

“Enhancing the human development of migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and states”

**Third Meeting of the GFMD Steering Group,
Extended also to the Friends of the Forum**

**Salle II, International Labour Organization
29 June 2012; 9.30 to 12.45 hrs**

Chair: Mr. Ali Mansoor, Mauritius GFMD Chair

Mauritian GFMD Taskforce: Amb. Shree B.C. Servansing, Mr Adam Koodoruth, Dr Rolph Jenny, Dr Irena Omelaniuk, Mr Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Ms Elizabeth Adjei, Ms Anja Klug, Ms Estrella Lajom, Ms Anja Klug, Ms Christel Adamou

Report of the Proceedings

Part I. Meeting of the GFMD Steering Group

1. Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Ali Mansoor, GFMD 2012 Chair, welcomed delegates from 28 GFMD Steering Group Members to the third preparatory meeting of the GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting to be held in Mauritius on 21-22 November 2012. He was flanked at the podium by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Migration and Development (SRSG), Sir Peter Sutherland and Ambassador Shree Servansing, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UNOG, and Chair of the GFMD Assessment (Phase 2) process.

The Chair began by seeking feedback from the Steering Group on whether or not the GFMD 2012 process was going in the right direction. He believed that any adjustment could be made in time to complete the substantive preparations by September. In this regard, he announced that the next meeting of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum will be held on 10 September, instead of 11-12 September, as originally planned.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

No comment or suggestion was made concerning the Provisional Agenda. But the Chair clarified that he would first provide an update on the substantive and logistical preparations for the November Summit Meeting. Thereafter, Amb Servansing will report on the progress of the GFMD Assessment (Phase 2) process.

3. Chair’s Update on the GFMD 2012 Preparations¹

¹ See the accompanying PowerPoint which is posted on the GFMD web portal, www.gfmd.org

The Chair gave assurance that the work on the Roundtables has proceeded well. He thanked all co-chairs and team members of the 7 RT sessions² for the work that has been done so far. Each RT session aims at achieving some concrete outcomes, as follows:

Roundtable 1: Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development

RT session 1.1: Beyond-the-border Skills and Jobs for Human Development

- **Strategies/ facilities to support learning & improve human capital** in COOs - as a development & business strategy for cross-border labour exchange.
- **Skills upgrading mechanisms and skills recognition models** in CODs & COOs; policies to maximize the benefits of upgraded and recognized skills.
- Effective **methods of matching migrant skills** with available jobs abroad; as well as with jobs in the country of origin upon return; and
- **Models of legal and policy frameworks** for forms of circular labor mobility that include the above empowering features.

RT session 1.2: Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socioeconomic Change

- **Policies and mechanisms** to encourage migrants/diaspora to invest in the development of their countries/regions of origin and/or a business on return (matching grant schemes; databases; information portals);
- **Model public-private partnerships** to develop the private sector and improve the business climate in COOs (thereby encouraging diaspora investment);
- Participating countries to design/develop **comprehensive national policies to engage diaspora** as business partners in development; and initiate actions to implement such policies within a specific timeframe.

Roundtable 2: Factoring Migration into Development Planning

RT session 2.1: Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies

- Governments design comprehensive **national policies on Migration and Development Mainstreaming, Extended Migration Profiles** and other migration-related development strategies, and initiate actions to implement such policies within a specific timeframe.
- The inter-relation, mutually reinforcing role and synergetic use of these tools and policies is promoted for **evidence-based and coherent migration and development practices**.
- The **GFMD's Platform for Partnership's repository**, where such information on migration and development planning tools is made available is tested as a useful information sharing and awareness raising mechanism.

RT session 2.2: Addressing South-South Migration and Development Policies

- Governments gain an in-depth **understanding of migrant stocks and migration flows** in developing countries, including the drivers and types of South-South movements in all regions of the Global South.
- The **development potential of South-South labour mobility** is harnessed by defining relevant policy solutions, such as the implementation of Migration Profiles and Migration and Development Mainstreaming processes, the reduction of remittances costs, more circular migration arrangements and public-private partnerships.
- National capacities for migration and development governance is enhanced, through **improved migration and development data gathering and enhanced information-sharing** between countries of origin and destination in the South-South context.

² See _____ for GFMD 2012 Roundtable Team Matrix.

Roundtable 3: Managing Migration and Perceptions of Migration for Development Outcomes

RT session 3.1: Improving Public Perceptions of Migrants and Migration

- **Model programs and policies** at national and local levels in developed and developing countries that engage migrants, diaspora and the host communities in mutually beneficial ways that serve to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration.
- **Innovative media programs** (including those using social media), especially those that directly involve migrants and diasporas in expressing themselves, that broaden public understanding and appreciation of the contributions that migrants and diasporas make to their home and host countries.
- **Settlement, integration, citizenship and multiculturalism policies and programs** that actively promote intercultural understanding, welcoming communities and an enhanced respect for core democratic and civic values.

RT session 3.2: Migrant Protection and Migration Management

- **Practical ways** on how governments can best reconcile migration management objectives and protection prerogatives
- **Lessons learnt** and good practices
- **Compilation of selected references** to existing materials and tools on --
 - Managing sea borders while ensuring the protection of migrants in distress at sea
 - Managing land borders while protecting separated and/or unaccompanied children
 - Preventing and combating the violation of labour law standards and human trafficking while protecting the victims
 - Meeting migration management objectives and assisting migrants affected by crisis

RT session 3.3: Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers-Enhancing their Development Potential

- Key principles of the ILO Convention 189, a new and landmark **international framework governing the rights of migrant domestic workers** are promoted and shared with governments
- Good practices and practical tools in implementing social and legal protections for domestic workers,(**e.g. employment contracts, bilateral agreements, monitoring of private recruitment agencies, extending social security coverage**) which contribute to maximizing their development potential to countries of origin and destination are showcased and shared.
- Concrete recommendations for **states and civil society organizations to work together** to adopt policy and legal reforms to reflect the standards of the Convention 189 are developed and adopted
- **Current gaps in data collection and analysis on migrant domestic workers** and ways in which these can be addressed, including the sharing of illustrative practices of international domestic work being factored into country and regional migration profiles and existing models for collecting gender disaggregated data are identified and discussed.

The Chair was hopeful that through these Roundtables, good practices, policies and programs will emerge which can be shared during the actual meetings in November and in the context of the GFMD Platform for Partnerships.

The Chair also reported on preparatory activities held recently in Port Louis and Brussels. The Chair thanked the co-chairs and implementing partners of these preparatory activities.

- 1) On 11 June, a brainstorming meeting on *Enhancing Intra-African Cooperation on Migration and Development Policies* was organized by the Mauritian Chair, in

cooperation with the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). As a result of this workshop, a coalition of a few African countries, including Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya and Morocco, has expressed a willingness to explore an ambitious program on enhancing intra-African labour mobility and skills development, which could bring about economic, social and human benefits to the African region. The program, envisaged to last from 18 months to two years, aims to focus on two difficult areas in migration and development – i.e., irregular migration and empowering refugees. The objective is to promote some burden-sharing between industrialized countries and emerging markets, particularly in Africa, to link refugees to the labour market by utilizing existing protocols within the framework of SADC, COMESA, and ECOWAS and applying the Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) approach.

The Chair clarified that this initiative is not a GFMD project; rather, it is a separate process being launched by the Chair through the GFMD, to bring together interested countries who can work on said priority areas. As a work in progress, representatives of the aforementioned countries will first seek mandates from their respective governments to be able to support it. The Chair would like to get confirmations from these countries by September, when another workshop³ on “refugees and labour mobility” will be convened by the Chair, in cooperation with the UNHCR and ILO.

The Chair encouraged governments from other regions, particularly the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific, to also join in this initiative. Like the *acqui communautaire* of Eastern Europe, this program will need dedicated, additional and predictable resources if it were to succeed. To this end, the Chair would like to put together an ambitious proposal and submit it to the European Union (EU). Based on consultations with the EU in Brussels, labour mobility will be one of the EU’s three priority areas for its next programming cycle which will start in two years. Furthermore, he has also flagged the proposal to the African Development Bank and the World Bank, and will likewise seek support from bilateral donors.

- 2) On 12-13 June, the Mauritian GFMD Chair co-organized with Switzerland and the Global Migration Group, with support from Sweden, a workshop on ***Factoring Migration into Development Planning***. The report of this workshop was being drafted, to be posted on the GFMD web portal as soon as possible.
- 3) On 14-15 June, the Mauritian GFMD Chair, together with the World Bank, co-chaired and co-organized the 2nd High Level Forum on ***Harnessing Diaspora Resources for Development in Africa***.
- 4) 26 June: A workshop on ***Promoting Policy Coherence for Development in International Migration Issues*** was held in Brussels, co-organized by Switzerland and Finland.

Before opening the floor for questions and comments, the Chair also discussed the current budget situation. He thanked all GFMD 2012 donors⁴ that have offered financial contributions amounting to about USD 2.63 Million, leaving a gap of around USD 891,000. He expressed the wish that apart from government delegates from developing countries, particularly the ACP countries, representatives of the civil society and/or the private sector could also participate in the Summit

³ For more information about this workshop, please contact Ms Anja Klug, adviser to the GFMD 2012 Chair, at aklug@gfmd.org.

⁴ As of 29 June, pledges and contributions were received from 16 Governments (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Ghana, Hungary, India, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America); 3 international organizations (IOM, UNHCR, World Bank), and 1 international foundation (MacArthur Foundation).

Meeting. In this regard, he urged donor countries to make an effort to offer more financial support, in order to give a more representative voice to these important non-government stakeholders that are governments' partners in implementing programs that could benefit migrants.

The Chair also urged ACP Member States to write to the ACP Secretariat and convey their request for financial assistance as soon as possible, to enable them to participate at the Summit Meeting.

On the practical aspects of the November Summit Meeting, the Chair reminded the delegates to be mindful of international travel rules on visa and passport validity⁵. The Government of Mauritius will endeavour to facilitate the travel of GFMD delegates, but those who require visa to enter the country are requested to submit their visa applications early on. The Chair also announced that hotels in Mauritius have agreed to extend the option date until 31 July. Beyond this date, hotel rates and availability can no longer be guaranteed. Thus, delegations must convey their delegation size to the GFMD Support Unit not later than 31 July. A comprehensive Practical Information for Participants⁶ has been posted online to guide everyone on all logistical matters concerning the November Summit.

The Chair then opened the floor for questions and answers. 7 delegates made the following comments:

- On 12 October 2012, a workshop will be co-organized by France and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris to support the preparations of Roundtable 1.2 on *Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socio-economic Change*. It will be foregrounded by the findings of two surveys conducted by France and the OECD on the profiles of migrant communities and policies in OECD countries on using migrants' knowledge for development.
- The Philippines will host another workshop in September⁷ on global care, with a focus on the Asian region, following similar initiatives held in Ghana and Jamaica last year. Supported by the UN Women, ILO, IOM and IFRC, the workshop will feed into RT 3.3 on *Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers*.
- Ecuador will chair the Latin America and the Caribbean group on refugees, as well as coordinate the thematic workshop on refugees and labour mobility in September.
- As a show of support for the Mauritian GFMD Chair, the Governments of Mexico and Ghana will contribute USD 50,000 and USD 10,000, respectively, towards the GFMD 2012 budget.
- One delegate commended the co-chairs and team members of RT 3.1, RT 3.2 and RT 3.3 for their leadership and creativity in organizing the sessions.

4. Update on the Assessment (Phase 2)

Ambassador Servansing, GFMD Assessment Chair, presented the draft Consolidated Assessment Paper (Phase 2), a product of 6 months' intensive actual⁸ and electronic consultations by the

⁵ Most airlines require travellers to hold a passport with at least 6-months validity at the time of departure.

⁶ Go to www.gfmd.org for the online Practical Information.

⁷ The date of the workshop has not yet been firmed up. It will be posted on the GFMD web portal as soon as it becomes available.

⁸ The GFMD Assessment Team met on 6 February, 14 March, 26 April and 25 May 2012 in Geneva.

GFMD Assessment Team. The document reflects the consensus reached by the Assessment Team through in-depth, often critical and contradictory analysis of issues at hand. In a spirit of compromise, the Assessment Team managed to put together the document with only two points in bracket, to be finalized in the coming weeks.

The paper is structured in three parts. **Section A** sets out the draft Common Vision of the Future of the Forum, drawn from the working document prepared by Mexico and UAE on “The future of the GFMD: Elements for a political and strategic discussion.” **Section B** defines some action areas⁹, in line with the three framing pillars, or core objectives, of the Future of the Forum, namely: 1) *Consolidation of the Forum*; 2) *Enhancement of the Forum’s Impact in the Global Migration and Development Agenda*; and 3) *Ensuring the Forum’s Sustainability*. **Section C** offers a few comments on the GFMD’s possible contribution to the Second UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

Amb Servansing emphasized that the paper is still a work in progress. Written comments will be welcome until 13 July, following which a second draft will be prepared. Further comments on the second draft could be sent to the Chair by end August. The Chair anticipated that a final consensus will be reached at the next GFMD preparatory meetings in September, and the final document will be presented at the Special Session on the Future of the Forum at the GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting in November.

For the High Level Dialogue in September 2013, the Chair held the view that the final GFMD Assessment report could include the final version of 2011 Phase 1 Assessment Survey Report and 2012 Phase 2 Assessment Paper, and a summary of the Special Session on the future of the Forum at the November summit meeting in Mauritius. In addition, a comprehensive factual report reflecting GFMD achievements, practices and thematic outcomes from 2007 to end 2012 could be prepared before the end of the year.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and contributions. 8 delegates commended the GFMD Assessment Team for the excellent draft, as well as Amb Servansing for his leadership in the process. Some delegates offered to submit written comments. The following specific remarks were made from the floor:

- One delegate agreed with the suggestion to complete the work of the Assessment Team, including the preparation of the report to the HLD, before the end of 2012.
- Two delegates supported the idea of a multi-year thematic agenda and held the view that in order to ensure its sustainability and global inclusiveness, the GFMD should avoid unnecessary institutional development and remain state-led, informal and independent.
- One delegate welcomed the proposed common vision for the Forum, particularly described in Paragraph A.5.¹⁰ He suggested this text to be used as a vision statement for the GFMD, to be made more prominent in future papers and public communications. He agreed that the participation of national level development actors in the Forum should be enhanced, possibly using the whole-of-government approach. He expressed concern about the suggestion that preparatory focused thematic workshops be organized before the summit meeting, as these actually entail more work for the Chair than organizing a single

⁹ Each action area in section B was allocated to one of these pillars, on the understanding, however, that the pillars are interconnected and mutually supportive and that some action areas could have been attributed to more than one pillar.

¹⁰ Par. 5, states, “As commonly agreed objectives, these underpin the **Common Vision of a Forum process** that is consolidated, coherent and cohesive; impacts positively on migrants’ lives and on policies of countries of origin, transit and destination, and sustains itself into the future as an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process.”

Summit. He disagreed with the suggestion for civil society to participate in the Roundtables, and stressed that the Roundtables should be limited primarily to member states and, to a certain extent, to GMG members as GFMD observers.

- Two delegates sought clarification on the idea of spacing out the annual summit meetings and how it could affect the annual rotation of the GFMD Chair.
- One delegate believed that the principal challenge posed to all governments by the HLD in 2013 is to answer fundamental questions on the international governance of migration and development issues and their inter-linkages.
- Two delegates were pleased to see efforts to establish a link between the assessment document and the High Level Dialogue (HLD), hoping that the HLD will deliver a strong message of support for the Forum. One of them urged the meeting to take advantage of the special session on the Future of the Forum in November to discuss this link in a more interactive venue, rather than have mere electronic consultations.
- One delegate would like to see the reinforcement of the Support Unit, which was deemed to have carried out an excellent work in the GFMD process. According to this delegate, the Support Unit has an important role to play given its engagement and experience. Thus, in assessing the current role and capacity of the Support Unit and deciding on its future, governments should benefit from the direct input of the Support Unit. Another delegate, however, cautioned against the institutionalization of a secretariat.

Amb Servansing welcomed the submission of written comments, but underlined the need to build a consensus around the paper rather than add more ideas into it. He responded to some of the questions raised –

- a) On the spacing of summit meetings, he pointed out that while the Operating Modalities provide for an annual meeting, in reality, the intervals between summit meetings have varied from 12 to 16 months. In drafting the text, the Assessment Team saw the need for flexibility for some Chairs, under certain circumstances, to have a preparatory period longer than 12 months. However, this has to be discussed first within the Steering Group.
- b) On the role of civil society in roundtable preparations, the Assessment Team agreed that there should be no institutionalized participation by civil society. But to promote more efficient, more creative and more productive roundtables, the Chairs may have flexibility in optimizing inputs from varied non-government stakeholders, be it the civil society, private sector, or international organizations.

Part II. Meeting Extended to other Friends of the Forum

At 11:40 hours, the Chair opened the meeting to delegates from 53 other governments and GFMD Observers comprising the Friends of the Forum. He thanked the International Labour Organization (ILO) for hosting the meeting. He also invited all delegates to attend the launch of the IOM-springer publication entitled, “Global Perspectives on Migration and Development.”¹¹

The Chair then echoed the report he made to the Steering Group concerning the state of play of the Roundtable preparations and other GFMD-related activities, as well as the practical arrangements (see no. 3 above).

¹¹ The book was edited by Dr. Irena Omelaniuk, Senior Adviser of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

He then presented the Chair's proposed format for the GFMD 2012 Common Space¹² which has the overarching theme, *Migration and Development: Common Ground and Partnerships in Action*. The three-hour Common Space will be organized in three segments – an introductory plenary, three parallel breakout sessions, and a concluding session where the results of the discussions will be pulled together. Three themes are being proposed for the simultaneous breakout sessions, namely: a) *Common ground and partnerships with migrants and diaspora for development*; b) *Common ground and partnerships to protect migrants in crisis*; and c) *Labour mobility and skills development for inclusive growth and jobs*.

Two delegates expressed full support for the proposal, affirming the importance of promoting a more interactive and effective dialogue with the civil society and private sector. One offered to submit in writing some possible modification on the theme(s), while the other made a suggestion to indicate ahead of the meeting which break-out session the delegates will attend, in order to manage the meeting well. A third delegate, however, expressed some reservation about pre-selecting the theme for the break-out session for two reasons – a) it causes fragmentation of the process and b) small delegations have difficulty covering all three sessions simultaneously.

The Chair welcomed the offer of assistance and suggestions made, but underscored the need to finalize the proposal. Mr. Chukwu Emeka-Chikezie then enjoined governments to ensure their ownership and participation in the Common Space. He looked forward to receiving final suggestions from the governments, and anticipated that a clearer picture of the Common Space will be presented at the next GFMD preparatory meetings in September.

Mr. John Bingham of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)¹³ thereafter provided an update on the progress of the GFMD 2012 civil society process. He highlighted the fact that the Common Space format will focus on central thematic elements of both government and civil society roundtables, thereby promoting a dialogue with potential inputs of direct relevance to the objectives of the GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting. In regard to its own roundtable themes, civil society will center upon: 1) labour mobility and labour matching, 2) protection of migrants and their families and 3) diaspora and development. The roundtable sessions will aim to identify not only good practices, but also mechanisms, frameworks and tools that already exist. Additionally, the Civil Society Days programme will have a specific track focused on the High Level Dialogue and beyond.

After the discussions on the common space and the civil society process, Amb. Servansing reported to the Friends of the Forum on the progress of the GFMD Assessment (Phase 2) exercise, repeating what he conveyed earlier to the GFMD Steering Group (see point 4 above). He invited the Friends of the Forum to submit their contributions or comments to the Assessment Team until 13 July 2012.

In closing, the Chair thanked the delegates for their attendance and active participation, and urged them to register and prepare early on for the November Summit Meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 12:45hrs.

*Prepared by
GFMD Support Unit*

¹²

¹³ The ICMC is the coordinating office of the GFMD 2012 civil society process. Pls go to _____ for a copy of his full report to the Friends of the Forum on 29 June 2012.