



UNITED NATIONS
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GFMD 2017-2018 First Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 1 February 2017

14.00 to 17.00 hrs Room XVII, 1st Floor, Building E Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Delivered by Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair, United Nations University Institute on
Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)**

On behalf of the GMG Chair

Agenda Item 4. GFMD-GMG-SRSG Collaboration

I am honoured to address you this afternoon on behalf of the Global Migration Group, or GMG, of the United Nations system which is chaired in this critical year by United Nations University (UNU).

Before proceeding further, it may be worth saying a few words, for those of you who do not know it, about UNU. The United Nations University is an international community of scholars, with a Charter from the UN General Assembly to engage in policy-relevant research on pressing global issues, specialised postgraduate training and capacity building, and the dissemination of knowledge. UNU functions as a think tank for the United Nations system. It operates as a global network of institutes and programmes, coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

Headed by our Rector, Dr David M. Malone, all of UNU, some 600 researchers and staff members working in 15 institutes and programmes on 5 continents, is working together to ensure a successful chairing of the GMG. In particular, Rector Malone is supported by the expertise of the members of the entire UNU Migration Network of over 45 academics across UNU - including UNU's Institute

on Globalisation, Culture and Mobility in Barcelona - of which I am Director. UNU looks forward to contributing to the GMG's thought leadership and genuinely global perspective on migration in 2017, a decisive year for policy-making on international migration.

I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the co-chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for inviting GMG to participate in this session. May I also take this opportunity to wish our colleagues from Germany and Morocco every success in your role as co-chairs of the GFMD in this critical period. Warm thanks are also extended to Bangladesh for its leadership in chairing the GFMD in 2016, a transformative year in the global discussion of migration.

Over the year ahead, the GMG intends to build upon the very good cooperation between the GMG and GFMD last year, when engagement prior to the adoption of the landmark New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016 was particularly productive. Both our entities, in coordination with the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for international migration, will have a role in contributing towards the negotiation process for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. This has been spelt out in some more detail in the modalities resolution just agreed by Member States in New York.

The GMG is particularly pleased to have been acknowledged as a source of potential support and expertise to the President of the General Assembly and Secretary-General as they prepare a series of informal thematic sessions and briefs, between April and November 2017, addressing six different sets of issues in preparation for the negotiation of the global compact. As Chair of the GMG, Rector Malone will be working hard with all the other Members, and in particular our colleagues at IOM, who likewise have been singled out to contribute to this process, to provide the necessary supports and inputs. In this, we take as our

example the productive cooperation amongst GMG Members during 2016, ably facilitated by UN Women when their Principal held the Chair.

The adoption of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, a demonstration of the international community's willingness to come together in response to the largest migrant and refugee flows in 70 years, was a landmark event. Working in partnership, the GMG and GFMD can support the implementation of its commitments which have the potential to impact, in a positive way, millions of lives.

Entering the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – in which migration features prominently, not least in SDG 10.7 on safe, orderly and regular migration as well as numerous other migration-related targets – we must not lose sight of the bigger picture. We must continue to ensure implementation of the Agenda for everyone, for all migrants, and working to ensure that “no-one is left behind”. GMG members will be reviewing how we can even more effectively contribute to these efforts in the weeks ahead, including at our annual strategic retreat in mid-February.

Effective GMG-GFMD cooperation has helped to ensure that the international community understands the complex relationship between migration and development, the multiple and inter-twined drivers and root causes, and the development opportunities and benefits afforded by well-governed migration. The GMG remains committed to supporting and working closely with the GFMD and partners in capitalizing upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration in a more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated fashion. This is particularly necessary this year and next, when member states, with our support, will be elaborating a global compact on migration.

In that sense, 2017 offers both GMG and GFMD unique opportunities to achieve our complementary objectives.

Concretely, the GMG plans for the coming year include:

- A strategic retreat to take place in New York (Greentree) in February. This will be an important opportunity to discuss the role and function of the GMG in the coming period, including how the GMG, in collaboration with others, can best support the current intergovernmental process.
- Ongoing analytical work through our system of working groups and task forces which have already developed tools and guidance on many issues specified in the New York Declaration. We have five working groups or task forces which focus on the following key thematic work areas:
 - (1) Data and research
 - (2) Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies
 - (3) Migration, human rights and gender equality
 - (4) Migration and decent work
 - (5) Capacity development
- Regular meetings of the GMG at working level at which our approach is discussed and coordinated.
- We are working to compile an illustrative compendium of recent policy-oriented, research or analytical outputs from GMG members to be made available to member states, including members of the GFMD, to support them in the consultations towards a global compact.
- We will prepare an informal report, mandated by the New York Declaration, on the progress made by the UN system in implementing the migration-related commitments made at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. This report will be ready in the third quarter of 2017.
- Recent GMG publications and the GMG multi-annual work plan (MAWP), a living document, are available on our website: www.globalmigrationgroup.org

More broadly, the GMG is determined to provide whatever support Member States request of us, including the support outlined in the modalities resolution. We consider our ongoing cooperation with the GFMD, as well as participation in GFMD meetings and events, as an important element of that endeavour.

The GMG also very much looks forward to working with you towards a successful GFMD Summit in Berlin in June, and beyond.

The GMG stands ready to provide coherent policy ideas and inputs, working in close cooperation with the Secretary General of the UN and his Special Representative for International Migration, during this important opportunity to support rapidly shifting approaches to migration governance and policy.

Thank you.