

Taking Action on Migration and Development - Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation

First Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XVIII

15 March 2011

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, Switzerland GFMD Chair

Attendance: 99 Governments and 23 Observers¹
Mr John Bingham, International Catholic Migration Center

Report of the Proceedings

I. Welcoming remarks by the Chair-in-Office

Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, Swiss GFMD Chair, warmly welcomed over 130 delegates from 99 countries and 23 international organizations to the first meeting of the Friends of the Forum. He first made reference to the recent events in North Africa, which have resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of migrants and commended the global efforts to contain the situation and assist the affected migrants.

The Chair informed the meeting that the handover of the Chairmanship from Mexico to Switzerland took place on 3 December 2011 in Bern. He acknowledged with appreciation the presence of Amb Juan José Gomez Camacho, and through him thanked Mexico for its excellent Chairmanship in 2010 and for the stimulating meeting held in Puerto Vallarta last November.

The Chair then announced that the first meeting of the Steering Group took place on 8 February in Geneva. It discussed and reviewed the draft of the Chair's Concept Paper for 2011 GFMD, which was distributed to all Friends of the Forum for comments on 21 January 2011. He thanked all the delegates who submitted their comments, which were helpful in improving the concept paper. He was also grateful to all the Friends of the Forum for their renewed confidence and support in the Swiss Chairmanship. He then gave the floor to Mr Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary General's Special Representative for International Migration and Development.

Mr Sutherland anticipated that the GFMD will reach a moment of truth in 2012, following the results of the initial phase of the assessment exercise, which has begun this year. He believed that the presence of 131 countries in Puerto Vallarta signalled a continued significant attendance and involvement in the GFMD. Through the GFMD, the inextricable linkage between development and migration is now evident, and has become part of a general lexicon of discussions on migration around the world.

The GFMD was developed in 2006 to accommodate the concerns of different constituencies about difficult migration issues, including the extent of the UN and civil society involvement, as well as the non-binding, inter-governmental, states-led and voluntary nature of the process. Due to

¹ See Annex 1 for the list of participating Friends of the Forum.

the absence of a funding mechanism, the GFMD relied on voluntary contributions coming only from a small handful of Member States and the MacArthur Foundation, next to the massive contributions made by the annual hosts of the GFMD.

Mr Sutherland emphasized that the present state of affairs for the Forum was not propitious in view of the funding problem and the absence of a host for 2012. Argentina, Spain and Morocco withdrew their offers to host the Forum due to budget constraints. Mexico and Switzerland generously stepped in as next hosts, both at short notice. But to date, there was no offer to follow the Swiss chairmanship.

He further explained that, ideally, the Forum should be hosted alternately by developed and developing countries. For 2012, it needs a developing country, preferably from Africa. The probable cost of hosting an annual Forum is about 1.5 million Euros, inclusive of the Support structure and the Taskforce. By international standards, this is not an outrageous sum, particularly when one takes into account the “fringe benefits” to the host countries of participation from other parts of the world. A more predictable financing system must be found to secure funds that will cover the organizational costs of future annual GFMD meetings. For this purpose, a GFMD standard annual budget should be developed.

Mr Sutherland underlined that it was not fair either for the donors or the survival of the process itself to have a global community of free-riders in the GFMD. Developed economies often react adversely to the political consequences of migration. In some instances, donor governments are ambivalent about the issue of migration, which affects their willingness to fund the GFMD. On the other hand, countries of origin, which are often developing countries, want a constructive engagement on the issues of development and migration; but they do not wish to host or to pay.

He thus stressed the importance of maintaining a flexible, state-led process, where states really provide leadership by actually engaging and being helpful and supportive financially. The States’ involvement should not be limited to merely joining the Friends of the Forum or the Steering Group meetings.

The Chair thanked Mr Sutherland and informed the meeting that the latter’s proposal for a funding mechanism will be discussed during the next Steering Group meeting. Meanwhile, the state of affairs regarding the 2012 Chairmanship will be discussed later under the agenda item, Any Other Business.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair adopted the Provisional Agenda following no objections from the floor. He then called on Ambassador Juan José Gomez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UNOG to make a presentation on the 2010 GFMD outcomes.

Amb. Camacho drew attention to a power point presentation entitled, Conclusions of the 2010 GFMD, which was available in the room. It outlines the objectives and outcomes of the meeting in Puerto Vallarta. He also reported that the English version of the summary report of the Puerto Vallarta proceedings has already been posted on the GFMD website.

He entirely shared the views expressed by Mr Peter Sutherland, i.e., that the financial issue for GFMD today was very timely and relevant. It was not a bureaucratic, procedural, or financial question; rather it posed an existential question for the GFMD. If there was no funding, no future forum would be possible. It has now become a political matter for governments to resolve, otherwise there will not be a place to address issues of migration, one of the most important phenomena in the 21st century.

In this regard, the Puerto Vallarta meeting was a real success, inasmuch as it represented a quantum leap in offering a genuine space for governments and other stakeholders to discuss the subject of migration, regardless of their political interests. But this space will be lost if there was no funding for the forum.

A day earlier, the 2011 GFMD Troika discussed the necessity of making high level contacts in order to persuade governments in the capitals to contribute and demonstrate their political commitment, which can help assure the continuity of a dialogue on migration. All countries – be they of origin, transit or destination, in favour or not of migration, leading or benefitting from the forum -- must contribute according to their means or capacity. The funding issue must be seen as a collective responsibility and not just as a problem for the wealthiest countries. Only then will solutions be identified regarding the issue of financial contributions, along with the lack of a host for the next meeting. On this note, Sweden's generous offer to be a host country in 2014 must be duly acknowledged.

Amb Camacho mentioned that as an outcome of the 2010 GFMD, a book on Migration and Development will be released in early 2012, co-produced by the Mexican government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the German publisher Springer Verlag.

The Chair thanked Amb Camacho for his valuable contribution and for the support of Mexico in the 2011 GFMD Troika. He also expressed appreciation for the support of co-Troika member Sweden and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr Peter Sutherland.

As Amb Camacho explained, the GFMD is a process which aims at producing tangible recommendations for governments to improve their policies and practices in favour of the sending and host societies, as well as the migrants themselves. To this end, a matrix of the outcomes and recommendations from Puerto Vallarta was prepared and made available on the documentation table.

III. GFMD 2011: Concept and Work Program

Ambassador Gnesa presented the final concept paper that would guide the activities for 2011 GFMD. The paper outlines three thematic clusters for the substantive work in 2011 and also offers comments for the GFMD's assessment process, the role of the Friends of the Forum and the Steering Group, the ad-hoc Working Groups, the Platform for Partnerships, the national focal points, and the involvement of international organizations and civil society.

The concept paper was sent for written comments on 4 February 2011 to both the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. It was discussed extensively during the first meeting of the Steering Group on 8 February 2011. The Chair intended to have a concept paper that was acceptable to as many governments and other stakeholders as possible, while remaining fully aware of their different perspectives. The comments and insights offered by the Steering Group members in this regard were very helpful in revising the paper.

The Chair presumed that the Friends of the Forum were now familiar with the Swiss GFMD overarching theme, ***“Taking action on Migration and Development - Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation.”*** It was chosen on the basis of ideas offered by participants in Puerto Vallarta in November 2010. The Chair's objectives this year are to focus on action by drawing on the concrete experiences of practitioners on the ground, and to examine some of the practical applications of the Forum's discussions and outcomes so far. These will be achieved in partnership with other governments, while again involving the Global Migration Group, other international organizations, the regional and inter-regional processes and bodies, and civil society.

In lieu of a full annual GFMD meeting, a space for smaller, focused and action oriented meetings around the world will be opened. These thematic meetings will build on the content and key

outcomes of previous Forum meetings, and explore some of the practical applications of the GFMD discussions, at regional, national and international levels.

The Chair took note of some concerns expressed that smaller, focused meetings around the world might change the global nature and character of the Forum. He gave assurance that all thematic meetings are intended as preparatory events for a final, two-day extended Friends of the Forum meeting in Geneva in early December, where the results and outcomes of the thematic meetings will be presented and discussed on a global level. In addition, the Friends of the Forum and the Steering Group will remain the central reference points for the whole process.

The Chair pointed out that the selection of themes this year was limited to some core and continuing concerns of the GFMD. Most of these are outcomes from the Puerto Vallarta meeting, some even reaching back to the earliest GFMD discussions in Brussels in 2007 and before that, to the High Level Dialogue and the findings of the Global Commission on International Migration.

The two ad hoc Working Groups will help the Chair in selecting priority outcomes from last year. The Chair would also strengthen the Platform for Partnerships as a mechanism to showcase existing practices, while bringing together partners interested in participating in any of the proposed follow-up projects.

Two policy themes have been selected this year, as follows: Cluster 1 on “Labour mobility and development”, and Cluster 2 on “Addressing irregular migration through coherent migration and development strategies”. Cluster 3 continues earlier work on creating tools for evidence-based migration and development policies. All three clusters aim to strengthen the mutually reinforcing links between development, migration and human rights.

Cluster 1: Labour mobility and development

This cluster tackles how to facilitate and manage international labor mobility to maximize its developmental benefits for the migrants, their families and the countries of origin and destination. It will examine key strategies to support the human development of migrants and their families, such as better informing migrants about their options abroad, lowering costs of migration for the migrants, regulating the labor recruitment industry, providing social and income security for temporary and circular migrants, and effectively matching skills and jobs abroad and at home.

The Working Group on protecting and empowering migrants for development has taken the lead on a number of innovative actions in this area, mostly as a follow-up to earlier Forum outcomes. The first of these actions was an inter-regional workshop² held in January in Dubai on the labor recruitment industry, hosted by the United Arab Emirates and supported by the Swiss Chair. The second one would address the issue of protecting and empowering temporary contract workers abroad from the perspective of a country of origin. The Swiss Chair is currently in discussion with potential partners to support this initiative.

Furthermore, the cluster aims to discuss how, in a globalized labor market, the private sector could engage in more concrete dialogue with governments to better link labor market planning with migration planning, and also play a stronger role in protecting migrants. A meeting will be organized in September by the Swiss Chair in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of bringing different actors together, including government representatives, business leaders, employers, international organizations and academia. The Swiss Chair expressed the hope that one or more interested governments would be interested in co-chairing this meeting.

In addition, the Chair is now in discussion with some governments to hold some workshops around the world on the global care worker industry. Global care workers were identified as a

² The summary and full reports of this workshop are now posted on the GFMD web portal, <http://www.gfmd.org/en/adhoc-wg/protecting-and-empowering.html>

particularly vulnerable sector at the interface of migration and development. The developmental effects of migration can be broadened when gender and family are included in the policy equation.

Cluster II: Addressing irregular migration through coherent migration and development strategies

The aim of this cluster is to enhance inter-state cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries in managing irregular migration, where possible through co-chaired workshops. For this purpose, the Swiss Chair mentioned that contacts have already been established with the Bali Process, the Budapest Process, the Puebla Process, and IGC.

Cluster III: Planning tools for evidence-based migration and development policies

This cluster will seek concrete follow-ups in testing and completing three specific planning tools: policy impact assessments on migration and development, promotion of Migration Profiles as a key tool for comprehensive data collection and more evidence-based and coherent migration and development policies, and supporting the launch of the GMG Handbook for government policy makers on mainstreaming migration into development planning.

The Chair announced that more information will be provided later by the ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research about Cluster III activities. He then elaborated on the organizational aspects of thematic meetings:

1. There is no one single modus operandi to fit all purposes of thematic meetings. Venue, date and size of each meeting will greatly depend on the partners involved and their preferences.
2. Each thematic meeting will be co-chaired by governments; at the same time, support and expertise from international organizations and civil society would be crucial to a fruitful and well-informed dialogue.
3. Some meetings may be fully funded by the organizing partners; others may be co-funded by the GFMD Chair, which has set aside some funds for this purpose.
4. The details of each meeting will be announced in advance on the GFMD web portal and during meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum to keep GFMD focal points updated on any relevant developments with regard to the 2011 work plan.
5. All governments are encouraged to participate in these thematic meetings. However, participation may be limited for practical reasons: the organizing partners, in consultation with the Chair, will make the decision on the number of participants. Circumstances permitting, the Chair will encourage cross-regional participation and exchange for each meeting, the results of which will be discussed at the extended Friends of the Forum meeting in December.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on the program of year 2011.

Comments from the floor

17 Governments and an Observer came forward to thank and congratulate the Chair for assuming the 2011 Chairmanship and for the revised Concept Paper. They all reiterated their support for the Chair. Four delegates expressed appreciation for Switzerland's voluntary offer to chair the Global Forum in a difficult year.

Some delegates thanked the former Chair Mexico for its continued engagement and effort within the Troika, which helps sustain the GFMD process. Mexico's update on the conclusion of the 2010 GFMD in Puerto Vallarta was also well-appreciated.

2011 Format

1. Six (6) governments expressed support for the proposed format of 2011 GFMD, but underscored the need to report the outcomes of the different thematic meetings to the Forum

at the end of the year. This was also seen as a pragmatic approach, considering the fact that Switzerland had taken over the Chair at very short notice.

2. One delegate understood that the Chair faced a set of constraints and trade-offs, given the difficult situation for the Forum this year. He was grateful for the ideas offered and actions taken by the Chair so far. He pointed out that the Friends had the collective task of generating ideas to assist the Chair.
3. One delegate thought that holding smaller meetings in different parts of the world might facilitate the participation of civil society and other stakeholders and provide more time for discussion, which was one of the main obstacles to an open debate in previous fora.
4. Another delegate said the idea of organizing a number of smaller thematic meetings in cooperation with governments, regional bodies, international organizations, etc. seemed quite operational and feasible, despite the budgetary constraints and the international economic crisis. But four aspects should be ensured during all the thematic and other GFMD meetings, namely : 1) coherence 2) globality of the process 3) its inter-governmental character and) the enhancement of its developmental aspect. These should be guaranteed by the Chair in order to avoid fragmentation and gain added value. The geographical balance and equal participation of countries of origin, transit and destination, of legal or irregular migrants, should also be assured. Following the GFMD spirit, such thematic meetings should be a place of informal political dialogue and exchange among countries to promote good practices and action-oriented outcomes.

On the other hand, some governments cautioned against the new format; some had reservations and sought further clarification:

1. Five (5) delegates urged the Chair to emphasize the leading role of the states in the new GFMD format. One pointed out that the paper did not provide enough safeguards to guarantee the informal, global and state-led nature of the Forum.
2. One delegate expressed his concerns that the structure of the GFMD could become potentially more expensive, complex, and logistically challenging than in previous years. Nonetheless, his government would consider providing financial contribution, upon receiving more information about the proposed meetings.
3. Another delegate remained critical about the ambitious plans of the 2011 Swiss GFMD and asked how it would be feasible in terms of ensuring the participation of developing countries in the thematic meetings, as well as in encouraging cross-regional participation and exchange.
4. Nine (9) delegates and one Observer cautioned that the decentralized format should not take away from the Forum's identity and unique role at the international level. Regional meetings must not be reduced to a local dialogue. The global relevance of these meetings must be maintained, as well as the coherence and state-led nature of the GFMD process.
5. One delegate expressed his doubts and anticipated some challenges relating to representation, promoting inclusion, and ensuring the consistency and continuity of the global character of the Forum.
6. Three delegates asked the Chair to elaborate on the plan of "thematic meetings" for 2011. They wanted to know how the discussions will be conducted; how the clusters will be organized – e.g., one cluster vs. simultaneous tackling of the 3 clusters per meeting; whether or not there will be co-chairs and government teams and panels -- if so, how their composition had to be carefully considered to ensure equitable representation by all countries of the migration cycle; the means of participation of states and the nature of the contribution of the civil society; and how the results of the thematic meetings will be presented at the final meeting.
7. One Observer supported the innovative approach to orient thoughts towards actionable output and concrete outcomes by involving other regional fora, be they formal or non formal, in order to strengthen the output and relevance of the Global Forum in the evolving discussions on global migration governance. He also pointed to a certain risk of the GFMD agenda and the specific agenda of these various processes becoming blurred or negatively affected by

trying to optimize synergies between the various processes. The delegate reiterated his organization's continued support for the process and readiness to help implement the various initiatives of the Chair. He also advocated a better and clearer reflection of the global approach to migration in the Concept Paper and its implementation.

Concept Paper

Most of the delegates who took the floor expressed support for the thematic agenda, as outlined in the concept paper. The following general comments were made:

1. One delegate believed that the structure of the meetings matched that of the roundtables in the old format. Another delegate thought that the amendments made to the Concept Paper did not address the observations, proposals and suggestions made by his government during the Steering Group meeting, namely, that account be taken of the importance of the global approach to migration and development, as adopted by the 27 countries of the European Union and some 30 African countries participating in the Rabat process. This framework considers the existence of migrants and the role they play in the development of their countries of origin. To this end, he believed that the thematic agenda would reach a clearer balance if one of the three clusters, or perhaps even a fourth cluster, could deal not just with the tools, but the very topic itself of migration and development.
2. Other delegates supported the view that the development aspect should be further strengthened to underpin the overall GFMD process. It was highlighted that the development contributions of migrants to both the origin and destination countries could help improve the public perception of migration.
3. One delegate was satisfied that the number of clusters was kept at three, which remain focused and related to the central theme.
4. A delegate would like to have a specific reference made in the Concept Paper to the migrant diaspora and its role in economic development.
5. One delegate conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Japanese delegation and through him to the people of Japan for the loss of lives and property caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami. He said that the crisis situation in Libya was a stark reminder of the vulnerability of migrants, particularly short-term contract workers. He urged that GFMD activities and the Forum in December should take into account these recent situations and deliberate on how to meet such challenges. He thanked the governments that have come forward with financial and material help in sheltering the migrant workers and arranging for their repatriation, along with IOM, UNHCR, ICRC and other UN and international organizations involved in protecting and repatriating the migrant workers.

The following remarks were made with respect to the specific clusters:

Cluster 1 - Suggestions were made to include improving and optimizing the flow of remittances, as well as migration intermediaries.

Cluster 2 - Emphasis on human rights and curbing discrimination must be strengthened in order to have a holistic and balanced approach to the issues. It should also address both migration management policies extensively discussed in previous GFMD meetings, and policies that promote human rights of migrants and empower them to further contribute to the development of countries of destination and origin. Irregular migration should be viewed in terms of its effect on development and not separately.

Extended Friends of the Forum meeting in December

1. One delegate noted that the extended Friends of the Forum proposed at the end of the year would operate de facto as the annual big meeting of the GFMD.
2. Another speaker said his government supported the gathering of a two-day meeting of the Friends of the Forum in December, which would allow for a wide and comprehensive

discussion on the outcomes of the discussions held in the smaller meetings during the year and provide for a definite outcome for the 2011 discussions.

3. Five (5) representatives raised some questions about the modality of organizing the extended Friends of the Forum meeting in December. Specifically, questions were asked whether or not there would be roundtables and co-Chairs; and if background papers would be prepared, or would discussions be based on the reports of the thematic meetings.
4. One delegate encouraged the Chair to ensure high-level participation of Ministers to add value and visibility to the GFMD.
5. One delegate suggested retaining the model of the common space held in Puerto Vallarta.
6. One delegate was concerned about the final extended Friends of the Forum meeting in early December, which would overlap with a number of other meetings, including the IGC Mini full round, the IOM 60th anniversary council meeting and the UNHCR Ministerial level meeting.

Other Issues

1. On the assessment exercise -- two (2) delegates requested clarification on whether the results of the 1st phase of the assessment exercise would inform the extended Friends of the Forum meeting in December.
2. On the roles of the Friends of the Forum and of the Steering Group -- one delegate believed that both should be informed on the assessment discussion, while the FOF should play a role in assisting the Steering Group with the implementation of the ambitious 2011 work program.
3. On the role of international organizations -- some delegates stated that the participation of international and regional organizations should be limited to providing inputs on experience and expertise. They should not be allowed to co-chair or organize thematic meetings so that the State-led character of the Forum should not be questioned.
4. On the role of the civil society -- one delegate stressed that civil society entities should not only be invited to give their opinions, but also to work actively on projects under way on the more salient aspects of the Forum.

The meeting was adjourned for a lunch break at 12.45 hrs and resumed at 14.45 hrs.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 14:45 by thanking the participants for their general support and active participation in the morning session. He then recalled Mr Sutherland's statement that the process belongs to all the governments; thus, he urged all Friends to work together and resolve the issues that had been raised. He then offered the following clarification;

1. *Global vs. Regional* - All themes in the concept paper are of global relevance. With the exception of 1 or 2 thematic meetings in Switzerland, all other meetings will take place in the regions and benefit from cross-regional participation. The global nature of the GFMD will also be ensured by holding the Extended Friends of the Forum (E FOF) meeting at the end of the year where the results of all thematic meetings can be discussed together with all regions present.
2. *Modalities of regional meetings* -- Governments which expressed interest in organizing thematic meetings had already been approached. The Chair urged the delegates to speed up internal consultations in the capital and communicate firm commitment to help organize these meetings. At the same time, the Chair encouraged those who had not yet signalled their interest to come forward as soon as possible and help build the meetings together. The general modalities for the thematic meetings will be discussed in the next Steering Group meeting in April and include the following elements:
 - meetings will be chaired and co-chaired by the GFMD participating governments, including the working groups' co-chairs, as may be appropriate;

- all meetings will include governments representing origin, transit and destination countries from different regions or sub-regions, and an appropriate mix of developing and developed countries;
 - the meetings will be small to ensure a focused and action-oriented discussion;
 - the combined result of the thematic meetings will be drawn together at the E FOF.
3. Extended Friends of the Forum (E FOF) meeting – The Chair intended to discuss with the GFMD Steering Group at their next meeting the format of the E FOF.
- The date proposed for this final meeting was 1-2 December 2011.
 - The Chair was mindful of other major global meetings immediately before and after these dates. The date was not optimal, but it was the best under the present circumstances.
 - The elements of previous GFMD would be maintained, i.e. opening and closing ceremonies, break-out sessions according to cluster subthemes, a special session on the future of the Forum focusing on the results of the assessment phase, the Common Space and possibly a working session on the Platform for Partnerships;
 - Governments that signalled interest and willingness to organize thematic meetings could also co-chair the break-out sessions.

The Chair committed to send a communication to all Friends of the Forum participants in the coming days, confirming the points that had just been mentioned and adding some information that the Chair considered necessary.

V. Information on the GFMD Assessment Exercise

The Chair briefly summarized the state of affairs of the assessment exercise:

In 2010, the Friends of the Forum agreed to undertake an overall assessment of the GFMD process, which would entail two parts:

- a. Phase (1), to be carried out in 2011, would essentially examine the Forum's structure, outcomes and relation to other stakeholders;
- b. Phase (2), to be carried out in 2012, would be dedicated to a strategic discussion on possible options for the future of the GFMD, based on the results of Part (1).

The Friends of the Forum agreed on the establishment of an Assessment Team - a regionally balanced group of 13 governments - which would lead both parts of the assessment process. Since Puerto Vallarta, the Assessment Team has met three times. It has selected an assessment expert to support the Chair and the Assessment Team in implementing phase (1). Earlier in the day, it has discussed a first draft of the questionnaire which would be sent to all GFMD Focal Points by email for completion by the end of April 2011.

The Chair underlined the importance of the assessment questionnaire and urged the Friends to submit timely and comprehensive responses to it, which would be the basis for an open, transparent and meaningful discussion about the future of the Forum in 2012. The Friends will be informed of any relevant development related to the GFMD assessment exercise to make the process as transparent as possible and opened the floor for comments on this item.

One delegate inquired about the methodology of the first phase of assessment, i.e. if apart from the questionnaire there were any other ways in which the Assessment Team was to collect information, e.g. qualitative interviews, field visits and literature study. Another delegate wanted to know if the questionnaire would be translated into three languages and how much time would be given to complete it if it were sent out in early May.

The Chair replied that no qualitative interviews would be carried out and that the questionnaire would be the sole basis for the assessment. He confirmed that the questionnaire will be translated

into three languages (English, French and Spanish). It would be sent out end of April and responses would be expected by mid-July.

VI. Information on meetings of ad-hoc Working Groups (WG)

The Chair recognized the assistance of the two ad hoc Working Groups³ with the GFMD follow-up, continuity and the actual implementation of outcomes. The WG activities engage some 15 international agencies, including GMG, as well as civil society experts. Within the Chair's Taskforce the respective coordinators supporting these WGs were Dr. Irena Omelaniuk and Dr. Rolph Jenny.

Both WGs have taken forward important outcomes from earlier GFMD meetings, including concrete measures to improve the social and economic security of people working abroad within temporary or circular labour programmes, addressing the phenomenon of discrimination and abuse of migrants through better information and training, assessing the impacts of migration policies on development and devising some data and research tools to understand the migration and development challenges in each country and better link them in early planning.

The Chair invited the respective co-chairs of the WGs to give brief updates on the achievements of the WGs so far and the agreed work plans for 2011.

A. Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development

Co-Chair United Arab Emirates reported that in 2010, the WG commissioned two studies that informed discussions at the GFMD Roundtables in Puerto Vallarta: a comparative study of social protection schemes for temporary migrant workers and a study devoted to testing pre-departure low-cost loan schemes for migrant workers. In addition, a community project was conducted in Argentina to combat discrimination against migrants through training workshops.

In 2011, the WG has proposed and begun to implement an integrated work plan. Four (4) governments from the working group are now cooperating on the following:

1. a generic architecture of protection and empowerment, including one electronic contract validation system which would eventually inform the development of a standard employment contract with the specific objective of combating contract substitution;
2. testing a low-cost loans scheme for departing contract workers in the context of a pilot project;
3. development of a draft framework of regional cooperation on recruitment practices to be submitted for consideration by countries of origin and destination at the next Abu Dhabi dialogue Ministerial Consultations planned for early 2012.

As a prelude to the last proposed activity, the UAE hosted a workshop on recruitment of workers for overseas employment in Dubai on 18-19 January this year. The workshop was organized in collaboration with IOM, ILO and OHCHR, with the support of the Swiss overnment. It was attended by 6 countries of origin and 6 countries of destination in Asia, in addition to civil society. The workshop report is published on the GFMD website.

The next envisaged step is for the GCC countries to present a set of guiding principles that emerged in Dubai for a prospective regional framework of collaboration on recruitment practices.

³ The Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development, co-chaired by the Philippines and the UAE, has a membership of 17 governments, while the Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, co-chaired by Morocco and Switzerland, has a membership of 13 governments. See: <http://www.gfmd.org/en/adhoc-wg/protecting-and-empowering.html> and <http://www.gfmd.org/en/adhoc-wg/policy-coherence-data-research.html>

The guidelines will be presented to the countries of origin during the Colombo process meeting in Dhaka. UAE, in its capacity as WG Co-Chair and current Chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), would like to propose that the Chair of the Colombo process (Bangladesh), together with the UAE, IOM and the Secretariat of the GCC, the Council of Ministers of Labour in their capacities as co-secretaries of the Abu-Dhabi Dialogue, develop the framework of collaboration on recruitment.

Finally, the WG would also look at the 2010 report on social protection for temporary migrant workers by Prof. Holzmann of the World Bank for a possible follow-up and inclusion in the 2011 work plan.

B. Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research

In line with the Swiss Chair's intention to strengthen the involvement of the two working groups in the implementation of the 2011 thematic program, ad-hoc Co-Chairs Morocco and Switzerland organized a third meeting of the WG on 26 January 2011 which counted with the participation of 13 governments⁴, 14 international organizations and 1 civil society representative. The following points were highlighted during the meeting:

1. Participants discussed the 2010 GFMD Puerto Vallarta outcomes with primary focus on Roundtable 3 on policy and institutional coherence to address the relationship between migration and development. Emphasis was placed on the need to measure the impact of migration on development policies and develop appropriate assessment indicators for this purpose in order to promote a culture of evaluation.
2. The need for sharing information and data related to national assessment projects and practices was particularly stressed. In this regard, the WG expressed support for the IOM and World Bank proposal to organize a technical workshop in Marseille on assessing outcomes of migration management interventions, rational methods and operational aspects of monitoring and evaluation tools.
3. The recommendation in Puerto Vallarta to continue to produce updated migration profiles will be pursued. But while a standardized template can be recommended, it should also provide flexibility that allows the information to be tailored to the priorities of the concerned countries. It was vital that the ownership of migration profiles should belong to the beneficiary states, although the contribution of RCPs and IRFs would be encouraged in order to promote capacity building, technical assistance and inter-government coordination. Many ideas and suggestions as to how to maximize the benefits from Migration Profiles were put forward.
4. The concept of mainstreaming migration into development planning was also discussed on the basis of the GMG pilot project of handbook for policy makers and practitioners that will be launched in several countries, jointly by IOM and UNDP. The WG might assist in the organization of the technical workshops aimed at promoting such a handbook.

Co-Chair Switzerland added that many countries have expressed their satisfaction about the WG meeting held in January, which included countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as developed and developing countries. All governments engaged in this WG would be informed about the accomplishment of the work plan as the year went on. As announced during this meeting, Switzerland would like to find another government to assume its place as co-chair of the WG. So far, the position remained open; while some governments have expressed their interest, no government had yet come forward and confirmed its interest.

⁴ Argentina, Bangladesh, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Spain and Switzerland and the representatives of the following international organizations: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, WHO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDESA, UNICEF, UNITAR, UN WOMEN, World Bank, OECD, ICMPD, European Commission and of from the civil society – Institute for the Study of International Migration, (some of the colleagues via videoconference)

Dr. Rolph Jenny, WG Coordinator, remarked that the particularity of the WG PCDR was linked to the participation of not only governments, but also a large number of international organizations. This creates a fairly regular and useful interface between the government views, perspectives, and actions on one hand, and expert inputs on the other hand, especially from the GMG. The WG also includes a select number of civil society experts. This approach had been tested for the last year and a half, and governments seem to appreciate such an opportunity to interact with non-governmental actors and GMG agencies and vice versa, between the annual GFMD meetings. He expressed the hope that this concept and approach be maintained.

The Chair thanked the co-chairs and coordinators for their valuable work which has lent support to the Forum's annual agenda and to its viability as a process. There being no question or comment from the floor, he moved on to the next agenda item.

VII. Platform for Partnerships

The Chair explained that the Platform for Partnerships (PfP) was proposed by the Government of Switzerland under the Mexican chairmanship in order to facilitate the exchange of existing practices related to Global Forum themes and outcomes, as well as to promote new initiatives and partnerships among Global Forum stakeholders. Under the guidance of the Mexican Chair, the establishment of the PfP was endorsed by the FOF and set into operation in late October 2010. A first working session on the Platform was held in Puerto Vallarta and was attended by around 200 participants from governments and international organizations. Many useful suggestions came out of this working session which helped improve the concept and the role of the Platform in the Global Forum process.

The Chair gave the floor to Ms. Estrella Lajom-Roman, the Head of the GFMD Support Unit, to explain the developments since November 2010 and recent innovations on the GFMD web portal.

Ms. Lajom-Roman first thanked the Friends of the Forum for their close cooperation with the Support Unit concerning communication matters and logistics of GFMD meetings. As a result of this cooperation, 99 governments and 22 international organizations, i.e. more than 160 participants, participated in the first FOF meeting. She also expressed gratitude for the assistance extended by governments in verifying the names and contact details of concerned Focal Points both in Geneva and in the capitals.

The continued cooperation with the Support Unit in this regard was deemed crucial in facilitating effective communications not only from the Chair, but also between and among all GFMD actors. This would be especially true in the context of the GFMD Assessment exercise which started this year, and also in light of the different format of 2011 GFMD, on which many governments requested additional information as the process moves forward.

Key improvements were introduced in the GFMD web portal in order to make it more responsive to the needs of the Forum. Also, the 2011 GFMD Chair did not intend to develop a separate website; hence, it was imperative to enhance the features of the existing portal. These modifications included the following:

1. a new section on the home page, "GFMD at a Glance", that provides a snapshot of the whole GFMD process was added;
2. the 2011 Chair's feature box was created, where the latest GFMD materials, notices of meetings, progress of thematic meetings and the assessment exercise, and other priority work areas of the Swiss Chair will be uploaded;
3. the navigation menu on the left side was simplified to make it more user-friendly;
4. the structure of the Documents Library was restructured by classifying all the substantive documents that the GFMD has collected through the years according to 11 thematic areas,

- under each one of which can be found related background papers, research studies, reports of proceedings, contributions to the Roundtable preparations etc.;
5. as a recommendation of 2010 GFMD, and in order to facilitate networking among GFMD stakeholders, an online Focal Points directory would be added as a restricted site, where Friends of the Forum would be able to view their user's profiles. For this purpose, an email was sent earlier in the day requesting all focal points to check, validate or correct an auto-generated GFMD user's profiles which were made on the basis of information available to date.
 6. a new specific section on the left side and a feature box on the right side concerning the two ad hoc Working Groups were created, showing their respective achievements and thematic priorities, especially in light of their enhanced role in the 2011 GFMD work plan, both in the left-hand side menu and a feature box on the right;
 7. the links to the Civil Society, the Global Migration Group, and the RCPs were also modified, to highlight the fact that they are considered as key partners of governments in implementing the 2011 GFMD work plan.
 8. finally, the online Platform for Partnerships was also improved.

At this juncture, Ms. Lajom turned over the floor to the PfP Administrator, Ms. Wies Maas, to explain the enhanced PfP online facility.

Ms. Maas recalled that previous annual GFMD meetings made repeated calls to use the website for sharing of practices. The PfP is primarily an online tool or an online space (www.gfmd.org/pfp), but it has also a non-digital dimension, whereby the Chair intends to organize direct meetings to solicit interest for practices and calls, as may be appropriate.

Practices and calls collected on the PfP can feed into the various preparatory thematic meetings and vice versa -- the various thematic meetings can lead to practice-sharing on the PfP. Sharing practices online is a continuation of what the GFMD is offline, when governments share their practices in the context of the Working Groups, in preparing Roundtable Background papers, or during GFMD annual meetings. PfP offers a tool to make this kind of practices more visible and easily accessible.

After receiving many valuable comments during the well-attended first working session in Puerto Vallarta, the PfP concept was elaborated to make it a more useful and feasible tool that could further the GFMD process. Thus, the current PfP is a tool that fulfils three functions:

1. to showcase existing practices – called M&D Practices;
2. to foster new projects and partnership – M&D Calls for Action (in line with this year's focus on taking action);
3. to facilitate communication and exchange among GFMD stakeholders – M&D Networking.

The practices and projects must: a) be related to the fields of migration and/or development b) be submitted by governments and c) be related to GFMD themes and outcomes. Submitting an M&D practice can be done by filling out a simple submission form, also optionally with supporting documents. A search tool was created to help look for practices in a given area of interest.

Furthermore, the PfP also offers a space for fostering new projects and partnerships, named 'Calls for Action', such as additional funding for a project, implementing partners, training, participation in a project and more. Submitting a practice is made through a simple submission form. It is possible to view calls for action that are made and reply to these calls. A case in point was a call for action by Mexico, offering a free training course on protecting unaccompanied migrant children.

Two other calls have been placed on the PfP, which were presented in Puerto Vallarta. The first was the Handbook on Engaging Diaspora in Development Activities in Host and Home Countries

that was being developed by IOM and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) for policy makers and practitioners. Governments were earlier requested to fill in a survey of government officials involved in diaspora engagement; so far, more than 40 surveys had been submitted. It was still possible to submit completed surveys, preferably before 19 March 2011. Just recently, a second more specific survey asking for concrete existing diaspora engagement programs was sent out. The Handbook would hopefully be finalized after summer. Meanwhile, IOM and MPI created a Diaspora Contact Points Directory, which has been posted on the restricted pages of the PfP.

The second call on the PfP concerned a project that was proposed and implemented by Mexico, offering to other countries in other parts of the world a 5-day training course on protecting unaccompanied migrant children. Since Puerto Vallarta, Mexico had provided training to one country and would provide the same to two others. Also, a standing invitation was extended to countries outside Latin America to enrol in the program. The Training Manual for this program could be downloaded free of charge through the PfP.

Ms. Maas concluded by giving the complete PfP contact details and by encouraging delegates to visit the PfP and make an account, submit practices, submit calls for action and start using the online facility. The PowerPoint presentation would be posted on the website.

No comments or questions were offered from the floor. The Chair thanked Ms. Lajom and Ms. Maas for doing excellent work, which made Switzerland proud to have them in the Swiss GFMD team.

VIII. Organizational matters

A. GFMD Budget

On 4 March 2011, the Chair circulated by email to all Friends of the Forum a draft budget proposal for 2011 GFMD that had earlier been presented to the Steering Group on 8 February 2011. The Chair's perspective for the GFMD funding followed the principle of shared ownership of the GFMD process, which has proven to be beneficial for all. While GFMD remains a voluntary process, all governments need to share in the responsibility of facilitating its continuity and sustainability by extending the required financial support.

For 2011, the Chair proposed a core budget of USD 2,1 Million broken down into four components: Organizational Costs, GFMD Support Unit, Civil Society, and Assessment Exercise.

The core budget proposal did not include the cost of the thematic meetings because it was expected that this cost would be directly assumed by the organizing partners. However, the Chair set aside funds to contribute to the cost of such meetings as necessary. The Chair in consultation with interested partners in some of these meetings would endeavour to limit the cost of set meetings by promoting a balanced participation.

Without including the cost of the GFMD Support Unit operations and the GFMD assessment exercise, the total amount would be around USD 1,4 Million. The Chair was prepared to finance USD 677,000 or 46% of the total, aside from giving contributions to thematic meetings. The remaining balance of USD 1,4 Million must be covered by international contributions. In the spirit of partnership that characterizes the Global Forum, the Chair called on all the Friends of the Forum to offer financial assistance to help fund this balance. Cooperation in this regard would help ensure a successful meeting in 2011 and, more importantly, the continuity of the GFMD beyond 2011.

The Chair invited governments to offer financial contributions either as non-earmarked or earmarked for the specific themes or items in the budget proposal. He urged them to coordinate

with Ms. Estrella Lajom Roman, the Head of the Support Unit, for further information on the budget and on how to facilitate the contributions.

Three (3) delegates presented their comments on the 2011 GFMD budget:

1. Referring to the comment made by Mr Sutherland during the morning session on the alleged unwillingness of developing countries to host meetings of the Forum, one delegate emphasized that the main issue in question was the capacity and resource requirements for such an undertaking. It has clearly emerged that financing the Forum was an issue of serious concern which might threaten the very existence of the Forum. Thus, it must be adequately addressed.
2. One delegate expressed his government's concern about the extensive costs of this year's GFMD and feared that the expenses would be a big burden for participating states. The delegate inquired how much money was reserved for the organization of thematic meetings. He welcomed the initiative taken by Mr. Sutherland to submit a draft paper on the possible future financing mechanisms of the GFMD process. He informed the Chair that his government would provide financing for the GFMD Support Unit for a maximum of EUR 50,000.
3. Another delegate thanked the Chair and the Swiss Taskforce for their hard work in preparing the concept paper and pledged support for the work plan. Earlier, the GFMD Taskforce approached their government to host and co-chair one of the thematic sessions. To facilitate the decision-making process, the delegate sought additional information on the extent of support that would be provided to a potential co-chair and on how the meetings would be organized.

In response, the Chair acknowledged the funding constraints faced by governments. This was exactly the reason for having an alternative financial system in the future, as proposed by Mr Sutherland. The Chair committed to put the item on the agenda of the next Steering Group meeting slated for 18 April. A draft proposal was made available for distribution in the room on behalf of Mr. Sutherland and his special adviser, Mr. Francois Fouinat.

Concerning the thematic meetings, more details would follow during the Steering Group meeting. Developing countries would be encouraged to co-chair meetings, with possible support from the Chair. However, the amounts earmarked for thematic meetings could not yet be specified, as these would depend on the other stakeholders involved. Financial assistance would also be provided for the December meeting, in which 130 delegates, mostly from developing countries, would be subsidized.

The Chair said that the thematic meetings were inextricably linked with the 2011 GFMD work program. He thought the burden would not be excessive if cooperation of all countries would be assured. The funds for the GFMD Support Unit and the assessment exercise were never reflected in the core budget of previous GFMD meetings, thus, the budget to be compared amounted only to USD 1,3-1,4 Million which was not an exaggerated sum.

B. Provisional calendar

On 8 February 2011, the provisional calendar⁵ showing the meetings of the GFMD Steering Group, the Friends of the Forum and the GFMD Assessment Team in 2011 was presented to the Steering Group. On the basis of elicited comments and some considerations about the thematic meetings and the Extended Friends of the Forum, the calendar was duly revised. The provisional calendar did not include the schedule of thematic meetings which would be made known and communicated later via the GFMD web portal and during preparatory meetings.

⁵ See Annex 2 for Provisional Calendar of 2011 GFMD

IX. Civil Society

The Chair remarked that a new Global Forum format called for new forms of interaction with Civil Society (CS) stakeholders. While the Chair was convinced that it was the responsibility of the different CS stakeholders to organize and intensify the dialogue amongst themselves, the Chair was supportive of having a platform for exchange between governments and CS. This was a central characteristic of the Global Forum process outlined in the 2007 Global Forum operating modalities. One of the ways to realize the 2011 GFMD theme was by promoting continuity and coherence between the CS processes for 2010 and 2011 and ensuring tangible and concrete results this year, thereby adding value to the overall process.

Informal discussions on the engagement of the civil society have yielded some important points:

- sectoral and geographic representation and gender diversity must be ensured;
- the Chair supported the establishment of a core organizing group of key CS representatives that would assume responsibility for drafting and implementing the CS 2011 work plan, while also acting as liaison point for the GFMD Chair, in the absence of a foundation that could spearhead this year's CS engagement;
- suitable modalities for organizing a Common Space between CS and governments on the margins of the E FOF meeting must be explored; and
- there was an intention to promote, where possible, interaction with CS representatives on the occasion of the various thematic meetings throughout the year.

The Chair then gave the floor to Mr. John Bingham, who was the Civil Society representative for 2011 GFMD. The latter began by thanking the Swiss Taskforce for inviting the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) to organize the Civil Society engagement in this year's GFMD. The ICMC, next to UNHCR and IOM, would celebrate its 60th anniversary this year to mark 60 years of working with migrants and refugees on the ground around the world, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity and nationality, most often in formal partnership with states and international organizations, as well as other NGOs and Civil Society partners. The ICMC had participated in the Global Forum since the beginning days of the UN High Level Dialogue in 2006. Through the years, ICMC had worked with the GFMD Chairs and foundations as a member of the international advisory committee, as rapporteur or panellist, in editing background papers and, finally, as chair of the Steering Committee of the Civil Society in Mexico GFMD 2010.

Mr. Bingham believed that each year has built on prior years, and the work of the GFMD participants between annual meetings must be appreciated. He had begun a consultation process for the 2011 Civil Society engagement with some 30 actors and organizations around the world. All these individuals and entities had been involved in GFMD in recent years – representing a diversity of NGOs, labour groups, academics and international organizations. He also took note of the recommendations made by the CS over the years during its own Future of the Forum sessions of the annual GFMD meetings.

There was general appreciation for the 2011 GFMD revised concept paper, notably due to its:

- thematic focus on labour mobility, irregular migration and evidence-based planning tools;
- broadened approach with regional or interregional engagement and thematic events and the gathering back to the global discussions and outcomes within a smaller, more efficient, year-end event with a meaningful Common Space
- greater emphasis on follow-up and action, including measuring impacts, and a greater degree of responsibility given to the Civil Society in organizing its own engagement.

He emphasized that many of these approaches had long been encouraged by Civil Society participants over the years, in order to deepen the global discussions.

There was no definite structure yet for the 2011 GFMD Civil Society component. However, there was a strong sense among many who worked on previous GFMDs to streamline the international advisory committee from a list of more than 20 to a 5-or-6-member group, working with broad consultative mechanisms which have the capacity and are firmly committed to coordinating various activities, with profound respect for geographical, sectoral and gender diversity. Wide consultations will be carried out both on the streamlined approach and on assembling a solid 5 or 6-member core group.

The immediate next step was to prepare a reasonable set of CS activities with reference to the States' programme as framed in the Chair's revised concept paper. At the invitation of, and in consultation with the Chair, ICMC has begun brainstorming in this direction, engaging a broad number of Civil Society participants in the thinking process. The following elements were being considered by the Civil Society :

1. a central thematic focus on labour migration, with subjects such as irregular migration, development, gender and family and global care workers radially connected;
2. a limited number of interregional events, perhaps 3, organized explicitly for the Global Forum, possibly built as other productive CS Global Forum's meetings in recent years around several chosen migration contexts, e.g. Asia-Pacific together with the Middle East and Gulf, Africa together with Europe and the Americas;
3. a very limited number of thematic events – 1 or 2 of them organized explicitly for GFMD, e.g. involving the private sector, global care or labour and development and an informal thematic day of discussions at the UN General Assembly in May;
4. a limited number of working groups, modelled on a mechanism for voluntary follow-up action and continuity among States, which is considered to be very effective, with some of early thinking centring on groups for labour migration, on practical cooperation with states and on modalities for the participation of CS in regional and other migration and development processes;
5. increased linkage to the CS event, which is likely as in the past years to be organized separately from, but with reference to the Global Forum as a parallel event;
6. convening before, and participating meaningfully in the Extended Friends of the Forum meeting at the end of the year.

The global aspect that would promote action and continuity was a paramount objective for the Civil Society, as much as for the state delegates. To this end, Mr Bingham shared a few inputs gained from the CS brainstorming:

1. to the greatest extent possible, Civil Society regional events will have coordinated agendas and background papers;
2. CS representatives engaged in the interregional and thematic events will be asked to identify recommendations to send to the global level, in particular the E FOF;
3. one or more CS working groups will promote, among others, global collaboration with States and international organizations, as well as global network building.

On a final note, Mr. Bingham thanked the States, as well as foundations and business, for helping CS to structure and fund a proper positive scale of engagement in this process. He welcomed earmarked contributions. The Civil Society would aim at swift actions in the coming weeks as it consulted with a diverse, but manageable number of CS organizations already engaged in GFMD.

One delegate asked if the presentation of Mr Bingham would be shared with the FOF. The latter said that a final program for the year would be prepared and circulated as a result of consultations with CS in the coming weeks.

X. Any other business

a. 2012 Chairmanship

The Chair echoed the words of Mr. Sutherland on the issue of the 2012 Chairmanship, adding that Switzerland was very mindful of the urgency of the situation. Informal consultations with governments were taking place, but no definite proposal had yet been received.

In the spirit of shared ownership and responsibility, the Chair urged all governments to help identify a possible host of GFMD for 2012, and expressed readiness to guide a willing state in any theoretical and practical implications of the role. Mr. Sutherland would also be involved in the preparatory discussions. More importantly, the UN Secretary General gave assurance of his great support to the process in a personal discussion held last February with the current Chair Switzerland and former Chair Mexico (represented by Amb. Julián Valero Ventura).

The first meeting of the Friends of the Forum closed with a note of thanks from the Chair and an undertaking that additional information will be provided to the governments.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:45.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit
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ANNEX I

Participation by Governments :

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

Participation by Observers :

ADB, African Union, European Commission, Holy See, ICMPD, IFAD, IGC, ILO, IOF, IOM, OSCE, Palestine, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, WHO, WMO



2011 GFMD Provisional Calendar of Meetings

(as of 15 March 2011)

1 st Steering Group Meeting 3 rd Assessment Team Meeting	8 February 2011
4 th Assessment Team Meeting 1 st Friends of the Forum Meeting	15 March 2011
5 th Assessment Team Meeting 2 nd Steering Group Meeting	18 April 2011
6 th Assessment Team Meeting 2 nd Friends of the Forum Meeting	28 June 2011
7 th Assessment Team Meeting 3 rd Steering Group Meeting	6 September 2011
3 rd Friends of the Forum Meeting	7 September 2011
8 th Assessment Team Meeting 4 th Steering Group Meeting	3 November 2011
Extended Friends of the Forum Meeting	1-2 December 2011

All the above meetings will take place in Geneva, Switzerland.