



GFMD Chair's Opening Speech GFMD Thematic Meeting, 22 May, 2013

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by **thanking my co-convening colleagues** here from the Government of **Bangladesh** and the Government of **Switzerland** who are supporting this event. I would also like to **thank the International Organizations** that have contributed with crucial expertise to the **Discussion Paper** and the **Background Notes** provided for this meeting.

I would also like to share with you **the purpose of this thematic meeting**. As you know, we have scheduled three Thematic Meetings over the Swedish Chairmanship. The idea is that each of these support the agenda of the corresponding Roundtable, within the areas of *policy coherence for development, inclusive economic development and inclusive social development* respectively.

Today's meeting is thus **designed to support GFMD's work on policy coherence for development**, which is being dealt with directly under Roundtable 1 on *Integrating migration in global, regional and national development agendas*, including its two sub-sessions on *Operationalizing mainstreaming and coherence* and *Framing migration for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, i.e. Roundtable session 1.1 and 1.2.

Our hope is that at the end of the day, we have all had the opportunity to **share lessons** from our own national experiences and the programmes from International Organizations, and **found inspiration** from policies and programmes implemented in other countries.

As has been expressed in GFMD settings many times before, migration and development needs to be dealt with from a policy coherence for development perspective that draws on mutual synergies in these fields. **It is critical in this regard that migration is mainstreamed in key development analysis and development plans**, be that in PRSPs, countries' five-year development plans or other national vision documents.

During the Swedish GFMD Chairmanship, we would like to look at **how to operationalize mainstreaming**. As we see it, one way of doing this is by looking at **what it means from a sector-perspective**. This is the main focus of today's Thematic Meeting.

I mentioned that we have been discussing mainstreaming of migration and development since the onset of the GFMD. During these years, some progress has been made. Still we feel that it is time to enhance our efforts to deliver on this point. It is our belief that one of the most effective ways to promote the mainstreaming of migration in development planning is by **integrating migration in the development discourse where it matters**. Given the current review of the **development agenda post-2015**, we therefore saw this as the natural point of entry. This was also one of the recommendations that came out of the GFMD meeting in Mauritius last year.

The Swedish Chair has shared with you in the GFMD before our thoughts of how migration might be included in the post-2015 development agenda. Apart from giving full recognition of the role of migration for development in the narrative of the future agenda, migration needs to be **recognized as a key enabler** for a number of development goals. Similarly, **clear partnerships** need to be developed to draw on migration for outcomes in these areas. We are thus talking of a **two-pronged approach** – highlighting **migration as an enabler**, and outlining **migration-related partnerships** for development.

These enablers and partnerships cannot be elaborated in the void. They need to be worked out **in relation to other goals**. Today we have chosen to focus on five broad potential goal areas: ***decent work and economic sector development, social protection, health, education including skills development*** as well as ***gender and women's empowerment***.

As mentioned before, we are hoping to **extract examples** from today's meeting and we hope to be able to **draw some lessons** from the examples you share on how migration may have benefited **development outcomes in the aforementioned sectors**. It would also be valuable if you would express the **nature of partnerships that you would like to see** in order to enhance the opportunities to draw on migration for development outcomes in the sectors under discussion.

By sharing these lessons, on the one hand we facilitate for the **replication of successful programmes**, and thus **operationalizing mainstreaming of migration**. On the other hand we are **contributing to the narrative of how migration can be drawn upon in the future development agenda**.

Ultimately, we believe, that the integration of migration in the post-2015 development agenda, will enhance policy and **institutional coherence for development by encouraging national as well as multilateral coordination** around migration and development issues. As development agencies set out to monitor and report on the future development agenda, they will also need to consider how to draw on the benefits and act upon the challenges that migration bring.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with these words, I would like to **hand over Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Peter Sutherland**.