

GFMD 2017-2018 Third Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Monday, 9 October 2017
14h30 – 17h00
Salle XVII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Summary Report

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Mr. Sönke Lorenz**, Head of the German Task Force, welcomed the 131 representatives from 80 member states and 19 international organizations at the third meeting of the Friends of the Forum under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco. **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, Secretary General of the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs represented the Moroccan Co-Chair. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by **Mr. Toufiq Shatil**, representing GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh and **Ms. Amy Muedin**, representing the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration, and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

2. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on September 27 was adopted by the Friends of the Forum.

III. Eleventh GFMD Summit in Marrakesh, Dec 2018

A. *Presentation of the GFMD 2018 Agenda*

3. Mr. Nadir, speaking on behalf of the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, introduced the draft thematic agenda and work plan for the second year of the German-Moroccan Chairmanship. He indicated that the 2018 Agenda was a proposition, subject to change based on inputs from the GFMD Friends of the Forum and to be aligned with the development of the Global Compact for Migration. The results of the GCM stocktaking conference in Puerto Vallarta in December 2017, the introduction of the Zero-Draft of the GCM in February 2018, as well as the preparations for the Intergovernmental Conference on Migration in autumn 2018 will be considered in determining the GFMD 2018 priorities.
4. Mr. Nadir underlined the element of “continuity” in shaping the 2018 agenda. Following the Berlin Summit, the year 2018 will put an emphasis on action and moving to action, particularly in terms of supporting the implementation of the GCM. The substantive agenda of GFMD 2018 will be around three main themes. The first roundtable on “*From Vulnerability to resilience*” will focus on reducing the vulnerability of migrants to ensure the most beneficial impact of migration on development. The second roundtable on “*South-South Mobility*” will tackle the development aspects of countries of the Global South. Finally, the third roundtable will focus on the “*Drivers of migration and human security*”.
5. A number of important events were flagged which would form part of the 2018 Calendar of Key Activities. Two *thematic workshops* will be organized in 2018 -- one in Berlin in April and another in Rabat in June. One or two *GFMD Dialogues* may be held to focus on the Zero Draft of the GCM, and the anticipated implementation and follow up of the GCM. Three rounds of *preparatory meetings* will

take place in Geneva in February, May and September to prepare the 11th GFMD Summit in Marrakesh to be held on 5 to 7 December. In addition, *side events* will be organized on the margins of major international conferences, such as the UN Coordination Meeting on International Migration (February), the International Dialogue on Migration and the HLPF (July). According to the Moroccan Co-Chair, during the Marrakesh Summit, the Common Space will focus on the role of the GFMD in the context of the GCM implementation, while the Future of the Forum will look at the outcomes of 10 years of GFMD Discussion and its impact in terms of national policies.

6. In the open discussion that followed, the GFMD community welcomed the proposed themes, especially the inclusion of the south-south mobility thematic for the 2018 discussions. One member state suggested to consider discussion around the follow-up mechanisms to the GCM during the Marrakesh Summit.

B. Update on the GFMD 2017-2018 Budget

7. A brief report on the status of the financial position and GFMD 2017 budget was given by Ms. Estrella Lajom, Head of the Support Unit. She informed the meeting that out of the proposed GFMD 2017 budget of USD 2.335 Million, only 35% has been spent as of end of September 2017. A large part of the organizational costs of the Berlin Summit have been covered by the German government and therefore the actual total costs amounted to only 16% of the budget. Ms. Lajom also explained that the Support Unit has been underspending, due to delay in the recruitment process.
8. Turning to the contributions, Ms. Lajom explained that besides the left over contributions from 2016 of around USD 1 Million, fresh contributions amounting to USD 190,000 have been received, thus giving total available resources of USD 1.190 Million. Contributions would be needed for the second part of the Co-Chairmanship period, beginning January 2018. The new countries that have already contributed for 2017 are Canada, Germany, France, Turkey and UAE, while Belgium, Israel, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA have also made pledges.
9. The Co-Chairs thanked the generosity of the countries that contributed to the financing of the forum and called upon Member States to continue providing financial support to the process.

IV. GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration

A. GFMD Inputs to the Global Compact on Migration, including GFMD's role in the follow-up of the GCM.

10. Before introducing the GFMD's contribution to the GCM, Mr. Lorenz invited Ms. Amy Muedin to address the Friends of the Forum on behalf of the SRSG for International Migration and Development, Mrs. Louise Arbour. Ms. Muedin highlighted the progress of the GCM process, clarified the role of the key actors involved in the different phases, and elaborated on the next steps. She explained that in the current Phase I – Consultation, Member states have had the opportunity to provide inputs, not only during the Informal Thematic Sessions, but also during the GFMD and RCP meetings and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The next phase – Stocktaking – will culminate with the Puerto Vallarta Conference on 4-6 December and will result in the Chair's Summary which will be prepared by the co-facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland. Finally, Phase III – Negotiations – will include the release of the Zero-Draft of the Global Compact in February 2018. The negotiations will then take place from February through July 2018, for a number of days each month.
11. Ms. Muedin clarified the separate work streams of the SRSG and the GCM co-facilitators. While the Zero-Draft of the GCM will be produced by the co-facilitators, the SRSG will release by the end of January the UN Secretary General's report which will serve as a key input to the Zero Draft text and will provide an overall vision for the GCM. As relayed by Ms. Muedin, the SRSG holds the view that the GCM should have three core principles. First, the Compact should be people-centered and take into account the perspectives of the migrants and the communities in which they live. Second, it should focus

on international cooperation by recognizing both state sovereignty and the existence of interdependence between states. Finally, it should be forward looking and able to respond to the current and future challenges.

12. Ms. Muedin encouraged the Friends of the Forum Members to reflect on the future of the GFMD that is inter-linked with the GCM. In her view, the GFMD can support consensus-building towards an ambitious GCM and support the implementation of the Compact. The GFMD also needs to be closer to the UN system, in order to avoid duplication. Thanks to GFMD's state-led character, it can provide crucial support and add value to the GCM through confidence building and experience sharing, and by bridging the existing gaps between Geneva, New York and the capitals.
13. Mr. Lorenz then took over the floor in order to kick start the discussion on the draft Chapter 3 of the GFMD's Draft Inputs to the GCM, which is being prepared by the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM. This particular chapter describes the potential role that the GFMD might take in the implementation and monitoring phase of the GCM, which could have four key elements:
 - GFMD as a platform for open and profound dialogue;
 - GFMD as a platform for practical cooperation and partnerships in order to advance the aims and objectives of the Compact;
 - GFMD as a platform for voluntary sharing of experiences, progress and evidence on the GCM;
 - GFMD as a platform outside the UN system but interacting with it.

Mr. Lorenz informed the session of the discussions that took place in the morning during the Steering Group meeting. The meeting highlighted both the difficulty to make good and precise recommendations for the time being on the role of the GFMD with regards to the GCM and the common agreement on keeping the main characteristics of the Forum. In order to keep the relevance of the GFMD in a changing institutional architecture, Mr. Lorenz urged the member states to provide their inputs on the future role of GFMD.

14. Participants welcomed the efforts of the ad hoc Working Group in drafting the inputs. They inquired when the entire draft would be submitted to the GFMD community. In response, the German Co-Chair recognized the time constraints and he reassured that the report would be delivered as expeditiously as possible. Furthermore, he informed that the Office of the SRSG was involved in the discussion of the development of the report. The final version could be submitted by the 22 November 2017, and would be considered as one input document for the Secretary General report, which is being prepared in parallel by the SRSG. Finally, there was a specific recommendation from the floor to remove the mention of "refugees" in the first paragraph of sub-chapter 1) Platform for open dialogue.
15. Mr. Lorenz then gave information about upcoming GFMD and GCM-related events:
 - a) The GFMD Co-Chairs have been invited to share about the highlights of the GFMD discussions on Cluster 5 – Smuggling of Migrants and on Cluster 6 – Labor Migration during the GCM Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on October 11 in Geneva. The Co-Chairs' comments will be based on the outcomes of the GFMD dialogues and the stocktaking meeting in Vienna.
 - b) The 6th and final informal thematic consultations will take place on 12-13 Oct 2017 in Geneva, focusing on the topic of labour mobility. Friends of the Forum members were urged to actively participate in it.
 - c) The GFMD was invited to play a prominent role during the first and third days of the GCM stock-taking event to be held in Puerto Vallarta on 4 to 6 December 2017. The Co-Chairs will use this opportunity to present the GFMD's contributions to the GCM.
 - The Civil Society representatives informed that they will also organize two civil society days ahead of the stocktaking conference. 60 civil society leaders and selected 30 to 40 states delegates will gather, in order to strengthen working relationships and collaboration in view of the negotiation process.

- d) The GFMD Co-Chairs have been invited to address the 7th Global Regional Consultative Process on October 10 in order to share about the GFMD's initiatives on the GCM and the results of the Vienna Workshop on the GCM themes.

V. GFMD and the 2030 Agenda

16. Reporting on behalf of the ad hoc WG on 2030 Agenda and GCM Co-Chairs Bangladesh and Germany, **Ms. Ilse Hahn** updated the Friends of the Forum on the WG's efforts in regard to the 2030 Agenda. She reminded the Friends of the Forum about the GFMD's contribution to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017, including the organization of a side event in New York. She was optimistic that the groundwork done for the 2017 HLPF will be helpful in the preparation of GFMD's contribution to the 2018 HLPF which will focus on the theme, "*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*". The ad hoc WG, she said, stands ready to lend support for the preparations of GFMD's report to the HLPF 2018 session, if invited to do so.

VI. GFMD 2017-2018 Civil Society Process

17. The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), represented by **Mr. John Bingham** and Ms. Wies Maas updated the Friends of the Forum on the civil society process. Mr. Bingham highlighted the results of the 2017 Civil Society Days (CSD) in Berlin, which gathered 333 participants – the largest number in 10 years of the GFMD – and 20 government representatives. In the evaluation of the CSD, a majority of participants emphasized the substantial interactions between civil society and government participants that could lead to policy change. He welcomed the Moroccan Co-Chair's announcement that the focus of next years' Common Space will be on the implementation of the GCM. He called for a joint ownership of the GCM implementation process by governments, civil society and the private sector. In terms of finance, Mr. Bingham was pleased to inform the FOF that the CS process reached a break-even point. He thanked the donor states for their contributions.
18. Turning to the substance, **Ms. Wies Maas** reported on the initiative "[Now and How – Ten Acts for the Global Compact](#)", which outlines the civil society vision for a UN Global Compact for Human Mobility and Migration. The document puts forward a set of 10 goals – called ACTS, and corresponding actions and targets. It highlights the following elements :
- a. *Renaming and reframing* the Compact as a Compact for Human Mobility and Migration, which takes into account the intricate realities on the ground for migrants and refugees.
 - b. *Implementing the rights*: a meaningful Compact should follow the following principles:
 - i. Principle of purpose: it should be to the benefit of migrants, refugees and societies;
 - ii. Principle of progress: it should focus on ratifying and implementing the existing legal framework, as well as expanding it, rather than restating the existing rights
 - iii. Principle of participation: it should engage the civil society, migrants and refugees and diaspora groups in the development and the implementation of the compact.
 - c. *TEN ACTS for immediate and urgent action and graduated timelines*: the civil society suggests a set of actions and acts that would require immediate follow-up on, including the detention of children for immigration purpose. Furthermore, it also proposes a graduated timeline, with review mechanism and means of implementation, up until 2030.
 - d. *Multi-stakeholder groups to work on implementation, guidelines and norms*: the document proposes a set of four specific thematic multi-stakeholder follow-up processes:
 - i. Panel on migrants in vulnerable situations
 - ii. Panel on regularization
 - iii. Panel on alternatives and cooperation on return and reintegration
 - iv. Panel on protection norms and cooperation mechanisms on climate change induced migration and development.
 - e. *Strengthening the UN Architecture* to ensure for implementing, monitoring and improving the Compact, including the links with the GFMD, the SRSG and the IOM.
19. The German co-Chair asked ICMC to elaborate more on the complex issue of alternative cooperation on return and reintegration. Ms. Maas explained that even Civil Society does not have a unified position, the

“Ten Acts for the Global Compact” proposes that return should always be facilitated in accordance with established rules, principles and rights frameworks and that it should not be considered as the only option left for governments.

VII. GFMD Business Mechanism

20. **Ms. Stephanie Winet**, representing the GFMD Business Mechanism coordinating office, reported on the GFMD Business Meeting that took place at the Berlin Summit, as well as the current activities and next steps of the GFMD business mechanism. The GFMD Business Meeting in Berlin, attended by 80 business representatives, had a two-fold objective; to present a comprehensive publication on the contributions of the private sector to the GCM and to continue the dialogue with the GFMD stakeholders. The business recommendations for a successful Global Compact were presented by the Chair of the Business Mechanism during the Summit closing session. Since then, the GFMD Business Mechanism has been working on polishing the business position towards the GCM and has published a [three-pager](#) that suggests targeted actions for governments around five policy areas, including irregular migration. As for the next steps, the business community will hold a consultation meeting on November 20 in the United Arab Emirates, in order to bring out the employers’ perspectives for the GCM before the Puerto Vallarta stocktaking Conference.

VIII. Any other Business

21. Before concluding the meeting, Mr. Lorenz announced that no country has come up to volunteer to become GFMD Chair for the year 2019 and invited member states to submit their proposal. GFMD stands ready to respond to any questions related to the tasks and obligations devoted to the Chair.
22. After a few words of thanks, Mr. Lorenz and Secretary General Nadir adjourned the meeting at 17:02.