

GFMD 2017-2018 Second Meeting of the Steering Group

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

09h30 – 12h30

Salle XXIV, Building E, Palais des Nations

Summary Report

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship of Germany, welcomed the 50 representatives from 28 member states of the [Steering Group](#) (SG)¹ at the second meeting under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco. Mr. Ahmed Skim, Director of Migration Affairs, represented Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General of the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs as Co-Chair Morocco. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by Ambassador Shameem Ahsan, representing GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh.
2. In welcoming the delegates, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme announced that the meeting on April 5 would be the last preparatory meeting before the Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin to be held on 28-30 June. He reminded the participants that a second GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) would be held the following day (6 April), followed by the Roundtable (RT) meetings on 7 April. He also mentioned the GFMD Business Thematic Meeting that was held on 3-4 April. He thanked Ms. Estrella Lajom and her Support Unit team, as well as all government representatives for keeping up with the quick pace of the first half of the German-Moroccan Co-Chairmanship.

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

3. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated ahead of the meeting was adopted by the Steering Group.

III. GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship

A. *Final Concept Note*² and [Work Plan](#)

4. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme expressed the Co-Chairs' gratitude to all Member States and organizations that helped with finalizing the concept note. The Co-Chairs have done their best in trying to accommodate all comments that were made in the first preparatory meetings and that were submitted in writing. In particular, the roundtable themes have been linked more closely to

¹ Of the 30 Steering Group Member States, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United States participated in the meeting.

² The final concept paper is posted on the GFMD web portal in English, French and Spanish: http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_2017-2018_co-chairmanship_concept_paper_eng.pdf

the themes of the thematic sessions of the GCM that will take place between May and October. The final concept note was circulated on 28 February, and now posted on the GFMD web portal, along with French and Spanish translations.

5. As regards the GFMD 2017-2018 work plan, two important deadlines were flagged: April 28 for the finalization of the draft background papers of the roundtables, and 14 June for the submission of written statements on the background papers. The Co-Chairs would like to adopt a new practice of providing written statements prior to the Summit, rather than during the actual meeting, in order to facilitate more interactive and spontaneous exchanges. Governments are encouraged to submit their prepared statements ahead of the Summit, to be uploaded on the GFMD web portal and on the GFMD mobile App that is being developed. Other important events are the [Thematic Workshop](#) on ‘Climate change and human mobility’ (24 May, Rabat), the Thematic Workshop to synthesize the GFMD input to the GCM (6 September, in Vienna or Geneva), and the third preparatory meetings (9 October, Geneva) under the 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship.
6. To inform all Member States of the state of preparations of the six Roundtable (RT) sessions, the GFMD Co-Chairs invited the RT Co-Chairs to provide an update during the FOF meeting scheduled later in the day. Reference was also made to the [Terms of Reference \(TORs\) for the GFMD Government Teams](#) that offers some ideas and suggestions on how to prepare lively roundtables, draft concise discussion papers, and clarify the tasks of Government Teams and all relevant actors concerned with the preparation for the Summit roundtables. As an added measure, each RT session has been assigned a facilitator who will provide support in organizing the actual RT session in Berlin. In addition, guidelines for [RT session rapporteurs](#) and also for [special GCM rapporteurs](#) (who will follow all debates and identify outcomes relevant to the GCM, with a special focus on migration-related SDG) have now been made available.
7. Mr. Skim informed the Steering Group about the upcoming Thematic Workshop on “[Climate Change and Human Mobility](#)” to be held on 24 May in Rabat. According to him, this workshop aims to feed into GFMD’s contribution to the GCM. It will have an opening session, followed by two sessions. The first session will focus on knowledge sharing and identifying best practices and concrete initiatives in the field of climate change and human mobility, while the second session will be dedicated to pursuing greater consistency of international strategic frameworks and ways for greater access to funding for climate migration issues.

B. Tenth GFMD Summit (28 to 30 June 2017, Berlin)

8. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme reminded the Steering Group that the [provisional programme](#) of the Berlin Summit was circulated earlier. He highlighted the important activities for each day of the Tenth GFMD Summit:
 - 28 June: the official inauguration to be led by the Foreign Minister of Germany, H.E. Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, in the presence of high level officials; the six roundtable sessions; and an official dinner hosted by Co-Chair Germany.
 - 29 June: the special session on the Future of the Forum (for Heads of Delegations only), the special session on the Platform for Partnerships; six side events, a plenary session to summarize the RT and special session proceedings, the GFMD Business meeting, and a reception to be hosted by Co-Chair Morocco.
 - 30 June: the 2017 Common Space, the official closing session of the Tenth GFMD Summit, and tea table exchanges (upon invitation) by the civil society.
9. The official invitation to the Berlin Summit will be sent out later in the week through the designated GFMD focal points of Member States and GFMD Observers. A separate invitation from the German Minister of Foreign Affairs will be sent to all Ministers in charge of GFMD issues. In order to facilitate a smooth registration process, all participants are requested to register online. Practical information on the Summit will be made available shortly. There will be a

briefing on 18 May at 3PM in Berlin for the diplomatic missions of countries participating in GFMD.

10. In line with the intent to promote more dynamic and paperless Summit in Berlin, the German Co-Chair has funded the development of a GFMD mobile App that aims to foster greater interaction among GFMD users during the Summit, while providing important information such as RT background papers and written statements of the GFMD community. Ms. Estrella Lajom, Head of the GFMD Support Unit (SU), gave a [presentation](#) on the anticipated features of the GFMD App, which will be administered by the SU. These will include, *inter alia*, Summit registration for logged in users, live conference feedback on policy questions, push notifications, seamless integration with the GFMD web portal, access to GFMD gallery of photos and videos.

C. Ad Hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM

11. In response to the invitation for the GFMD to provide substantive input into the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, led by Bangladesh and Germany, drafted a [recommendation to the 2017 HLPF](#). In their report to the Steering Group, the Co-Chairs underlined that the theme of 2017 HLPF is “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. Thus, the report illustrates the linkages between migration and the 2030 Agenda particularly in the context of poverty alleviation and employment generation. It showcases GFMD best practices culled from the PfP Policy and Practice Database, and offers general and specific recommendations. It was emphasized that the document may also inspire GFMD’s contribution to the GCM and serve as the basis for a more comprehensive discussion on GFMD’s contribution to the HLPF of 2018.
12. In reaction, two delegates expressed their appreciation of this report as GFMD’s contribution to the HLPF. One of them suggested to review the thematic areas in the section ‘(c) Valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity’ (page 5) for future reports, as these themes are non-exhaustive. The delegate also recalled the recommendation from the Dhaka Summit for the GFMD to have a standing agenda item in the FOF for reviewing the 2030 Agenda from a migration perspective and to invite relevant agencies to contribute in this regard. The contribution to the HLPF was endorsed by the SG members.
13. The ad hoc WG on 2030 Agenda and GCM Co-Chairs also reported that the work stream of the WG will soon be dedicated to GFMD’s input to the GCM. With the objective to submit a contribution to the stocktaking conference in the GCM process in Mexico in November 2017, the WG will have a series of meetings both before and after the Berlin Summit. At this juncture, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme expressed the hope that the Steering Group members will participate in the second GFMD Dialogue on the GCM to be held the following day. He also reiterated that a Thematic Workshop will be held in September to synthesize GFMD’s inputs to the GCM.
14. One delegate reacted that GFMD is well placed to provide input to the GCM, and asked for an elaboration on the interaction between the GFMD Troika³ and the new SRSG, Ms. Louise Arbour, and to what extent this interaction can be intensified. Another delegate raised a question on how GFMD will contribute to the GCM, and whether there are specific modalities in the SG or in other meetings in this regard (besides those mentioned for the stocktaking exercise). In response, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme said that the Troika is closely cooperating with the GCM Co-facilitators and the SRSG. The GFMD Co-Chairs will meet with the SRSG in New York in April, on the margin of the IOM [International Dialogue on Migration](#), to which the Co-Chairs have been invited. Amb. Ahsan endorsed these words and added that the question on how GFMD should formulate its position is indeed an important question, and that GFMD should start thinking on how it wants to contribute.

³ The GFMD 2017-2018 [Troika](#) consists of the past Chair Bangladesh, and Co-Chairs-in-Office Germany and Morocco.

D. Ad hoc Working Group on Communications

15. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme recalled the Troika's decision in February to extend the mandate of the ad hoc WG on Communications, now co-chaired by Morocco and Mexico. He welcomed the new WG member, United Arab Emirates, and expressed his appreciation for the contribution of former members (Philippines, Switzerland and Sweden) and the commitment of the current members (see below).
16. Reporting on behalf of the WG Co-Chairs, Mexico informed the Steering Group that the WG includes Australia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Mexico, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, but the membership is open to other interested SG and FOF members. A first meeting was held on 29 March to discuss the [updated Terms of Reference \(TORs\)](#) and the short- and long-term recommendations as outlined in the [report](#) of the ad hoc WG in Dhaka. Some progress has already been made in this regard: a [newsletter](#) has been circulated by the German Co-Chair on 28 February and a GFMD Mobile App is underway. Further, GFMD's social media usage is increasing, and guidelines thereon are being drafted. The Co-Chairs invited the GFMD community to subscribe to social media channels used by GFMD and to actively disseminate GFMD communications. On the longer term, the WG will aim to develop a GFMD communication strategy, based on a multi-stakeholder approach.

IV. Request for GFMD Observer Status

17. Through the Support Unit, the GFMD Co-Chairs received a [request from the People's Global Action \(PGA\)](#) to become an observer to the GFMD. A copy of the request was sent to the Steering Group ahead of the meeting. During their second meeting, the GFMD Troika reached a decision to endorse the request to the GFMD Steering Group. By acquiescence, the request was considered as endorsed by the Steering Group to the Friends of the Forum.

V. Any Other Business

18. In closing the second meeting of the GFMD Steering Group, Mr. Skim announced that the Eleventh GFMD Summit will take place on 5-7 December 2018 in Marrakesh. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme, for his part, ended on a hopeful note that all Steering Group members will attend the second meeting of the Friends of the Forum later in the day and the Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin.
19. The meeting was adjourned at 10h58.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
12 April 2017