

SPEAKING POINTS

GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

2 February 2017 – Geneva

1. Retrospection of the modalities process, including key areas of discussion

- With the finalization of the modalities resolution early this week an important first step has been achieved in the two years process leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration at an intergovernmental conference in 2018.
- The two co-facilitators, Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico, and Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, were mandated by the President of the General Assembly to lead open, transparent and inclusive consultations on the modalities, a timeline, the possible holding of preparatory conferences and other practicalities relating to the intergovernmental negotiations, including the integration of the Geneva based migration expertise.
- In order to fulfill this mandate they deemed it important to reach out from the beginning of the process to all interested stakeholders (Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders), to listen, to ask for expertise and to identify existing processes, mechanisms and initiatives which might be helpful to support Member States in the course of the preparatory process.
- After the submission of the zero draft of the modalities resolution, the two co-facilitators travelled to Geneva in the beginning of December 2016 with the aim of including the specific migration expertise of Geneva and in order to get a better sense of the discussions taking place here.
- The informal consultations that were held in New York in December and January were characterized by a constructive atmosphere and the willingness of Member States to reach consensus on the architecture, the format and timeline for the preparatory process as a whole – it is hoped that this positive spirit can be maintained in the forthcoming phases.
- The following aspects of the discussions on the modalities resolution were among the most important ones:
 - o Giving a strong role to IOM throughout the process and ensuring the joint servicing with the Secretariat
 - o Defining the themes for the informal thematic sessions in order to take into consideration the different perspectives and interests
 - o Enabling regional and sub-regional processes to contribute to the preparatory process by building on existing mechanisms and structures

- Ensuring the involvement of other existing processes, such as the GFMD, and making use of the expertise at hand
- Stating the independence of the processes for the elaboration of the two global compacts while acknowledging their common starting point – the New York Declaration
- Giving an indication on the possible date and venue of the intergovernmental conference but allow Member States to find a definitive agreement in the 2nd modalities resolution at the end of 2017

2. Outlook on the immediate next steps in February and March (ACABQ – 5C – adoption @GA / SRSG & support structure / Nomination of co-facilitators) (see other document)

3. Overview of the GCM process as of April 2017 – elements of the phases and expected milestones (see other document)

4. Reflection on entry points for the GFMD

- The modalities resolution provides a number of entry points for the GFMD to contribute to the process for the elaboration of the global compact and leverage its comparative advantages.
- As a basis, the modalities resolution clearly acknowledges the fact that the international policy dialogue on migration has thus far mainly taken place outside the UN in global, regional and sub-regional processes. These international fora are invited to contribute to the preparatory process of the global compact in paragraph 22. In this paragraph, the GFMD is specifically mentioned.
- Moreover, the modalities resolution also pledges to take into account different realities and therefore emphasizes the importance of effective contributions and active participation of all relevant stakeholders throughout the preparatory process and in the international conference itself. In this paragraph – paragraph 7 – governments as well as other stakeholders are invited to share best practices and concrete policies through global, regional and sub-regional platforms.
- Finally, the modalities resolution recognizes the added-value of drawing on the Geneva-based expertise. This essentially encompasses the GFMD. Besides, Geneva hosts the headquarters of IOM as well as a significant number of other UN agencies and international organizations whose mandate includes migration, such as the ILO, OHCHR, UNHCR, WHO and others. Also an important array of leading civil society organizations, private sector stakeholders, policy think tanks and academics have their base in Geneva.
- In concrete terms, looking at the three phases of the process, phase I – the consultation phase – comprises the most relevant opportunities for the GFMD to inform the elaboration of the global compact.

- Phase I will literally be a global collective effort of all stakeholders in harnessing the existing knowledge, experience, policies and practices.
- The red thread of phase I is constituted by the six informal thematic sessions which will structure the discussions through broad themes. Phase I further creates flexible space for existing platforms and stakeholders to prepare their respective contributions in a decentralized manner.
- The GFMD is well positioned to play a leading role in both of these avenues. The comparative advantages of the GFMD in the elaboration of the global compact can be circumscribed by three “S”s – substance, space and stakeholders.
- The first “S” stands for substance: First and foremost, the GFMD can share its wealth of acquired policy experience and practice-oriented recommendations to enrich the global compact. No other state-led global platform has such a comprehensive stock of expertise on migration policy practice:
 - o The six informal thematic sessions provide key entry points for the GFMD to feed into the substantive consultations towards building the global compact. Substantive contributions relating to the six broad identified themes in the modalities resolution based on recommendations emerging from the GFMD since its outset could be fed into the six informal thematic sessions. This could be done through the GFMD co-chairs in close coordination with the Troika, the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. Most importantly, governments and other stakeholders may choose to reflect outcomes from the GFMD as part of their national statements.
 - o The GFMD could further consider how the collective knowledge of the GFMD could be synthesized and brought to the attention of the co-facilitators in time for the stocktaking meeting to be held in Mexico in late November 2017.
- The second “S” stands for space: The GFMD has a renowned reputation as a space of trust and constructiveness. The GFMD could offer this space to facilitate shared narratives, especially on the most complex and sensitive issues.
 - o The GFMD could consider organizing thematic dialogues on some or all of the six broad themes defined in the modalities resolution. Ideally, these dialogues could be held in advance of the informal thematic sessions to provide common understandings and best practices for consideration.
 - o Furthermore, the GFMD could offer space to address migration and development policy issues that may not be explicitly mentioned in the modalities resolution but could may nonetheless be relevant for an effective and actionable global compact.
 - o Due to its practice-oriented format, the GFMD could further be a relevant platform to consider appropriate means of implementation, as the modalities resolution stipulates that the global compact should determine actionable commitments.
- Stakeholders: While being a state-led process, a particular asset of the GFMD is its inclusiveness. The GFMD brings together relevant stakeholders from all sectors of society. Besides the long-standing engagement with civil society, also the private sector has recently come on board with the GFMD Business Mechanism.

- The modalities resolution of the global compact emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder participation. The GFMD with its widespread networks of stakeholders is well positioned to facilitate the meaningful involvement of these stakeholders in the preparatory process of the global compact.
- The GFMD could consider organizing any GFMD events relating to the global compact in a multi-stakeholder format or provide for multi-stakeholder spaces in these events.