

**Tenth GFMD Summit Meeting 28 – 30 June 2017**  
**“Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”**  
**Federal Foreign Office, Berlin**

**Opening Plenary Session**  
**Addresses by representatives of International Organizations,**  
**Civil Society and Business Mechanism**

*Dr. Malone will be one of the panelists in the opening event on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Other panelists will be SRSB Arbour, the Head of IOM and Heads of some other UN entities, the representatives of the Civil Society and the Business Mechanism, and Ministers Gabriel, Müller(Germany) and Bourita (Morocco). Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme will lead through the event, which will include two performances by a string quartet.*

**Introduction**

- It is an honour and a pleasure to address this the tenth GFMD Summit meeting on behalf of the Global Migration Group of which UN University is the 2017 Chair;
- Warm thanks to our hosts the GFMD co-chairs Morocco and Germany: their Excellencies Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Foreign Minister of Germany and Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Kingdom of Morocco;
- A few words about the United Nations University, an international community of scholars, with a Charter from the UN General Assembly to engage in policy-relevant research on pressing global issues, specialised postgraduate training and capacity building, and the dissemination of knowledge. I am supported in my role as GMG Chair in particular by the expertise of the members of the UNU Migration Network of over 45 academics across UNU - including UNU's Institute on Globalisation, Culture and Mobility in Barcelona. UNU is endeavouring to contribute to the GMG's thought leadership and genuinely global perspective on migration in 2017, a decisive year for policy-making on international migration;

**Context**

- As reaffirmed in the landmark New York Declaration the positive contribution made by migrant women and men for inclusive growth and sustainable development is clear. To quote: “Our world is a better place for that contribution. The benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration are substantial and are often underestimated. Forced displacement and irregular migration in large movements, on the other hand, often present complex challenges”.

- Effective GMG-GFMD cooperation has helped to ensure that the international community understands this complex relationship between migration and development, the multiple and inter-twined drivers and root causes, and the development opportunities and benefits afforded by well-governed migration;
- The New York Declaration calls for the elaboration of a global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. Six thematic sessions will take place this year to consider various elements of the Compact. Already we have had three thematic sessions where a wealth of important issues have been debated in depth, including the human rights and social inclusion of all migrants, drivers of migration and, at the most recent session, international cooperation and the governance of migration;

### **Role of the GMG**

- Let me touch upon the role of GMG in support of the intergovernmental process:
- The GMG, which brings together diverse expertise and operational capacity from across the UN system, is well placed to assist Member States in this debate. The GMG has a history of close engagement with Member States and civil society, both through this Forum, and through the preparations for the New York Summit in September 2016;
- GMG today has 22 members, each of which brings important perspectives and expertise. Indeed, the GMG is increasingly demonstrating that we can serve as an important mechanism not only for internal coordination within the UN, but for coherent and forward-thinking engagement with other stakeholders;
- This is why we were particularly pleased to have been asked by the Member States, in the Modalities Resolution setting up the intergovernmental negotiations, to provide support to the President of the General Assembly and Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary General and Secretary-General of the 2018 intergovernmental conference, as they prepare the thematic sessions and related Issues Briefs for the global compact consultation process.
- We are working closely with the Office of the SRSG in the preparation of GMG Inputs to these Issues Briefs, and also with the Office of the President of the General Assembly in support of the preparation of the sessions themselves, and we are confident that GMG contributions will help ensure these processes provide the Membership the support they are looking for;

- GMG inputs are intended to be accessible, evidence-driven, concrete, human rights-based and gender-responsive. They include the most recent age- and sex-disaggregated data that are available; provide a succinct analysis of key trends; and propose specific, concrete and action-orientated recommendations. Once finalized by the SRSG the inter-agency Issue Briefs should be a useful contribution to the preparatory process for the intergovernmental negotiations;
- I encourage you to carefully study the issue briefs. Among the many points they raise for consideration of Member States are, and I highlight just a few:
  - the normative framework does not have to be developed from scratch since there is an already established robust body of international law to draw from and to frame the issues. No new instrument is needed: the implementation gap in the protection of the human rights of migrants must be addressed.
  - The views of migrants themselves, including the voices of migrant youth, women and girls, need to be heard.
  - Ensure meaningful human rights protection of all migrants in vulnerable situations, establish a common conceptual understanding of migrants in vulnerable situations, drawing upon the comprehensive guidance provided in the Global Migration Group's draft Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations as well as other related initiatives.
  - Develop and implement clear and binding procedures and standards on the establishment of "firewalls" between immigration enforcement and public services at all levels, in the fields of access to justice, housing, health care, education, social protection and social and labour services for migrants, including gender-responsive protection and services.
  - When considering addressing drivers of migration also bear in mind that as a percentage of global population, migrants today constitute just 3.3% of the global population, a percentage that has increased only slightly from 2.9% in 2000.
  - In looking to address the drivers of migration, our primary focus should not be on stopping migration. Rather we must reduce and mitigate the adverse factors that motivate people to move out of necessity in unsafe conditions while enabling migration to be safe, regular and orderly, so that the beneficial impact of migration is maximized for all migrants as well as the countries and communities of destination and of origin.
  - Invest in the elements of the Sustainable Development Goals that drive people to migrate and impede their ability to live and work safely and lead productive lives at home.

- Foster social and economic inclusion of migrants through a whole of government and whole of society approach
- Maximize the impact of remittances for development through the promotion of financial inclusion in order to spur investment and stimulate creation of decent jobs, especially for women who often have less access to formal remittance systems and work in under-valued and unregulated labour sectors.
- Link with the private sector to maximize the economic and social integration of people for the benefit of all.
- The Compact provides a unique opportunity to address some of the gaps and shortcomings in the way states cooperate with one another on migration governance. Given the divergence of state interests and expectations for migration governance, and in order for the GCM to be achievable, consensual and effective in advancing cooperation and promoting good governance, it will be important for it to both be guided by commitments in, and build synergies with, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Action, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, CEDAW and other existing commitments and mechanisms for international cooperation relating to migration.

### **Coherence**

- We acknowledge that even more can be done now and in the future to ensure system-wide coherence;
- With that in mind, at this year's Strategic Retreat of the GMG at Principal Level, we heard a strong request from key Member States, including the GFMD Troika and the co-facilitators, for unified and substantive GMG support for the global compact process. The GMG agreed that support for the intergovernmental negotiations should be the priority for the Group in the period ahead;
- A further meeting of the GMG at Principal Level in Geneva in April allowed our Principals the opportunity to take stock, at a strategic level, of implementation of the New York Declaration and the GMG contribution in support of the global compact process;

### **Conclusion**

- I will conclude by underlining that the GMG is fully committed to supporting Member States, in collaboration with stake-holders, work towards a concrete, action-orientated and forward looking global compact that builds on the commitments agreed to in the New York Declaration, ensuring that the first blueprint for international migration is truly people-centred, human rights-based and gender-responsive.

- The deliberations at this timely Forum will be an important contribution to the discussion and we very much look forward to a stimulating and informative few days.

Thank you.