

Concept Note

A GFMD Side Event on: Migration and Human mobility in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda *Perspectives from the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)*

As the inter-governmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda draw nearer to conclusion, it is increasingly likely that – for the first time – migration and human mobility will become an integral part of the new sustainable development agenda. The proposal of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals – considered the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the Post-2015 development agenda – included a number of important references to migration and related issues, particularly:

- SDG target 8.8: protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious situations
- SDG target 10.7: facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- SDG target 10.c: by 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%
- SDG target 17.18: data disaggregation, including by migratory status

The inclusion of these targets – and others related to migration – would be a significant achievement and major step forward in the ongoing discourse on the links between migration and development. It would give greater recognition to the fact that migration can be a significant driver of development, and that the new development agenda would be incomplete if it did not include migrants and migration in its constituent goals and targets.

However, in order to live up to the ambitions of the new agenda and to effectively implement migration-related targets, it is particularly important to establish strong indicators and monitoring mechanisms to guarantee effective follow-up and review. Indeed, the Post-2015 discussions are increasingly focusing on review and follow-up mechanisms for the SDG goals and targets, while the High-level Political Forum is deliberating on how it can operationalise its mandate to follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments.

This raises important questions about how to effectively implement migration-related targets and about the different mechanisms and processes that could help review progress in the area of migration. In December 2014, the Secretary-General released his Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 development agenda, "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet". This report urges Member States to consider the use of voluntary, state-led, participatory, evidence-based, and multi-tiered processes to monitor progress, including through regular thematic reviews at the global and regional levels. Many of these ideas have subsequently appeared in the zero draft outcome document of the Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Guided by the progress of the Post-2015 development process happening in New York, and in preparation for the 8th GFMD Summit Meeting roundtable, the Turkish GFMD Chair organized a

Thematic Meeting on “Migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda” in Geneva in February 2015, bringing together around 150 policymakers and officials from UN Member States and representatives of international organizations and the civil society. One conclusion from the meeting was that the GFMD can play a constructive role in promoting consensus and developing coalitions of interest around the migration aspects of the UN development agenda, and also possibly in the thematic follow up and review suggested by the UN Secretary General .¹

This discussion could also be addressed at the 2015 GFMD Summit taking place in Istanbul. The Turkish GFMD Chair for 2014-2015 proposed a thematic agenda that retains the focus on “migration as a factor in development.” A dedicated Roundtable (2.2) on “Making migration work post-2015: implementing the SDGs” will be organized to discuss the implementation of migration-related goals, targets and indicators appearing in the SDG report. As an initial preparatory work of this roundtable, the Government Team prepared a set of concrete migration-related indicators.²

Taking advantage of the final inter-governmental negotiations on the outcome document for the UN Summit on the Post-2015 Development agenda, the Turkish GFMD Chair will co-organize on July 1 with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) another side event on the margins of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) - the main United Nations platform that provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations on sustainable development. The HLPF is mandated to follow up and review the implementation of sustainable development commitments and, as of 2016, the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year’s theme for the HLPF is "*Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015.*"

The 1 July 2015 GFMD side event offers a space for Member States and other concerned stakeholders to reflect on the latest shape of the proposed SDG targets and possible indicators. The event will recall the GFMD’s substantive outcomes and recommendations on the appropriate place for migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In view of the GFMD’s singular role as a state-led forum that promotes constructive debate and consensus-building around migration policy issues at the global level, the meeting will also consider the GFMD’s potential contribution to Post-2015 follow-up and review.

Guiding questions

- What are the key platforms at the global and regional levels that can contribute to follow-up and review of migration-related targets?
- What role should the GFMD play in SDG follow-up and review?
- What would be required to ensure the GFMD’s alignment with the SDG framework?
- How could the GFMD enhance its linkages with other processes and fora in order to contribute to SDG follow-up and review?

¹ <http://www.gfmd.org/news/migration-post-2015-un-development-agenda>

² This document was circulated as an information note for the inter-governmental negotiations on the outcome document of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development, and the GFMD-GMG-SRSG side event on “*Migration, labour mobility and the renewed global partnership for sustainable development.*” <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015>