

Dear GFMD Friends of the Forum,

On behalf of the Governments of Germany and Morocco, Co-Chairs-in-Office of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for 2017-2018, we would like to thank you for your attendance and active participation at the First Preparatory Meetings in Geneva on 1 and 2 February 2017.

We were very fortunate to receive a large number of valuable and helpful comments on our Concept Paper in writing as well as during our sessions on 1 February and have the pleasure to be able to send you the consolidated final version today.

Under our overarching theme, "Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development", six government-led Roundtable teams met in Geneva on 2 February to prepare the GFMD roundtables to be held in Berlin on 28 to 30 June 2017. The Roundtable teams, currently comprised of 54 governments, 14 international organizations and representatives of civil society and private sector held an initial exchange of views on the substance and format of the planned RT sessions in Berlin and have since started work on a first draft of their respective background papers. For those unable to attend, you may still join the Roundtable teams, whose Co-Chairs can be contacted through the Support Unit. You may also submit through the GFMD Platform for Partnerships database national policies or practices that are directly relevant to the RT session topics.

The Terms of Reference and work plan of the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), co-chaired by Bangladesh and Germany, were endorsed by the Steering Group on 1 February. The WG will prepare GFMD's contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) which is due for submission by end of April and then move on to work on GFMD's contribution to the GCM. To support the WG activities on GCM, a GFMD dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration was convened by the GFMD Co-Chairs on 2 February.

The Troika reached a decision to extend the mandate of the ad hoc Working Group on Communications. Morocco volunteered to chair the WG and Mexico later offered to serve as co-chair. The WG Co-Chairs met on 14 Feb to discuss how to take forward the preliminary recommendations from GFMD 2016 concerning the short and long term communication requirements of the GFMD.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again at our Second Preparatory Meeting in Geneva on 5, 6 and 7 April 2017.

We count on the Friends of the Forum's collective support in ensuring that the GFMD 2017-2018 will bring further added value to the global discourse and cooperation on migration and development!

Götz Schmidt-Bremme
Ambassador for the 2017-2018
GFMD Co-Chairmanship

El Habib Nadir
Secretary General
Ministry in charge
of Moroccans living abroad
and migration affairs

RT Session 1.1:

"Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence – Finding the right policy mix to balance different interests and objectives"

Co-Chairs: Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom
Rapporteur: Bangladesh

RT Session 1.2:

"From Global Agreement to Implementation – National Action Plans for migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

Co-Chairs: Bangladesh and Norway

RT Session 2.1:

"Moving beyond emergencies – Creating development solutions to the mutual benefit of host and origin communities and displaced persons"

Co-Chairs: Egypt and Denmark
Rapporteur: Russian Federation

RT session 2.2:

"Fostering the development impact of return migrants"

Co-Chairs: Switzerland and Nigeria

RT Session 3.1:

"Raising the Global Talent Pool – Harnessing the Potential of the Private Sector for Global Skills Partnerships"

Co-Chairs: Philippines and Australia

RT Session 3.2:

"Strengthening Cooperation – Enabling Civil Society Contributions in Migrant and Refugee Assistance and Integration"

Co-Chairs: Mexico and Canada
Rapporteur: Greece