

***Enhancing Coordination between the United Nations System and the Global Forum on Migration and Development: Regular Meetings between the SRSG on International Migration and the leadership of the GFMD and the GMG***

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At the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in October 2013, the United Nations Secretary-General tasked his Special Representative, Mr Sutherland, to convene regular meetings with the leadership of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Migration Group (GMG) to identify shared priorities in order to improve coordination and cooperation.

### **Scope for Collaboration**

#### Functions of SRSG Sutherland

Peter Sutherland is the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration. He supports and advises the Secretary-General in promoting the United Nations' agenda on international migration and development. With the Secretary-General, he proposed and advocated for the creation of the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development to advance international cooperation on migration. In addition to serving as the primary link between the United Nations and the Global Forum process, he leads initiatives to foster cooperation on critical issues such as protecting migrants affected by crises, promoting accession to the Domestic workers Convention and ensuring that migration is adequately considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

#### Functions of the GFMD

The GFMD is a voluntary, informal, non-binding and government-led process open to all States that are Members or Observers of the United Nations, to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationship between migration and development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes. As such, the GFMD is instrumental in generating mutual understanding and trust among states in the area of migration and development – something that was acknowledged in the Declaration from the High-level Dialogue<sup>1</sup>. The United Nations and other international agencies, including those that make up the Global Migration Group, are observers of the GFMD. The GFMD operates through continuous sharing of experiences and lessons learnt in the field of migration and development. The preparatory work primarily takes place in Government Teams organized around different thematic roundtables as well as associated thematic meetings. Each Chairmanship culminates in a Forum Meeting, where experiences are shared and which result in non-negotiated, non-binding recommendations, for voluntary follow-up.

#### Functions of the GMG

The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 29 of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, A/86/L.5, October 2013.

instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalizing upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration. The GMG is implementing a Multi-Annual Work Plan (2013-2015) with two overarching objectives: (1) ensure effective GMG coordination and collaboration, as well as visibility and outreach towards member states and other stakeholders; and (2) contribute to ensuring that migration is included in the post-2015 development agenda. It operates through five working groups and task forces which address data and research; migration, human rights and gender; mainstreaming migration into development planning; migration and decent work; and capacity development.

#### Areas for further coordination and cooperation

As the primary link between the United Nations System and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the SRSG on International Migration is uniquely placed to advance the debate and improve collective handling of issues related to migration by facilitating coordination and collaboration between the GFMD and the GMG. This will be done through regular consultations.

The terms of reference of the three entities converge and provide for great scope for collaboration in the area of advancing the understanding, capitalizing on, and fostering practical and action-oriented responses to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration.

In particular coordination and cooperation could be further developed in the following five areas:

1. Identification of shared priorities;
2. Provision and sharing of expertise;
3. Identification of relevant migration and development experiences and evidence;
4. Providing the necessary analysis to distil lessons learned and to generate the evidence from experiences and good practices;
5. Collaboration in voluntary follow-up and implementation of GFMD outcomes and recommendations;

First, with reference to identification of shared priorities, the GFMD is a unique state-led platform for governments and other stakeholders to exchange experiences of shared interest in the area of migration and development. As such, the Forum provides an excellent opportunity for GMG agencies to learn about, in more concrete terms, the concerns and priorities of their member states stakeholders. This could facilitate the agenda setting and crafting of the work plan of the GMG. Similarly, the GMG and its agencies can use their engagement in the GFMD to influence and contribute to the agenda setting of governments by bringing particular issues related to migration and development to the attention of governments. The regular meetings between the SRSG and the leaderships of the GFMD and GMG facilitate this exchange at a strategic level.

Second, the GMG and its member agencies already provide valuable expertise to GFMD government teams, thematic meetings, roundtables, etc., for example through provision

of background papers and speakers to a variety of meetings. By improving the predictability of requests by the GFMD to the GMG, such input could be made more systematic and timely to allow for more coordinated responses by the GMG.

Third, as a voluntary, non-binding, state-led process, the GFMD is reliant on the engagement and ownership of the participating states. Recognizing that governments have different levels of capacity to engage constructively in the GFMD, the process is also needful of the GMG to support the capacity of governments to engage. For example, the GMG could assist the GFMD Chair, GFMD Government Teams and individual governments to identify relevant country experiences and good practices. This could extend to empowering individual countries' delegations to engage constructively in the GFMD, in preparation of such participation.

Fourth, recognizing that the SRSG, GFMD and GMG all rely on, and promote, advancing the knowledge and evidence of the linkages between migration and development, there is particular scope for collaboration and cooperation in this field. While much of the experience can be drawn from good practice examples from particular countries, the GMG is uniquely placed to mobilize the combined expertise of the United Nations and the IOM to generate and analyse such experiences in the area of migration and development. The GMG can thus draw on, and contribute to, the GFMD process by providing the necessary analysis to distil lessons learned and to generate the evidence from experiences and good practices shared in the GFMD as well as other fora.

Fifth and finally, in order to foster practical action in the field of migration and development, there is need to encourage voluntary follow-up on recommendations and outcomes from the GFMD. The GMG could thus support governments in their voluntary follow-up. This could be done by GMG agencies bringing migration into the development analysis at the country level (e.g. Common Country Analysis), considering recommendations from the GFMD in the country planning exercises (e.g. UNDAF and support with Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers), as well as by clarifying to countries interested in implementing recommendations from the GFMD how the GMG agencies could support in this endeavour. The proposed cooperation could include the promotion and dissemination of concrete migration related GMG projects at country level.

#### Substantive areas of cooperation

The terms of reference of the three entities provide for great scope of substantive cooperation. The trilateral meetings between the SRSG and the leadership of the GFMD and GMG should regularly review and update such substantive areas using as a starting point existing work plans and recommendations coming out of the GFMD and GMG respectively.

Current substantive areas subject to coordination and collaboration include, but are not limited to:

- Inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda
- Labour mobility and decent work, with reference to pertinent and timely themes, such as the reduction of labour migration costs, including recruitment costs, and improved protections for migrant domestic workers
- The Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICI)