

OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GFMD STEERING GROUP

The aim of the Swedish Chairmanship was to move into a second phase of the Global Forum – building on the progress made over the six previous chairmanships as well as the results from the two-year assessment of the GFMD and the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. As a follow-up to the assessment much focus during the Swedish Chairmanship was on improving the GFMD as a process. Several initiatives were taken but work still remains to be done especially in implementing some of the frameworks that were developed.

This report to the Steering Group highlights some recommendations on the way forward coming out of the Swedish Chairmanship. It focuses foremost on the process related aspects and strategic questions of the GFMD, in which the Steering Group has a special role.

1. Implementing the terms of references for the Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum

While keeping the informality of the GFMD, work has been carried out to enhance and clarify the roles of the different structures of the GFMD. Terms of references were developed for the different structures, including a system for a more effective Steering Group. One considerable change is the limitation of members and a soft rotational system for the Steering Group. It is now important that these instruments are implemented in order to make them operational and effective. In essence this means:

- The SG is now comprised of the 29 countries that during the Swedish Chairmanship confirmed their willingness to continue as SG members
- The number of members of the SG should be kept at no more than 30
- In order to allow for new members to join the SG and at the same time avoid expanding its size, an informal rotational system is applied to allow countries to express their interest to join the SG and for others to rotate off for a certain period of time
- Once a year, in connection with the annual pledging meeting countries will be asked to reconfirm their interest and commitment to continue as members of the SG the following year. Non-SG members will at the same time be given the possibility to express their interest to join the SG for a certain period of time
- Given the virtue of its leadership of the GFMD process, the Troika will have a role in the discussions of the composition of the SG in order to ensure a well-functioning and dynamic SG that also allows for new members to join

2. Continuing to reinforce the Support Unit

The Support Unit is a key component of the Forum's supporting framework and helps assure continuity from one Chair to the next. The Swedish Chair therefore worked to reinforce the Support Unit. A well-functioning Support Unit will be crucial for the continued viability of the GFMD.

The process of recruiting a new professional staff (P2) has started. This post will help strengthen the capacity of the support unit and will be focusing on communication. The aim is also to have a more stable situation with a permanent administrative assistant and not rely too much on temporary short-term interns.

3. Implementing the long-term financing framework;

There are several new elements that have been introduced to the GFMD-process through the new long-term financing framework. The main features are:

- A multiannual funding mechanism with a clear governance and accountability framework
- A standardized budget used by all Chairs-in-office with indicative figures for costs that are relatively constant from one year to the next. A standardized budget facilitates the setting up of a Chairmanship budget and the comparison from one year to the next
- An established pledging mechanism, which implies that a formal pledging meeting is organised at the outset of each chairmanship. The meeting will also make room for civil society to present their budget and work plan for pledges as an integral part of the meeting
- A review of the framework is scheduled for 2017

The framework will become effective upon the written agreement between the Chair-in-office and IOM, as the host of the Support Unit. The role of the Chair-in-office and the Troika, in cooperation with all participating states, is to implement and make the best use of this new framework which will greatly improve the transparency and predictability of the GFMD.

One issue that was highlighted during the discussion on the new long-term financing framework was whether or not contributions to GFMD can be counted as official development assistance (ODA) according to OECD/DAC standards/norms (DAC-ability). The issue of the DAC-ability of contributions to the GFMD was latest discussed in OECD Working Party on Statistics (WP/STAT) in the summer 2012. In the report of the meeting the following can be found regarding funding to GFMD *“On the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Sweden proposed and the meeting agreed that all contributions earmarked for developmental purposes should be reportable as ODA, not just contributions to developing country representatives’ participation costs.”* This statement leaves some room for interpretation by donor governments. However it can be problematic as the GFMD is not included on the OECD list of organizations that are DAC-able and most governments therefore exclude contributions to the GFMD from ODA statistics. During the Swedish Chairmanship there were countries that expressed an interest to pursue this issue further. It would be recommendable that participating states of the GFMD takes this issue further within the OECD.

4. Updating the GFMD Multi-annual work plan;

A format for a multi-annual work plan has been adopted for the GFMD. The Chair-in-Office will need to review this based on its own priorities and update the work plan in consultation with the Troika. As the priorities of the incoming Chair become known, they should also be included in the work plan. It would be valuable to use the regular meetings between the SRSG and the respective Troikas of the GFMD and GMG to convey member state concerns and thus try to influence the work plan of the GMG. Similarly, consideration may be given to the work plan of the GMG when updating the work plan of the GFMD in order to identify possible synergies.

5. Memorandum of understanding between the GFMD and IOM

Work to clarify the roles and responsibility between the Chair-in-office, the Support Unit and the IOM, as the hosting entity of the Support Unit, has been initiated. The proposal is that no changes are done in the actual Memorandum of Understanding with IOM on the hosting arrangements but that revisions are instead done in its annex. The changes are for example introduced to make sure the new features of the long-term financing framework is properly accounted for. The Troika and IOM are in the process of finalising the changes to the annex and hopefully these can be presented to the steering group shortly.

6. The format of government teams and thematic meetings

In order to enhance the government ownership and the substantial discussions in the GFMD, a new format of working with the government teams and thematic meetings was introduced. Through forming government teams for each roundtable at an early stage in the process, and holding thematic meetings directly linked to the topics discussed in these roundtables, greater government ownership and expertise from capitals were injected into the dialogue. It is therefore recommended that this new format continues. During the Swedish chairmanship, efforts were also made to set up expert networks linked to each roundtable. The result of this was mixed and based on this experience the recommendation would be to draw on existing expertise and networks (e.g. the GMG and KNOMAD) rather than creating separate ones for GFMD purposes.

7. Encouraging an active use of and sharing of experiences through the Platform for Partnerships and the Policy Practice Database

During the chairmanship, Sweden also worked with the GFMD Support Unit to strengthen the evidence base and enhance the Forum's impact on the global migration and development agenda. To this effect, a new Policy and Practice Database was developed and the Platform for Partnerships was strengthened, which was made possible thanks to the generous support from the Government of Switzerland. The Chair-in-Office, through the Support Unit, needs to continue efforts to keep this database up to date, by capturing and entering new experiences shared during e.g. thematic meetings and in the background papers for the roundtables. Governments are also encouraged to liaise with the Support Unit to update existing or remove outdated examples in the Policy Practice Database. This should be a recognized task for GFMD Focal Points.

8. Developing a communication plan for the GFMD

In order to enhance the impact of the GFMD on the global migration and development agenda, a need has been recognized to develop a communication plan for the GFMD. Consideration could be given by the Chair to work with a team of governments willing to support the Chair-in-Office in this endeavor. This model was used in developing the long-term financing framework during the Swedish Chairmanship and it proved to be very valuable. One of the aims with the strengthening of the Support Unit is also that they can facilitate in the development and implementation of a communication plan.

9. Cooperation with stakeholders

Sweden aimed at improving the cooperation between the Global Forum and different stakeholders, in particular the Global Migration Group (GMG), civil society and the private sector.

- Use the potential of the regular meetings between UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and the leadership of the GMG and the GFMD to identify shared priorities and develop closer cooperation
- Continue to build on the strong cooperation with civil society, including by giving consideration to increase cooperation with diaspora and youth organisations
- Building on and strengthening the format for engaging the private sector