

Meeting of the Friends of the Forum
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Report from Civil Society
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*As prepared for delivery;
referenced Civil society documents available
at www.madenetwork.org/documents*

Co-Chairs, Ambassadors, Representatives of Member States, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first tell you how much an honour it is for me to start as the new Director of Policy at the ICMC with this very meeting of the GFMD Friends of the Forum. This is indeed very symbolic and it reflects the importance ICMC's engagement with the Global Forum for Migration and Development, and our organisation's appreciation for the continued engagement of civil society in the GFMD processes.

On February 1st, I succeeded John Bingham, who was your main counterpart and stayed as ICMC Head of Policy for 12 years. I fully realize how much I will need to learn in spite of being involved with migrants and refugees for the last 25 years, my latest post as UNHCR Regional Representative for Southern Europe, dealing with the Central Mediterranean situation. I am also glad to introduce to you my colleagues Emer Groarke, who will be working in Geneva, being the main focal point for GMFD Civil Society Coordinating Office working closely with Sophie van Haasen, who will be following the GCM process in NYC and continuing our co-convening role of the Civil Society Action Committee.

I want to start by thanking the Co-Chairs for honouring Mr. Peter Sutherland at the beginning of this meeting. As many of you may know, Mr. Sutherland was the President of ICMC from 2014 to 2017. But more than that, he was an inspiration and a visionary at a time when we needed just that, and it was a privilege for us to have his wisdom guide our migration and development work. He will be greatly missed.

This Friends of the Forum not only kick-starts the GFMD New Year, but also coincides with the release of both the zero draft of the Refugee Compact, released last week, and the Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration, released later today. In many ways, this GFMD year will be a key year

for migrants and refugees, with the GFMD taking place back to back with the International Conference to adopt the GCM. We welcome the focus of the German and Moroccan Co-Chairs to explore the role of the GFMD in the GCM and its implementation and monitoring.

The strong linkages between the GFMD and GCM processes have been widely acknowledged by global civil society – and by many of you in this room today – , and this has been reflected in the two past GFMD Civil Society Days focussing entirely on the global compact process. For example in the GFMD 2017, our entire 2 days were tailored around formulating common messages, civil society red lines and existing practices towards the GCM process, and beyond, in our own advocacy with governments in the coming months.

One of the concrete outcomes of GFMD 2017 was the strong commitment from the core members of the International Steering Committee, to work together on a civil society vision towards the GCM, what we call the Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact. This document, which has been presented to you in the previous Friends of the Forum meetings, currently exists in English, French, Russian and Spanish (with upcoming translations into Arabic and Chinese), and it has been signed by over 220 organisations. (all online: www.madenetwork.org/ten-acts and available in the back of the room). This document presents a unified vision of civil society around the GCM – not the only vision – but one gathering together of much of civil society thinking in previous High Level Dialogue's, GFMD Civil Society Days, and the High Level Summit in 2016.

One area where there is wide civil society convergence, for example, is the interaction between the GCM and the GCR. As Mr. Fouinat mentioned earlier on, the realities of migrants and refugees on the ground are often strongly interlinked: these two compacts have to interact. Complementarity is much too soft a word for the reality on the ground. We know this from the Puerto Vallarta meeting and at regional consultations, because in every single one of them in Civil Society, we asked the question, "Is there anything in the Now and How Ten Acts that we've put together that only applies to migrants or only applies to refugees?" and the answer was "NO, "NO", and again "NO". We have to see these compacts as they interact across the range of human mobility. Negotiations for both compacts will take place on two different continents, but we hope the governments take up this role to look at both compacts together. We in civil society certainly intend to.

As we announced in the previous Friends of the Forum last November, civil society self-organized a Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy meeting in Puerto Vallarta on 2-3 December, immediately prior to the government-led Conference, also taking place in Puerto Vallarta. Over 70 national, regional and global civil society leaders came together to strategize towards the GCM, 55 of whom then went on to participate in the government-led Stocktaking from 4-6 December.

The first day of this meeting was to take stock and take forward the main results of the seven GCM-related regional consultations, the GMFDs and the Children on the Move Conference, among others. We dedicated the entirety of the second day to conversation directly with governments, and we had 50 representatives with us for five and a half hours from 23 different governments. Focused mostly on the issues outlined in the Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact, we met mostly in small informal tables similar to those we have held for the last 4 years in the GFMD to such good effect.

The response we received from governments and civil society about these Puerto Vallarta tables was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to replicating and innovating on them again in future spaces, including the GFMD 2018. You can find the outcome report of the civil society meeting at the back of the room [here](#).

We have received the Co-Chairs draft Concept Paper for the 2018 GFMD. While we are consulting with our partners in the International Steering Committee to prepare our inputs on this, we can already note with interest that the second priority of the Concept Paper is to propose that a ten-year review be conducted, through an external expert or agency, to highlight GFMD's successes and challenges in addressing migration as a development issue. As point 10.6 of the Ten Acts Document recommends, beyond organizing regular review and monitoring meetings of the Compact's implementation, to "revamp the Global Forum on Migration and Development as a forum for exchange and learning between member states, civil society and the private sector", we look forward to exploring the "hows" of this, with governments, our private sector partners and other stakeholders. In our view, this would be an important and concrete contribution to what the UN Secretary-General, in its latest report "Making Migration Work for All", call "the Need for a Respectful and Realistic Debate about Migration.

Finally, as in the previous years, we will need to count on your generous contribution for the ICMC to be able to organize and coordinate civil society participation in the GMFD. We will be presenting you a budget within the next two weeks, which you can expect to be in the range of 900,000 US dollars, including the organization of all civil society meeting, venue, and transportation etc. Today, I already want to thank those governments who have mentioned upcoming support to our work.

Thank you once again for your support.