

## Consultation on the relationship between the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)

4 April - 14:30-17:30  
Room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### Summary of Discussions

#### **Background**

The consultation modalities and organizational aspects of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) are currently being developed at the United Nations in New York. The IMRF is a mechanism envisaged in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) for its review and follow-up, to be held every four years, beginning in 2022. A role for the GFMD in contributing to the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM objectives is given in the GCM; thus, GFMD's involvement in the IMRF is expected, although the details are yet to be defined. The Zero Draft of the Modalities Resolution for the IMRF process is expected in early June this year. Therefore, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador views it as one of its priorities to develop inputs to the drafting of the modalities resolution in the next few months, so that the views of GFMD can be adequately reflected in the final resolution of the IMRF.

As a state-led and inclusive process, the Chair sought to gather the inputs of all Member States, GFMD Observers and non-state stakeholders (civil society, private sector and local authorities) early in the drafting process of the modalities resolution, in order to nurture the inputs of the Chair to this process.

To this end, the Chair convened an informal consultation meeting<sup>1</sup> with the Friends of the Forum on 4 April 2019, with the aim of exploring the different perspectives on the possible contribution of the GFMD to the IMRF, including GFMD's reporting to the IMRF. A [non-paper](#) with some **framing questions and points to guide the discussions** was drafted by the Chair and shared prior to the informal meeting.

#### **Suggestions and issues raised during the consultation**

Intervening states and non-state participants expressed a number of ideas and suggestions on both how the GFMD should interact with the IMRF, in particular, and the related and broader question of the general relationship between the GFMD and the GCM. Additionally, participants gave their views on the key features and added value of the GFMD. The following represents a summary of the meeting held in Geneva on 4 April 2019.

- a) **GFMD's core identity, key features and added value** in the era of GCM implementation:
- The GFMD is by nature a **state-led, voluntary, informal and non-binding process**, which fosters partnerships, cooperation and voluntary sharing of knowledge and experiences, and

---

<sup>1</sup> Around 70 Member States attended the consultation which was presided by Ambassador Emilio Rafael Izquierdo Miño, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN Office in Geneva, on behalf of the GFMD 2019 Chairmanship.

includes the voices of civil society, the private sector and local authorities. Participants emphasized that these features must be maintained.

- The role of the GFMD **goes beyond the roles identified for it in the GCM.**<sup>2</sup> The GFMD should not be considered as an annex to the GCM as it has its own identity and which can support the implementation of the GCM.
- The GFMD should **redefine its added value and/or focus on its unique** features in response to the changing international migration landscape.
- With its core virtue of being a space to **engage on contentious issues**, the GFMD could play an important role in the GCM era, and could include outreach and constructive exchange and engagement with those States that did not sign the GCM.
- It is important for the GFMD to maintain its focus on the **strong linkages between migration and development**, which has been a central focus of the GFMD since its inception. Particularly, the GFMD should continue promoting **international cooperation on migration**, in line with the **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- The GFMD is the only format where **local administrations, private sector and civil society** can systematically contribute to the discussion of migration issues.
- **Global and regional processes** should be coherent to be mutually reinforcing. GFMD could be a space to reflect the individual conditions of different regions. GFMD is encouraged to provide an appropriate space for the **Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)** and exchange with them on the implementation of the GCM.
- The GFMD Summit can offer a space to support and encourage Member States' implementation of the GCM, including through experience sharing, stock-taking and cooperation.
- In its 12 years of existence, the GFMD has contributed to a **responsible and mature dialogue on migration** amidst the polarizing views and context. The GFMD has been instrumental in creating the conditions for developing and advancing a **positive narrative on migration**.

b) Views on the **role of the GFMD** in contributing to reporting on the GCM:

- Reporting of the GFMD to the IMRF should **build on existing GFMD structures and procedures**. At the same time, the GFMD should maintain flexibility to adapt the format of its contributions to the changing migration landscape.
- The GFMD could act as a **mechanism to aggregate**<sup>3</sup> **States' voluntary reporting** to present to the IMRF. This aggregation could flow directly from volunteering states and/or through RCPs. *Reporting by the GFMD should only be on the annual informal exchange on the GCM including the findings, best practices, and innovative approaches in line with paragraph 47 and 51 of the GCM.*
- The GFMD could be used as a forum for discussing difficult questions regarding the GCM, which could be subsequently reported to the IMRF.
- Some participants emphasized that the **GFMD should not engage**, or be seen to engage, in any form of **national monitoring or evaluation**, this being clearly beyond the scope of the GFMD.

---

<sup>2</sup> This aligns with the potential points of convergence suggested by the Chair that “the mandate and value of GFMD must not be reduced to the roles attributed to it by GCM, but must continue to be focused on facilitating dialogue that spans the whole spectrum of migration and development, including emerging and potentially contentious issues outside the scope of the GCM”.

<sup>3</sup> Some states suggested that the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) be utilized for this purpose. However, other states held the view that this would go beyond the current Terms of Reference of the PfP. Further discussions may be needed among GFMD member states to assess the potential and capacity of the PfP to aggregate national voluntary reporting on GCM commitments.

- Any role of the GFMD in reporting should be in coordination with other relevant stakeholders to prevent duplicative efforts.
- The GFMD could encourage Member States to **conduct benchmarking exercises at the outset of each GCM cycle** and during the four years in between two IMRF.
- The GFMD annual Summit, Roundtables and thematic workshop can serve as **peer-learning platforms for governments** to present the results of their national assessments, GCM implementation progress, as well as to identify both challenges in GCM implementation and emerging issues that could benefit from further inter-state dialogue, guidance and cooperation.

c) Concrete suggestions for the **modalities of the GFMD's contribution** to the IMRF:

- **Use of the existing government-led Roundtables' format**, with submission of final documents on different aspects of migration and/or reports of Rapporteurs from the Summit meeting to the IMRF.
- Drafting of a **dedicated report** as a submission to the IMRF using a similar process as the GFMD annual reports to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- The **provision of a space within the IMRF for the GFMD to present** information from its annual discussions. For example, a day of plenary discussion and a day of interactive discussion.
- **Improvement of the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PFP)** by, inter alia, including more interactive tools for developing knowledge (tutorials, online and face-to-face meetings, etc); incorporating the contributions of the RCPs; identifying areas of opportunity for GCM implementation; and providing basis for GFMD's contributions to the IMRF.
- The GFMD might consider a **peer review/exchange process, bringing together small peer groups** (possibly 3-4 countries) to both reflect on challenges and share good practice in operationalizing the GCM and reporting its progress.
- The Resolution could specifically invite the incumbent Chair and/or the Troika of the GFMD to speak at the IMRF to highlight outcomes related to the GCM objectives from the annual GFMD Summits.

d) **Relationship between the GFMD and the UN Network**

- **Synergies need to be built between the GFMD and the UN Migration Network** in sharing best practices and information dissemination in a way that would make it easier for governments to access both hubs of information and amalgamate the wealth of experiences and knowledge.
- **Maintaining an open channel of communication** between the GFMD and UN Migration Network will avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coordinated responses to migration.
- The UN Migration Network can **benefit from the lessons learned and practices** accumulated in the PFP to inform the UN Capacity Building Mechanism (CBM). The PFP and CBM can complement each other to support the GCM implementation.
- Explore the possibility for the GFMD (through the Chair/ Support Unit) to have an **observer status in the UN Migration Network**, including the possibility to participate in the thematic working groups.
- The GFMD may develop trainings and awareness-raising tools to introduce and mainstream the GCM to those countries that have not yet signed the GCM. The GFMD, due to its flexibility, may serve as a link between the Member States and Network in this regard.