milano 2015.

Registration
Registrations on www.RemittancesGateway.org will be opened from 6 February to 15 May 2015. Participation in the Forum will be free of charge. However, due to limited space, please note that your registration will be reviewed by the GFRD2015 Organizing Team, and will follow an approval process according to the requirements on the registration form. Within 48 hours, once your participation is confirmed, you may secure your accommodation accordingly.

Visa
The GFRD2015 Organizing Team will provide invitation letters if needed. For visa requirements, please visit www.esteri.it/visti/home_eng.asp

Getting to the venue
- By Underground: Line 1 to Rho Fiera Milano terminus
- By Air: Malpensa and Linate airports
- By train: Stazione Centrale, Garibaldi or Cadorna

Accommodation
Due to EXPO Milano 2015 and many other concurring events taking place during the Forum days, the offer for accommodation is already limited. The GFRD2015 Organizing Team is securing a number of rooms in selected hotels until the end of March. For this reason, we strongly recommend that you secure your accommodation as soon as possible.

More information can be found at www.RemittancesGateway.org

Expo Milano 2015 – Feeding the planet, energy for life
EXPO Milano 2015 is a universal exposition with some unique and innovative features. Not only is it an exhibition but also a process, one of active participation among a large number of players around the theme of Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life.

Open from 1 May to 31 October 2015, the Expo will host 145 countries, 3 international organizations, 13 non-governmental organizations and many other non-official participants. Running for 184 days, this giant exhibition site, covering one million square metres, is expected to welcome over 20 million visitors, from 60,000 to a daily peak of 250,000 visitors per day.

Visitors will experience a unique journey that looks at the complex theme of nutrition. They will be able to take a trip around the world, sampling the food and traditions of people from all over the globe. EXPO Milano 2015 will be the first exposition in history to be remembered not only for its products but also for its contribution to education on food and the planet’s precious resources.
The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a United Nations specialized agency dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in the rural areas of developing countries. IFAD’s US$35 million multi-donor facility – the Financing Facility for Remittances – increases economic opportunities for poor rural people by supporting and developing innovative, scalable cost-effective and easily accessible remittance services that promote financial inclusion and productive investment in rural areas. Currently the Facility’s portfolio includes almost 50 projects in more than 40 countries across the developing world.

The World Bank Group is a leader in financial infrastructure development in emerging markets, including payment systems and remittances, credit reporting and secured lending. Its Payment Systems Development Group has been active in over 100 countries through a variety of instruments, including support to comprehensive reform programmes, development of reform strategies, technical advice and management of multi-country and regional initiatives.

The EU and its Member States are the world’s largest aid donor, providing more than half of public aid in 2013. EU development aid goes to around 150 countries in the world, increasingly focusing on countries and sectors where it can make the biggest difference and be most effective. The European Commission engages with the main countries of origin, and transit and destination countries to promote effective governance of migration and mobility and improved management of migratory flows. It seeks to enhance the positive impact that increased regional and global migration and mobility can have on economic, social and environmental development, and improve a common understanding of the migration and development nexus.