

STEERING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE ¹ AND GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP

In line with the Operating Modalities endorsed at the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Brussels on 9-11 July 2007, the GFMD Steering Group should be comprised of governments that are firmly committed to providing sustained political and conceptual support to the GFMD process and to the Chair-in-Office, and to ensuring continuity of the process. In addition, the GFMD Assessment Report clarifies that Steering Group members should provide financial support if possible.

A: Mandate

The Steering Group (SG):

- a. gives overall strategic direction to the work of the GFMD;
- b. considers and advises on all relevant policy issues pertaining to the smooth running of the GFMD process, including on the annual GFMD budget and the appropriate liaison with other stakeholders such as the Global Migration Group (GMG), including the United Nations, Regional Consultative Processes, civil society and other relevant bodies;
- c. provides advice, as required, to the Chair-in-Office, on the elaboration of the GFMD agenda and work plan; and
- d. periodically evaluates, through assessments when required, the activities of the Forum, both in terms of process and content, and provides related suggestions and proposals.

B. Responsibilities and expectations of Steering Group members

- a. Sustained commitment and active engagement in the GFMD process, both substantively and/or financially.
- b. Promote the GFMD process by encouraging other governments to become engaged in Forum-related activities.
- c. Assist the Chair-in-Office in seeking technical and financial support for the GFMD process.

C. Membership

Principles for membership

In 2013, the SG members agreed that demonstrated commitment and real engagement in the GFMD is a prerequisite for membership in the GFMD Steering Group. Commitment and engagement implies both intellectual/substantive inputs and, to the extent possible, also financial contributions. Furthermore, the SG composition should

¹Terms of Reference (TORs) of the GFMD Steering Group were first defined in October 2007, under the Chairmanship of the Philippines. Some of its provisions are retained in this updated TORs.

take the principles of regional balance and different migration perspectives into consideration.

Rotation of members

The number of members of the SG should be kept to no more than 30 members. 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 to be convened by the Chair-in-Office, countries are asked to reconfirm their interest and commitment to continue as members of the SG the following year. Non-SG members are at the same time given the possibility to express their interest to join the SG for a certain period of time.

At the pledging meeting, countries are asked to indicate their intended contributions – financial and/or substantial -- to the GFMD process. Financial contributions are offered on a voluntary basis. Substantial contributions could take various forms, such as by membership/chairmanship of roundtable sessions or co-convening GFMD preparatory thematic meetings, expertise to the Expert Networks, secondments of government staff and contributions to the Policy and Practice Database.

Determinations of composition of membership

Based on expression of interest the Troika will agree on the composition of SG members. The main starting points would be prior participation and demonstration of commitment to the GFMD process. Should there be too many countries interested in joining the SG and no country willing to rotate off, informal consultations will be held between the Troika and non-active members to explore if these members would be willing to rotate off for a period of time.

- D. Chairmanship** – The Steering Group is convened and chaired by the Chair-in-Office.
- E. Funding** – Costs of participation in the meetings of the Steering Group are borne by the SG members.
- F. Schedule and venue of Meetings** – The Steering Group meets at the request of the Chair-in-Office, approximately 3-4 times a year. It meets in Geneva, unless otherwise agreed by the members.