

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

2 February 2017 14:30 – 17:30  
Room XXIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### Summary Report

#### Opening remarks

1. In his scene-setting remarks, Mr. Sönke Lorenz, Head of Unit of Migration issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, who represented the GFMD 2017-2018 German Co-Chair, expressed the timely context in which the GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) was taking place. As the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the GCM have been finalized, the time had come to discuss the roadmap of the GCM and the possible role to be played by the GFMD in this process.
2. Both the New York Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Modalities resolution<sup>2</sup> explicitly invite the GFMD to contribute to the GCM. In that regard, the GFMD 2017 will be oriented towards the six thematic clusters stated in paragraph 15 of the Resolution<sup>3</sup> and will provide substantial inputs through the Summit roundtables in Berlin, the Thematic Workshop to be held in September, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Agenda 2030 and GCM, and finally through its participation to the stocktaking meeting in Mexico in November 2017. Mr. Lorenz expressed the hope that states and observers would actively engage in the process in the framework of the GFMD, notably by sharing best practices.
3. Previous Chair Bangladesh, represented by Ambassador Shameem Ahsan, Permanent Representative to the UNOG, emphasized the role of the GFMD 2016 Bangladesh in kick-starting the process of working towards a Global Compact on Migration. Bangladesh organized the first ever Dialogue on GCM in New York on November 14, which is considered as a building block of the GCM. The governance of international migration theme was firmly captured in the lead up to, and during the Dhaka Summit. Broad agreements were reached at the Dhaka Roundtables on certain policy objectives, including: *protecting migrants regardless of their status; opening channels for safe and regular movement of migrant workers; maintaining the integrity of national borders and addressing irregular migration; providing protection for migrants in vulnerable situations; ensuring inclusion of migrants in host societies; and enhancing the development impact of migration*. Several options on the nature of the GCM<sup>4</sup> were likewise presented. During the Future of the Forum session, heads of delegation agreed that the GFMD could play an important role in framing and developing the GCM; it being a platform that is able to push the boundaries of what is possible and generate consensus around ambitious outcomes. The mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda<sup>5</sup> was

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<sup>1</sup> Annex II, paragraph 13 of the New York Declaration

<sup>2</sup> Article 22.b of the Modalities Resolution

<sup>3</sup> The thematic areas are: human right of all migrants; irregular migration and regular pathways; international cooperation and governance of migration; contribution of migrant to sustainable development; addressing drivers of migration; and smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

<sup>4</sup> The envisaged options are: a) a legally binding convention or treaty; b) a political declaration with guiding principles; c) concrete operational commitments with clear goals, targets and indicators of success as well as a robust monitoring framework; and d) a combination of the three, with a framework agreement, legally binding elements and a follow-up mechanism.

<sup>5</sup> This was renamed as the GFMD ad hoc Working Group on 2030 Agenda and Global Compact on Migration.

also expanded to lead GFMD efforts in preparing its contributions towards the formulation of such a global compact during the 2017-2018 Chairmanship.

## **Update on the Resolution on the Modalities for the Global Compact on Migration process - by Co-Facilitators Mexico and Switzerland**

4. Representing the Mexican Co-Facilitator of the Modalities Resolution, Ambassador Raúl Heredia, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UNOG, [presented the roadmap](#) leading to the GCM in 2018, which consists of four phases:
  - *Phase I - consultations (April 2017 - November 2017)*
  - *Phase II - stocktaking (November 2017 - January 2018)*
  - *Phase III - intergovernmental negotiations (February 2018 - July 2018)*
  - *Intergovernmental Conference for the adoption of the GCM.*
5. Phase I will roll out with a series of informal thematic sessions will take place in Geneva, New York and Vienna. Phase II will be the stocktaking exercise to be held in Mexico in November 2017. Phase III will kick off in early February 2018 with the presentation of the zero-draft of the GCM to be prepared by the co-facilitators, followed by intergovernmental consultations, informal meetings and interactive multi-stakeholder hearings. Finally, the GCM will be presented for adoption at the intergovernmental conference in New York in September 2018.
6. Representing the Swiss Co-Facilitator, Mr. Pietro Mona, Deputy Head of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation [imparted his thoughts](#) on the possible entry points for GFMD into the GCM process. He highlighted the significance of the stocktaking phase for the GFMD, during which knowledge, experience, policies and practices will be gathered. According to him, the GFMD can make an enormous contribution on the *substance*, by taking stock and synthesizing in a coherent way 10 years of dialogue, expertise and wealth of knowledge generated by the Forum. The GFMD could also generate a *space* for thematic dialogue to further the debate and ensure that a *multi-stakeholder* approach is taken in the elaboration of the GCM.

## **Remarks by the SRSG**

7. Mr. Francois Fouinat, Senior Adviser to the SRSG, informed the meeting that the current medical condition of Peter Sutherland remained a matter of concern. This triggered many expressions of appreciation and best wishes from the floor, all acknowledging the invaluable contributions of Mr. Sutherland in advancing the global governance of migration. In his [statement](#), Mr. Fouinat highlighted the outcomes of the [Sutherland Report](#) and its potential value for GFMD's contribution to the GCM. In line with the recommendations of the Dhaka Summit, the report suggests the GFMD to support consensus-building efforts towards an ambitious GCM and to advance the implementation of the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, he pointed to the crucial role of IOM, the need for a stronger cooperation between IOM and UNHCR to address mixed flows, and the direct role of the GMG in supporting the work of the UN. Finally, he announced the reorganization of the SRSG structure and the impending disbandment of the current team of SRSG Sutherland.

## **Informal sharing of views and perspectives**

8. Co-Chair Germany opened the floor for informal sharing of views and perspectives, guided by three questions:

*Question 1: Based on the modalities resolution what role should the GFMD take in the process?*

9. Intervening governments and international organizations viewed the role of GFMD as a think tank, a thought-leader and knowledge broker. There was a consensus on the idea that the outcomes and key recommendations of the past and upcoming GFMD Summits should be compiled and synthesized as GFMD's contribution to the GCM. Views were held that the GFMD could provide information and guidance for use of member states during the inter-governmental negotiations in 2018, and guide member states in managing the timelines of the GCM process. The GFMD's informal, state-led and multi-stakeholder character was also appreciated as crucial in the work leading to the GCM, and in

ensuring that the Forum will be a conducive platform in which all interested parties could share best practices.

*Question 2: What is the substance the GFMD could contribute to the global compact?*

10. Many referred to the substantive knowledge-base generated by the GFMD and underlined the fact that most of the themes outlined in the GCM have been discussed over the past nine years. They urged the GFMD to take stock of all the policies, practices and programs that have been shared in the framework of the GFMD, including those in the Platform for Partnerships Policy and Practice Database.
11. The deliberations of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) were regarded as important inputs to the substance of GFMD's possible contribution to the GCM. The Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD), the first RCP to explore the possibility to engage in the GCM, was cited as a good example of how RCPs may contribute to the GCM. As secretariat for most of the RCPs, the potential role of IOM in connecting the regional and global levels was also highlighted.
12. Furthermore, several participants saw the need to look beyond the six thematic clusters mentioned in the Modalities Resolution,<sup>6</sup> and include also the issues of health care, gender, irregular migration and reintegration in home countries. The inputs to the GCM could also focus on the positive contribution of migrants to host, transit and destination countries and on harnessing the potential of migration for sustainable development. The need to build synergies and commonalities between the GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees was likewise emphasized.

*Question 3: How should the GFMD formulate its contributions?*

13. In terms of format, it was viewed that the GFMD could formulate its recommendations to the GCM in a fashion similar to the outcomes of GFMD roundtables and Summit discussions. There was also a strong support for the role of the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM in leading the GFMD thematic reflections, consolidating the GFMD knowledge, communicating its outcomes and providing updates on the progress of the GCM process to Member States, through an inclusive and transparent process. Taking into account GFMD's multi-stakeholder approach, a proposal was made to develop a joint thematic contribution with civil society and the business sector.

## **Conclusions and way forward by the GFMD Co-Chair Morocco**

14. To conclude the three-hour dialogue, Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs, thanked the large audience for their participation and valuable inputs and summarized the proceedings. He also paid tribute to the important accomplishments and efforts of Mr. Sutherland in leading both the GFMD and other related processes dealing with international migration.
15. Mr. Nadir urged the participants to seize the unique opportunity being presented by the GCM to advance the governance of international migration. Looking ahead<sup>7</sup>, he expressed optimism that the GFMD's wealth of knowledge and practices will allow the GFMD to make an important contribution to the GCM process.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit

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<sup>6</sup> Under paragraph 15 and paragraph 20 of the Modalities Resolution

<sup>7</sup> A second Dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration will be held on 6 April 2017, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.