

GFMD Dialogue on GCM – Geneva, Feb. 2nd, 2017

Remarks by François Fouinat, Senior Adviser to the SRSG for International Migration

Since we last met in Dhaka, a number of developments have taken place and I would like to share with you our information and impressions at this important juncture.

First, let me say that Peter Sutherland's condition remains a matter of concern. He is still in a medical environment and unable to resume his activities. Owing to this situation, Secretary-General Guterres has extended him until March 31st, 2017. At the same time, the S-G has announced his intention to appoint a new SRSG for International Migration. We understand that he is seeking approval for creating a formal position supported by a small structure. Various names are circulating and the final decision on the appointment should be announced shortly. As a result, SRSG's Sutherland team is disbanding. Our last assignment is the finalization of the Sutherland Report and its publication. This should be completed in the following days, under the abridged form of a UN GA document which will be shortly followed by a longer version.

When the Special Representative fell seriously ill in September 2016, the recommendations of the report were already well established. In the following months, the members of his drafting team worked closely with senior officials and experts of the United Nations Secretariat to see the report through its final stages. In the end, the report remains a statement of the Special Representative's personal perspective on the topics addressed, presenting his roadmap for improving the governance of international migration.

Amongst other issues, the Sutherland Report proposes that, in the immediate future, the GFMD serve to support a consensus building on an ambitious global compact on migration and to advance the implementation of the migration related commitments in the 2030 agenda. This proposal falls directly in line with the agreement reached in Dhaka to pursue this dual objective through a reconfirmed and strengthened ad-hoc working group co-chaired by Bangladesh and Germany.

The GCM Modalities document makes a reference to GFMD, inviting it to contribute to the preparatory process of the global compact on migration. We hope that participating members will seize this opportunity, notably here in

Geneva, to translate GFMD outcomes into global compact commitments, as you did for the 2013 HLD and the New York Declarations.

We sincerely hope that the new Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and the future Special Representative for International Migration will confirm their interest for and participation to the GFMD work and keep the strong link with the UN that Peter Sutherland so eagerly and tirelessly maintained.

As we are now looking at the Modalities that will govern the elaboration of the GCM, and owing to the fact that it is the last time that the SRSG team is, ex-officio, attending a GFMD meeting, I would like to share with you some comments from the Sutherland Report, based on their relevance to the GCM elaboration process.

First, we find it most appropriate that the Modalities make repeated references to the crucial role of IOM in the GCM process. IOM joining the UN has been a constant SRSG's suggestion. It constitutes a fundamental building block of the UN role in the governance of international migration. We support the strengthening of the role and capacity of IOM.

Second, we note that the GCM Modalities strongly reaffirm that the two global compacts are "separate, distinct and independent". We understand the reasons for this strict delineation but we have also to admit that the migration phenomenon is far too complex to be dealt with through clearly identified and separate categories. As mentioned in the Sutherland Report, reality is far from being so clear-cut and there is a large grey area between those who flee literally at gunpoint and those whose movement is entirely voluntary. Forced migration covers many situations. A separation, not say a wall, between a "good" refugee and a "bad" migrant is often artificial and their needs have to be addressed through a protection continuum. The protection of vulnerable migrants is a humanitarian gap that needs to be filled by GCM.

Basing himself on the fact that they are only two UN operational organizations with an exclusive mandate to deal with people on the move, Peter Sutherland submits that a strong IOM-UNHCR tandem is indispensable, especially to steer the UN's response to mixed migration flows and large, crisis-related movements, as well as to co-lead the UN system's coordination on migration issues, with the support of the GMG. This recommendation does not affect or question in any way the respective areas of responsibility of each organization

but invites them to join their efforts to address the challenges posed by mixed movements of people.

The GMG itself must play a more direct role in supporting the UN work, notably at the country level, developing new approaches, promoting joint programming and implementation, developing training materials and indicators for the monitoring of results. The major diplomatic thrust that led to the 2013 HLD and the New York declarations must be accompanied by concrete field projects. In this respect, SRSG Sutherland has initiated a resource mobilization campaign to support GMG combined efforts through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. These GMG joint projects, often led by IOM and UNHCR, are addressing issues such as vulnerable migrants in transit, refugee access to legal employment, victims of trafficking, combating xenophobia, etc. Your assistance is needed to help good intentions materialize into action. Apart from bringing appropriate solutions, the experience gained through these projects will also inform the debates leading to the global compact on migration.

More generally, The Sutherland Report contains five priorities:

- Managing crisis movements and protecting migrants in vulnerable situation
- Building opportunity for labor and skills mobility
- Ensuring orderly migration, including return
- Fostering migrants inclusion and development benefits
- Strengthening governance capacity

These priorities are translated into sixteen recommendations, embracing all aspects of the migration spectrum that are part and parcel of the discussions on a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. I have no doubt governments, both individually, and collectively within GFMD, will find these recommendations of a critical use to reach a consensus at the inter-governmental conference to be held in 2018.

