

## GFMD 2017-2018 First Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 1 February 2017

14h00 – 17h00

Salle XVII, Building E, Palais des Nations

### Summary Report

#### I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship for Germany, co-chaired the First Meeting of the Friends of the Forum (FOF) under the German-Moroccan Co-Chairmanship, together with **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, Secretary General, Ministry in Charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs. The meeting brought together 142 delegates representing 86 governments and 16 international organizations. Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco were joined on the podium by **Amb. Shameem Ahsan**, representing previous Chair Bangladesh, **Mr. François Fouinat** representing the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Peter Sutherland, and **Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair** representing the United Nations University (UNU), current Chair of the Global Migration Group.
2. In welcoming the delegates, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme drew attention to the current challenging political developments across the world. In this regard, he said the logo of the 2017-2018 Chairmanship represents the willingness of Germany and Morocco to build bridges, not only between their respective countries, but also between Europe and Africa. The Co-Chairs will work to ensure that national and international efforts will create the framework conditions to ensure a triple win situation – for countries of origin and destination, as well as for the migrants themselves. For his part, Mr. Nadir reiterated the importance of the GFMD contribution to the GCM. He said the thematic focus for 2018 had not yet been chosen because of the evolving state of dialogue and cooperation on international migration.
3. Migration and development are high on the international political agenda. The New York Declaration of 19 September provides a mandate to hold intergovernmental negotiations on a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration by 2018, and GFMD is invited to contribute to it. The Co-Chairs acknowledged with appreciation the leadership of Mexico and Switzerland in drafting the [Modalities Resolution](#) which refers to a contribution from the GFMD in Article 22.b. The Government of Bangladesh was also praised for chairing a successful GFMD 2016, and for giving GFMD a head start by organizing a special dialogue on GCM on 14 November 2016<sup>1</sup>.
4. Key developments have taken place since the GFMD Summit Meeting in Dhaka: Germany and Morocco held a well-attended presentation of the GFMD Co-Chairmanship on the margins of the annual Migrants' Day celebration at the UN Headquarters in New York on 19 December 2016; the GFMD website has been re-launched; a Co-Chairmanship flyer has been produced. On 20 January 2017, the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM had its first meeting, while a brainstorming meeting regarding the work of the Business Mechanism took place on 31 January 2017. Two GFMD dialogues in Geneva have been scheduled with the GCM co-facilitators, the first to

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the Dialogue on the Global Migration Compact can be found here: <http://www.gfmd.org/news/gfmd-new-york-dialogue-building-pillars-global-compact>

be held on 2 February. Furthermore, meetings with the International Steering Committee of the Civil Society, German Civil Society and International Civil Society have taken place.

## **II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda**

5. The Provisional Agenda earlier circulated was adopted in toto.

## **III. Report on GFMD 2016 Chairmanship**

6. **Amb. Ahsan** presented the highlights and key achievements of the GFMD in 2016 under the Chairmanship of Bangladesh. In his [statement](#), he thanked participating states and observers for their financial support and active participation at the Ninth GFMD Summit in Dhaka. GFMD 2016 was organized under the overarching theme of ‘Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda’. This theme signals a growing recognition that only through the formulation of common principles, institutions and processes the international community will be able to manage migration for the benefit of all. The [GFMD 2016 Chair’s Conclusions](#) paper has been circulated earlier, and a full report on GFMD 2016 Chairmanship will be made available at the next meeting in April.

## **IV. GFMD-GMG-SRSG Collaboration**

7. Mr. François Fouinat, representing the Special-Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration (SRSG) Mr. Peter Sutherland, explained that the medical condition of Mr. Sutherland remains a matter of concern and he is still unable to perform his duties. The UNSG had announced that a new SRSG will be appointed; thus, the work of the SRSG and his team will come to an end. The Sutherland report will be published within several days. Mr. Fouinat expressed the hope that the Sutherland report will be taken into consideration by the GFMD in its efforts to elaborate the GCM. On behalf of the GFMD, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme expressed his gratitude for the work of the SRSG and requested Mr. Fouinat to convey their best wishes to him.
8. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme further remarked that the GFMD Co-Chairs are working together with GMG Chair United Nations University (UNU) to align their activities. At this juncture, Dr. Nair delivered the [GMG Chair’s statement](#). The GMG Chairmanship, chaired by Dr. David M. Malone, Rector of UNU, intends to build upon the very good cooperation between GMG and GFMD in 2016 and looks forward to working with GFMD in elaborating the GCM. The GMG stands ready to provide coherent policy ideas and inputs.

## **V. GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship**

### *A. Draft Concept Note and Work Plan*

9. As set out in the [draft concept note](#), Amb. Schmidt-Bremme explained that the work of GFMD 2017 will be entirely dedicated to GFMD’s contribution to the GCM. The roundtable themes, organized under the overarching theme, ‘Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development’, will be linked to the six thematic clusters in the Modalities Resolution. The ad hoc WG on the 2030 Agenda and GCM will focus itself to the GCM contribution. The outcomes of the Berlin Summit will be consolidated in the Chair’s Summary, which will be used by the WG in drafting the GFMD contribution. The Co-Chairs will hold a thematic workshop in Geneva in September 2017 to consolidate inputs from all GFMD sources. The final draft will be submitted to the SG and FoF for endorsement. This document is to be delivered to the Secretary General of the GCM in September or October 2017. GFMD will be represented at the stocktaking conference to be held in Mexico at the end of November 2017.
10. When the floor was opened for comments on the draft concept note, delegates expressed their gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for a successful GFMD 2016 and for hosting a fruitful Ninth GFMD Summit Meeting in Dhaka. Delegates also commended Switzerland and Mexico for their work on the Modalities Resolution for the negotiations on the GCM. They expressed support for

the balanced concept paper, particularly for its focus on the GCM and for aligning the roundtable themes to the themes of the GCM. The overarching theme focusing on a ‘social contract’ was welcomed. The civil society representative expressed the hope that it would be binding, but Co-Chair Germany maintained the primacy of existing conventions on the protection of human beings – residents, migrants or refugees – over any foreseeable social contract.

11. On the last sentence on page 2 of the concept paper, a delegate suggested modifying the phrase ‘amended for preparing the Summit’ to “will be the basis for the concept paper for Morocco.” Another delegate pointed to the lack of reference to the role played by host countries in assisting and protecting refugees and migrants. The Co-Chair acknowledged the importance of burden sharing for host countries, especially in the case of mixed migration flows. He remarked, however, that there is a compact on refugees which should not be mixed too much with the compact on migrants.
12. The following general comments were offered by the delegates: a) include a discussion on the role of technical and vocational training in origin countries *vis-à-vis* managing migration; b) the situation of vulnerable migrants should be addressed; c) the roundtables may benefit from a reduced number of guiding questions; and d) it would be important to have questions aimed at concrete actions on the reception and integration of migrants.
13. On Roundtable 1, the need to include a discussion on the comprehensiveness of migration policies in developing countries was underlined. More specifically, for Roundtable session 1.2, a suggestion was made to include best practices on the implementation of migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in national development plans.
14. On Roundtable session 2.1, a comment was made that the wording ‘host communities and displaced persons’ in the title might lead to a definitional confusion between migrants and refugees. Another suggestion was to remove the guiding question on the conditions for inclusion in the labour market, as it is currently under discussion in the ILO. Civil society expressed their concern regarding the topic of return in Roundtable 2, and how the discussion on this topic can be structured as an honest, constructive dialogue in the full spirit of the SDGs and the New York Declaration.
15. The inclusion of the Business Mechanism in the Roundtable session 3.1 debate was welcomed. On Roundtable 3.2, one delegate suggested to remove the reference to refugees.
16. Mexico offered to Co-Chair Roundtable 3.2 with Canada. Russia, on the other hand, offered to serve as a co-chair of Roundtable session 2.1.<sup>2</sup>
17. Several international organizations expressed their willingness to provide substantive support to the GFMD, as well as to work closely with GFMD towards the GCM. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme thanked participants for their comments and interest in joining the roundtables. He explained that the [composition of the roundtable teams](#) would be further discussed during the RT sessions the following day. The comments on the concept paper will be considered in finalizing the concept paper, to be circulated by the end of February.
18. Subsequently, the [draft work plan 2017](#) was presented by the Co-Chairs. The activities in 2017 will include two sets of preparatory meetings in (1-2 February and 5-7 April, Geneva), one thematic workshop on Migration and Climate Change (24 May, Rabat) and a Business Mechanism meeting (3-4 April, Geneva). The final Summit Meeting will be held on 28-30 June in Berlin, to be followed by the Civil Society Days (CSD) on 29 June to 1 July. The Co-Chair gave the assurance that the new Summit format -- with the CSD taking place after the Government Days -- will not fundamentally change the nature of the Common Space. In July, the first results of the GFMD with regard to the SDGs will be presented to the HLPF in New York. In September, there will be a thematic workshop on the GCM, aimed at wrapping up all the knowledge of the GFMD that will feed into the GCM discussions.

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<sup>2</sup> See the latest overview of Roundtable Session Co-Chairs and Team Members [here](#).

## *B. Follow up of GFMD 2016*

19. The representatives of Bangladesh and Germany<sup>3</sup>, Co-Chairs of the ad hoc WG on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, reported to the FoF on the progress made since the WG's mandate was extended at the Dhaka Summit. The WG has been renamed as ad hoc WG on the 2030 Agenda and GCM and a first meeting was held to discuss the updated Terms of Reference (TORs) and work plan. They called upon the Friends of the Forum to endorse the revised TORs. The WG will focus on two related work streams: 1) to contribute to the GFMD efforts in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and 2) to contribute to the GCM. Australia has left as a member of the WG and will be replaced by Philippines, in order to maintain the regional balance within the group. Recognizing the interest of member states to contribute to GFMD's work on the GCM, the WG Co-Chairs invited the Friends of the Forum to share their inputs during the different side events and thematic meetings.
20. Similarly, the mandate of the ad hoc WG on Communication has also been extended under the 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship in order to implement the recommendations from the [report of the ad hoc WG on Communication](#) and to strengthen the visibility of the GFMD at the international level. According to Mr. Nadir, Australia has bowed out as the WG Co-Chair, but Morocco<sup>4</sup> has stepped forward to chair the WG.

## *C. GFMD 2017-2018 Co-chairmanship Budget*

21. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme gave the floor to the Support Unit (SU) to give an update on the current financial situation. The SU made a reference to the note on the [Provisional Budget](#) that was circulated to the FoF ahead of the meeting, and explained that the total core budget (comprising the operational costs of the GFMD SU, and the costs of organizing the Preparatory and Thematic Meetings and the final Summit Meeting) for the GFMD in 2017 is around \$ 2.335 million. Taking into account the contribution to the civil society of USD 125,000, the budget requirement rounds up to about \$ 3 million for 2017. Of this total, Co-Chair Germany will cover \$ 1 million, excluding the costs of the German GFMD Task Force. With an assured seed funding of \$ 400,000 from GFMD 2016, the funding gap is about 1.6 million USD, and the Friends of the Forum were urged to make a financial and/or in-kind contribution during the pledging ceremony to fill this gap. It was also remarked that the interim financial report of GFMD 2016 shows that GFMD has spent within the budget as proposed by previous Chair Bangladesh<sup>5</sup>.
22. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme added that the 2017 budget covers two preparatory meetings before the Berlin Summit and one in September, most likely with a thematic meeting on the GCM. These also comprise the costs of funded delegates. For the thematic meeting in May in Rabat, GFMD covers the costs for funded delegates, while Co-Chair Morocco covers the venue-related costs. Contributions in this regard are most welcome. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme also pointed out that the Co-Chairs received several offers from various organizations to provide research and support, which are very welcome, especially if they are *pro bono* or funded by a third party. Further, the Co-Chairs consider investing in the Platform for Partnerships, to develop a conference application for mobile phones and to organize the Civil Society Lab. Additionally, Co-Chair Germany explained that there may be extra costs related to the development of the GCM (such as travel costs or the organization of side-events). As Co-Chair, Germany will contribute to the Civil Society, including the logistical expenses for organizing the CSD.

## **D. Voluntary Pledging for GFMD 2017 Related Activities**

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<sup>3</sup> Co-Chair Bangladesh was represented by Ms. Nahida Sobhan and Co-Chair Germany was represented by Ms. Carmen Esser and Ms. Ilse Hahn.

<sup>4</sup> After the meeting, Mexico, indicated its interest to co-chair the ad hoc WG on communications.

<sup>5</sup> An audit of the full report will be distributed to the donor governments in March.

23. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme then urged the FoF to pledge generously, either specifically to any of the aforementioned projects or non-earmarked. The representatives of Canada, Switzerland, Mexico, Sweden and the Netherlands indicated that they would make financial contributions to GFMD 2017.

#### **E. GFMD 2017-2018 Civil Society Process**

24. After thanking the countries that readily pledged financial contributions, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme invited Mr. John Bingham of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) to present a [report](#) on the GFMD civil society process. He thanked Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands for their financial support to the CS process in 2016. He reported that 241 civil society delegates participated in the CSD in Dhaka, which is the highest civil society participation in the GFMD to date. The Tenth CSD programme took forward civil society's "[5-year 8-point Action Plan](#) for collaboration with government" and focused on the development of the GCM. The civil society's International Steering Committee for the GFMD met for the first time on 28 January and discussed the calendar and content of the CSD in Berlin, the selection process of civil society delegates and interaction with governments. Mr. Bingham remarked that the expectation is that the CSD programme will focus completely on the GCM. In conclusion, he informed that the civil society budget for 2017 is USD 799,000, and underlined the need for continued and new financial support from governments.

#### **F. GFMD 2017-2018 GFMD-Business Interaction**

25. The GFMD Business Mechanism was successfully endorsed in Dhaka as a permanent feature of the GFMD. The GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs are committed to further strengthening this dialogue. They would like the Friends of the Forum to become actively engaged in the Business Mechanism and its agenda. Ms. Stephanie Winet, representing the GFMD Business Mechanism coordinating office, [reported](#) that the Business Mechanism has as its overarching objective to be considered as the voice of business in international dialogues on migration. In 2017, the Business Mechanism will focus on a broader perspective on the role of business in migration governance toward meeting the GCM. There will be a Business Thematic Meeting on 3 and 4 April in Geneva, and at the Berlin Summit in June, while two meetings will be held in the second semester. For 2016, the budget was 240,000 CHF, and the provisional budget for 2017 consists of USD 480,000. Ms. Winet noted that in-kind contributions and financial resources will be needed to enable the Business Mechanism to develop its potential.

#### **G. Any Other Business**

26. In conclusion, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme announced that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has earlier submitted a request to become an Observer of the GFMD. He then relayed to the Friends of the Forum that the Troika<sup>6</sup> and Steering Group agreed earlier in the day to endorse ICRC's request, as ICRC is an important and highly reputable humanitarian organization. He welcomed ICRC as an observer to the GFMD and gave the floor to ICRC, who thanked GFMD for welcoming their request and expressed that ICRC will be attending further discussions with great interest.
27. After a few words of thanks, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme and Secretary General Nadir adjourned the meeting at 16h52.

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<sup>6</sup> The GFMD 2017-2018 [Troika](#) consists of the past Chair Bangladesh, and Co-Chairs-in-Office Germany and Morocco.