

*Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development*

**GFMD 2014-2015 Third Meeting of the Friends of the Forum**

Wednesday, 4 February 2015  
La Salle V, R3 Level, ILO Building

**Summary Report**

**Welcoming Remarks**

1. Mrs. Esen Altuğ, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed 140 delegates representing 81 Member States and 17 GFMD Observers during the third Friends of the Forum (FOF) meeting held on 4 February 2015 in Geneva. She chaired the meeting in the presence of Mr. Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary General's Special Representative for International Migration (SRSG), incoming GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh, represented by Mr. Riaz Hamidullah, MFA Director General, and GFMD 2013-2014 Chair Sweden, represented by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Provisional Agenda of the meeting was adopted by all participating delegations.

**Migration and Development in the United Nations**

3. The Chair invited Mr. Sutherland to address the FOF and to share about the latest state of play on migration and development in the United Nations. The SRSG offered his remarks both on the substantive plans of the Turkish GFMD and the continued evolution of the GFMD. He drew attention to the fact that migration has figured critically in today's news and political debates, making the GFMD work even more consequential in the lives of migrants and well-being of societies.
4. The SRSG commended the Turkish GFMD concept note for squarely confronting the crucial issue of forced migration and trying to bridge the humanitarian-development divide by fostering cooperation in exploring forced migrants' access to labour markets. He also welcomed the dedicated session on reducing the costs of migration. He praised the Turkish Chair for promoting the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 agenda by proposing to look at plans of action for achieving migration-related targets and to consider how migration can be inserted into the implementation plans for post-2015 goals that do not mention migration explicitly. He expressed the hope that the first thematic meeting will be able to explore how the Forum can be a platform for possible thematic review and monitoring of progress in the post-2015 development agenda.
5. He was confident that the Turkish Chair will continue the outstanding stewardship of the process by the GFMD 2013-2014 Chair Sweden. As the GFMD continues to evolve, important advances that have been made in terms of strengthening the Forum structures (Troika, Steering Group, Friends of the Forum, and the Support Unit) and deepening the collaboration with key stakeholders (the Global Migration Group, civil society and private sector) must be sustained. He enjoined all Friends of the Forum, particularly the members of the Steering Group, to show vigorous and active involvement in the Forum, by supporting the government-led Roundtables, by having effective national focal points with sufficient convening authority in the capitals, and by offering financial support to the process.

## **GFMD 2014-2015; on Concept Note and Work Plan**

### **Final GFMD 2014-2015 Concept Note**

6. The Chair circulated on 2 February what was hoped to be a final draft of the GFMD 2014-2015 concept note. At the meeting of the Steering Group earlier in the day, more comments and suggestions were submitted.<sup>1</sup> According to Ms. Altuğ, the meeting, *inter alia*, debated on the term mobility versus migration and the proposed RT session on forced migration. She emphasized that this RT will explore the development channels for forced migrants—an approach welcomed by the UNHCR, the agency primarily dealing with refugees and other forced migrants. She expressed the hope that the FOF would support the Turkish Chair's objective, reminding participants that the GFMD is a forward-looking platform for dialogue and cooperation.
7. Nine delegates requested for the floor. Some of them wanted the concept note to sharpen the focus on protecting migrant workers' rights, particularly women, children and others in vulnerable situations. One delegate advocated for a balanced narrative by discussing the benefits as well as the risks and challenges associated with migration, both for countries of origin, transit and destination, and the individual migrants.
8. Another delegate suggested rephrasing the references to “national and cooperative plans of action for achieving migration targets” under RT session 2.2 inasmuch as no such plans are being discussed within the inter-governmental negotiations on sustainable development goals (SDGs) in New York. Also, this delegate opined that it would be premature to include in the GFMD concept note the possible role of the GFMD in the monitoring process, when the UNSG's synthesis report is yet to be discussed by the General Assembly.
9. Several interveners expressed reservations about the focus on forced migrants in RT 3.1. Some of them did not agree with the definition of “forced migrants” provided in the concept note. A delegate urged the GFMD to focus on basic concepts and keep in mind the state and pace of discussions in other UN processes where migration and development issues are inter-linked. Conversely, the civil society coordinating office expressed support for RT 3.1, underlining the fact that the link between forced migrants and development is real and evidence-based. Civil society also reiterated the importance of a rights-based approach to promoting safe and fair migration for all migrants.
10. The Chair welcomed all comments and suggestions which she believed demonstrated governments' interest in the GFMD. She encouraged them to submit written comments through the GFMD Support Unit. The Chair will try to incorporate as best as possible these valuable inputs in the revision of the final draft.

### **Updated Calendar of Activities of GFMD 2014 -2015**

11. The Chair announced that the GFMD Summit Meeting in Istanbul will take place on 14 to 16 October 2015. No other changes were recorded in the GFMD 2014-2015 calendar of activities. The Chair stated that consultations were still going on regarding a possible GFMD and G-20 joint event and an ad hoc meeting with the private sector. Further announcement will be made as soon as details become available.
12. Mrs. Altuğ also mentioned that the Chair intended to participate in other related processes, such as the 13<sup>th</sup> UN Coordination meeting on 12-13 February in New York and the IFAD Global Forum on Remittances and Development meeting to be held on 16 to 19 June 2015 in Milan.

### **Overview of Government Roundtable Teams**

13. The Chair presented the latest overview of Government RT teams,<sup>2</sup> comprised of 38 Governments as of reporting time. The Chair was happy to note that all regions of the world were represented in the current Government Teams composition. Supporting these RT teams are 13 GFMD Observers, including member agencies of the Global Migration Group. Participation remains open and the Chair looked forward to welcoming another country to help Eritrea in co-leading RT 3.1. She encouraged all delegates, especially those

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<sup>1</sup> For the highlights of SG debates, see the *Summary Report of the third meeting of the GFMD 2014-2015 Steering Group*.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015> for the latest overview of Government RT teams.

who were still undecided, to attend the first preparatory meetings scheduled on Friday, 6 February 2015 to help clarify Government team member expectations and see how country experiences in migration and development

### **GFMD 2014-2015 Thematic Meeting**

14. The Chair thanked Bangladesh, the incoming GFMD 2016 Chair, and Germany for agreeing to co-convene the first thematic meeting on Migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda to be held the following day. The second and third GFMD thematic meetings under the Turkish Chair will be held on April 29 and September 3, respectively. The Philippines offered to co-convene the September 3 meeting on “Recognizing the contributions of women migrants to economic and social development in countries of origin and destination and addressing their specific needs.” But there was yet no co-convenor for this meeting, nor for the April 29 thematic meeting on “The Role of Communications in promoting widespread recognition of the benefits of migration, improving public perceptions of migrants and combating xenophobic reactions.” The Chair invited interested governments to step forward as co-convenors.

### **Program of GFMD 2014-2015 Summit Meeting**

15. The format of the GFMD Summit Meeting in Istanbul to be held on 14 to 16 October 2015 will be similar to the last GFMD in Stockholm. The official opening will be held on October 14, followed by the GFMD Common Space for governments and non-state actors, then intensive Roundtable meetings. The closing session will be held on October 16. The Government meeting will be preceded by the GFMD Civil Society Days on 12-13 October.

### **GFMD 2014-2015 Budget Situation**

16. An update on the status of GFMD 2014-2015 Budget was given. The projected costs remained at USD 3,071,855, broken down into three components:

- 1) Preparatory costs - USD 543,816 (18%)
- 2) Organizational costs of the Istanbul Summit meeting - USD 1,502,336 (49%)
- 3) Operational costs of the Support Unit for 18 months period – USD 936,231 (30%)

17. The Chair thanked all 11 donor governments that have contributed or pledged financial support to the Turkish GFMD Chair, namely: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. The Chair called on other governments to step forward and offer financial support, regardless of the amount, in order to broaden the ownership of the GFMD process.

The GFMD 2013-2014 Chair Sweden announced a contribution of USD 120,000 to the Government process, and USD 40,000 to the civil society process. France also announced a contribution of EUR 15,000.

18. The GFMD 2014-2015 Chair was expecting around USD 2.429 Million resources. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of this amount was a contribution from Turkey. The current budget gap was USD 1.04 Million, including the minimum USD 400,000 budget to be handed over to incoming GFMD 2016 Chair (Bangladesh) as provided under the Long Term financing framework of the GFMD.

### **The GFMD 2014-2015 Civil Society Process**

19. Before calling on Mr. John Bingham, ICMC Policy Director, Mrs. Altuğ informed the Friends of the Forum that on December 21 and 22, the ICMC visited Istanbul and Ankara to establish contact with trade unions, academics, NGOs and other migration-related institutions in Turkey. It was a good occasion also for GFMD-concerned authorities in Turkey to hear about ICMC’s work as the coordinating office of the GFMD civil society process, and to have initial discussions on how to organize the Civil Society Days in Istanbul.

20. In his report<sup>3</sup> to the Friends of the Forum, Mr. Bingham thanked the Turkish Chair for facilitating the meetings of ICMC with civil society actors in Istanbul. He appreciated the interest and capacity of universities and NGOs in Turkey to support a possible national organizing process for the Turkish Civil society.
21. Since November 2014, civil society has continued to organize activities focused on taking GFMD work forward, notably through the “MADE” (Migration and Development) project, which ICMC and its civil society partners co-fund together with the European Union. MADE’s work is structured around three priorities: a) continuity that leads to change by following-up on GFMD recommendations concretely; b) widening regional and national work of civil society and c) sharpening the focus for collaboration and results.
22. The ICMC looked forward to organizing the Civil Society Days (CSD) on 12 and 13 October and to co-organizing with the Chair the Common Space on 14 October 2015 in Istanbul. As in Stockholm, a small number of single-issue breakfast tables will be organized before the Common Space, with the “5 + 5” formula of government representatives and civil society leaders.
23. A new International Steering Committee (ISC) of civil society leaders from around the world will be convened by end February 2015. This ISC will work with ICMC on the concept and format of the CS process, with the Turkish Chair’s final draft concept note as a starting reference. It is expected that the 2015 CSD will revolve around the 5-year 8-point Plan, with a distinct emphasis on measuring progress and impact. The civil society is also contemplating on a proposal from Latin America CS partners to hold meetings with government leaders from a number of Regional Consultative Processes.
24. With the newly announced contribution from Sweden, the CS budget gap was recorded at USD 310,000. Mr. Bingham requested other countries to also offer financial support.

## **Any Other Business**

25. The representative of Guatemala reaffirmed their government’s strong interest to become part of the GFMD 2014-2015 Steering Group. The Chair confirmed that Guatemala’s request was discussed at the Troika and the Steering Group meetings earlier in the day. The Troika will initiate action to try to accommodate this request while maintaining the membership of the Steering Group to 30, as agreed in Stockholm.
26. The Chair declared the meeting as adjourned at 17h30.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit  
16 February 2015

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015> for the full report of the ICMC during the third Friends of the Forum meeting.