

Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development

Newsletter from Sweden's Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development



GFMD Forum meeting – only weeks away

The 7th meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will take place in Stockholm on 14-16 May. The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Hillevi Engström and Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström will welcome 450 participants from approximately 140 countries who will join discussions on the potential of migration for inclusive development. HRH Crown Princess Victoria will open the meeting and the UNSG Ban Ki-moon is expected to deliver the key note speech. During the Common Space, on 14 May, civil society participants, international organisations and governments meet to discuss migration and development together. The Swedish Chair has chosen to focus round table discussions on the integration of migration in global, regional and national development agendas, on migration as an enabler for inclusive economic development and on migration as an enabler for inclusive social development. The future of the Forum and the Platform for Partnerships are also on the agenda. Participants will be welcomed to the historic Münchenbryggeriet Conference Centre at the heart of the Swedish capital.



Tobias Billström, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy and Hillevi Engström, Minister for International Development Cooperation

[Read more about the Forum meeting in Stockholm](#)

Civil Society Days – gathering 250 civil society organisations from over 75 countries

The GFMD civil society days take place on 12 – 13 May. 800 applications were made from civil society all over the world and participants were selected by the International Steering Committee (ISC) tasked with selecting participants. Representing a great diversity of regions and sectors, selected participants come from diaspora and migrant organisations, human rights and development groups, labour unions and academia as well as the private sector. Under the overarching theme of *Shaping Migration & Development Goals: global movement, change on the ground*, the GFMD civil society pro-

gram will concentrate on shaping goals for labour mobility, shaping goals for the protection of migrants and families and shaping goals for the empowerment of migrants and communities for social inclusion and human development. The ICMC as Coordinator for civil society globally together with the Swedish GFMD civil society focal point, Caritas, is the organiser of civil society days.

[Read more about civil society days in Stockholm](#)

Sweden held final preparatory meetings in Geneva

In March 2014 the GFMD Chair-in-Office convened the last round of preparatory meetings of the Troika, the Steering Group (SG) and the Friends of the Forum (FoF) in the final stretch to the GFMD 2014 Forum Meeting in Stockholm. The SG and FoF meetings focused on three key issues – enhancing the working methods of the Steering Group, the long-term financing framework for the GFMD and the multi-annual work program – which are aimed at promoting a more efficient, more durable and more sustainable process. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Migration Peter Sutherland joined discussions and focused on the importance of including migration in the Post-2015 development agenda, as well as improving the overall perception of migrants and migration at all levels. The FoF also included a presentation by the Chair on the implementation of the GFMD assessment recommendation to engage the private sector as a separate and distinct stakeholder in the dialogue on migration and development. Activities included brainstorming and in-depth research, a mapping study as well as business roundtables in New York, Brussels and Geneva. In



conjunction with SG and FoF meetings, the Chair also gathered government teams for the last preparatory meetings in view of round table discussions during the Forum in May.

[Read the reports from the Steering Group and FoF-meeting](#)



The role of business in international migration

On 12 March, the Swedish Chair co-convened with the governments of Turkey and Canada the 4th thematic meeting on “The Role of Business in International Migration - Engaging the private sector as partners for positive development outcomes”. The meeting, which gathered around 130 delegates from governments, international organisations, civil society and the private sector, explored areas of common inter-

est in the GFMDs effort to improve its engagement with business as a distinct and separate stakeholder. Beginning with a plenary session, the meeting featured roundtable break-out sessions on four key sectors – extractives, financial services, ethical recruitment and emerging needs.

[Read more about the involvement of business in migration and development](#)

Launch of GFMD database

The GFMD Policy and Practice Database (PPD) will be launched and made publically available following the May Forum. Created in order to improve the evidence base and the delivery power of the GFMD process, the PPD provides a dynamic and searchable tool that showcases the wide range of migration and



development practices shared throughout the GFMD since 2007. So far 445 M&D Policies and Practices showcased by 172 governments can be found in the database as well as three M&D Policy Tools, 179 Migration Profiles and five Calls for Action.

[Read more on the Platform for Partnerships website](#)

UN Coordination on Migration and Development



The 12th Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place in New York on 21 February and focused on the follow-up to the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as well as integrating international migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The GFMD Chair was represented by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje who welcomed the outcome from the UN High-level Dialogue, in particular the overwhelming support for including migration in the post-2015 development agenda and the recognition of GFMD as an important trust-

building process. The adoption of the Declaration signalled a shared understanding of the importance of migration and development. In a meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General noted the importance of including migration in the post-2015 development agenda and invited the Chair of the GFMD to convey the outcomes from the GFMD Forum Meeting in Stockholm to the continued post-2015 development agenda process. The GFMD Chair expressed an interest in enhancing the cooperation between the GFMD and the United Nations in general and the Global Migration Group in particular. In this regard, the Swedish Chair stressed the value of these yearly meetings with the Secretary General and welcomed the task given to SRSO Sutherland to convene regular meetings with the leadership of the GFMD and the GMG. The GFMD Chair also welcomed the continued efforts of SRSO Sutherland to explore the issue of global collective handling of migration and development.

[Read more about the coordination meeting](#)

Meanwhile in Sweden

- As a prelude to the GFMD meeting in Stockholm, on 28 April five Swedish ministers, responsible for development cooperation, migration, trade, labour market and integration policy respectively, will be joined by director generals from several Swedish public authorities involved in migration and development related work in order to discuss synergies and policy coherence in practise. The focus of discussions will be both on how migration contributes to development globally and on what migration brings to development in Sweden.

[Read more](#)

- As part of efforts to engage civil society nationally on migration and development, the Swedish GFMD-chair supported a pilot initiative to formulate a youth perspective that could be expressed during the Common Space session of the May Forum. A group of twenty individuals between the ages of 15 and 25 from varied backgrounds participated in the two workshops designed to elicit their perspective on the GFMDs main focus areas. Six individuals will be selected to deliver the group's key messages during the Common Space on 14 May.

[Read more](#)

- In March the government issued a report, following up on the political framework for Sweden's practice on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). The PCD identifies migration as one of six global challenges with great potential for development. The report highlights the important contribution of migration to development through circular migration, remittances and durable solutions for displaced populations, while also identifying possible conflicting policy objectives.

[Read more](#)

- In April the government presented a bill to Parliament with concrete proposals in several policy areas aiming at facilitating circular migration and promoting its positive effects on development. These legislative proposals follow from the independent Parliamentary Committee on Circular Migration and Development that was created in 2009 with the task to examine the link between circular migration and development and identify factors that influence migrants' possibilities to circulate and contribute to development.

[Read more](#)

- In March the government tasked state agencies Statistics Sweden and the Swedish Migration Board to map existing migration statistics and migration relevant data in Sweden in order to identify gaps in existing statistics with focus on circular migration patterns and remittances. The mapping will be presented in a report to the government in December 2014.

[Read more](#)

- The government has instructed the Swedish Consumer Agency to set up a web-based information service that will enable consumers to compare the cost of transferring money from Sweden to low and middle income countries. The service should be operational by December 2014 and allow consumers to find the best and cheapest service for payment transfers from Sweden.

[Read more](#)

Turkey - next GFMD chair

Three questions to Ambassador Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Turkey, who is coordinating Turkey's preparations in view of taking over the Chairmanship on 1 July 2014.

Why has Turkey decided to take on the chairmanship of the GFMD?



Turkey was traditionally a transit and source country for migration, but throughout the years, due to her economic growth and social development, she has become an attractive target country. We have decided to take up this challenging task not only because of our country's increasing importance in the area of migration, but also because of our growing commitment to issues of development. Turkey has a lot of experience to share in the area of migration and development. In this context, we believe that strengthening partnerships and international cooperation on migration management will help in integrating migration with development policies.

What issues will the Turkish chair prioritise?

We will continue the GFMD efforts towards the integration of migration in the post-2015 UN development agenda. Our priorities will be promoting human mobility as well as improving public perception of migrants. We also will focus on ways to ensure the human rights of migrants as well as on fighting racism, discrimination and xenophobia. We will continue the efforts to engage the business community in the dialogue on migration and development. In this respect, we will showcase best practices of small and medium-sized enterprises as a mean of migrants' contribution to development.

Will there be any changes to the process?

We will ensure coherence and continuity of the GFMD by following and improving the multiannual work plan initiated by the Swedish Chair. This plan enables us to have a smooth transition between the two Chairs. We will also try our best to make the work of GFMD even more relevant and visible.

Thank you and goodbye

The Swedish chairmanship ends on 30 June. We want to thank all governments, international organisations, businesses, experts and civil society who have contributed to successful meetings and to open and constructive dialogues! We also want to thank the GFMD support unit in Geneva for all their work in support of the chair.

Coming activities

- 28 April: Seminar on how migration promotes development in Sweden and globally. Centralposthuset, Stockholm
- 12-13 May: GFMD Civil Society Days 2014. Münchenbryggeriet Conference Centre, Stockholm
- 14-16 May: 7th GFMD Forum Meeting. Münchenbryggeriet Conference Centre, Stockholm
- 3-4 June: GFMD chair participation in ACP observatory conference on South-South migration and development, Brussels
- 17-18 June: GFMD chair participation in Eschborn dialogue "World in motion: mobility, migration, digital change", Frankfurt
- 1 July: Turkey assumes GFMD Chairmanship

Contact information

Do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development for further information.

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The secretariat for the Swedish chairmanship, headed by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje