

UAE GFMD-GCM INPUT

06 September 2017

Cluster 3 – **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS, INCLUDING AT BORDERS, IN TRANSIT, ENTRY, RETURN, READMISSION, INTEGRATION AND REINTEGRATION**

Venue: Olympia Mancini 3B

- The GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group’s paper on International Cooperation and Governance of Migration identifies five distinct topics under which it makes recommendations to be incorporated into the GCM. These are:
 - 1) Policy and institutional coherence and (regional) partnerships
 - 2) Synergies at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels
 - 3) Fact-based governance, impact orientation and monitoring
 - 4) Multi-stakeholder involvement
 - 5) Return and reintegration
- The UAE welcomes the emphasis placed on these particular topics and lends its support to the recommendations that have been put forward
- With regards to topic 2 (“synergies at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels”), we note the two recommendations: i.) Establish formal and informal mechanisms for communication and consultation and ii.) Provide capacity building measures to local authorities
- The emphasis that is placed upon formal and informal mechanisms for communication and consultation is particularly welcome. The UAE would note, however, that such mechanisms, in the form of RCPs, already play a key role in the development of migration and development policies
- The UAE believes that RCPs, in coordination with GFMD, have a critical role to play in strengthening migration governance, enabling state-led dialogue, and the implementation of programmes that incorporate a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and non-governmental organisations
- While, at a global level, contextual differences between migration corridors are likely to warrant significantly different approaches to migration governance, at a regional level, conditions are sufficiently similar that cooperative, multi-lateral action by Member States often leads to meaningful improvements in governance
- The UAE would therefore see a central role for RCPs in the development and implementation of standards of migration governance, and believes that this should be reflected in the draft of the GFMD’s recommendations to the GCM

- In particular, the UAE would propose that the GFMD recommend that the *GCM call on Member States to deepen and strengthen their participation in RCPs, and find innovative ways to give more centrality to the insights and initiatives of RCPs in strengthening global migration governance*
- For example, the *GCM should highlight illustrative examples of programmes and best practices undertaken by RCPs, to encourage inter-regional knowledge sharing.*
- Secondly, the UAE notes that, in the introduction to the Ad Hoc Working Group’s paper on International Cooperation and Governance of Migration, the Working Group has highlighted the recommendation of the Sutherland Report to repurpose the GFMD “in view of recent developments in the area of international cooperation on migration”
- The UAE is of the view that it is vital that the GFMD retains its essential character as a voluntary, inter-governmental, non-binding and informal consultative process: changes to its fundamental make-up would inevitably risk undermining the trust that has been built over the years
- However, the UAE would support an expanded role for the GFMD, to include a wider mandate than it currently enjoys.
- In addition to the GFMD serving to support consensus building on the GCM, we would envisage a role for the GFMD in providing oversight over the implementation and evaluation of GCM commitments.
- The UAE would therefore propose that the inputs from the GFMD include the following recommendation:
- *Building on its role as a voluntary, inter-governmental, non-binding and informal consultative process, the extension of the GFMD’s mandate to include a role as a guardian of the commitments of the GCM, including oversight over ongoing consensus building, implementation and impact evaluation*