

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

Wednesday, 22 November 2017
14h30 – 17h30
Salle XXI, Building E, Palais des Nations

Summary Report

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, GFMD German Co-Chair, welcomed the participating 109 delegates from 66 member states and 21 observers at the fourth and final meeting in 2017 under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco. **Mr. Tarik Sissou**, Head of Division 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. Jonathan Prentice**, representing the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration, **Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair**, representing the United Nations University (UNU), and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

II. Adoption of the Agenda of the Fourth Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

2. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on 8 November was adopted by the Friends of the Forum.

III. Eleventh GFMD Summit in Marrakech, 5 to 7 December 2018

A. Update on the GFMD 2018 Agenda

3. Mr. Sissou, speaking on behalf of the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, informed the Friends of the Forum (FOF) that following the work of the Co-Chairmanship beginning in 2017, the GFMD will help to identify a new social contract for migration. By focusing on and consolidating GFMD's achievements in 2018, it is well positioned to transform its principles into action – the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) being one major challenge. The GFMD under the Moroccan Co-Chairmanship will accompany the GCM process, from the stocktaking in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on 4 to 6 December, to the intergovernmental negotiations beginning February 2018, all the way to the Intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in Marrakesh on 10 to 11 December 2018.
4. In his update on the thematic agenda and work plan for the second year of the German-Moroccan Chairmanship, Mr. Sissou underlined the element of “action” in addressing the 11th GFMD Summit and in shaping the 2018 agenda more broadly. The substantive agenda of the GFMD 2018 will revolve around three main “roundtable” themes. The first roundtable, “*From Vulnerability to Resilience*” will address the factors that lead to migrant vulnerability and how migrants can overcome these vulnerabilities so that they can contribute to local economies and become actors of development. The second roundtable on “*Regional Mobility*” will focus on mobility and the role of origin, transit, and destination countries. Lastly, the third roundtable, “*Drivers of Migration and*

Human Security” will analyze the various social and environmental factors that pose great threats to peace and security.

5. In addition to the roundtable themes, a number of important events were flagged which would form part of the 2018 Calendar of Key Activities. Two *thematic workshops* – and a possible third workshop will be organized in 2018. The first workshop on “*Migration and Cities*” – taking place in Berlin in April – will look comprehensively at the concentration of migrants in cities on a global scale and issues of integration. The second workshop on “*Migration and Identity*” – taking place in Rabat in June – will address the ways in which migrants balance multiple identities. Further, there will be three *preparatory meetings* in Geneva: February, May, and September to prepare for the 11th GFMD Summit in Marrakech to be held on 5 to 7 December 2018. There will also be *side events* organized on the margins of major international conferences such as the UNDESA coordination meeting (February), the International Dialogue on Migration, and the High Level Political Forum (July). The SG will reconvene in April 2018. Further details will be confirmed by February 2018.

B. Update on the GFMD 2017-2018 Budget

6. In her report to the Friends of the Forum, Ms. Estrella Lajom explained that based on the interim financial report as of 15 November, 39 per cent of total projected expenditures had been recorded to date. Since the last update to the Friends of the Forum on October 9, 2017, additional fresh contributions amounting to USD 526,910 have been received through the GFMD Support Unit. Considering the three sources of funds -- a) left over contributions from 2016, b) fresh contributions actually received in 2017, and c) committed contributions but not yet received in 2017, a surplus of resources is expected amounting to about USD 670,000, to be carried forward to 2018. She thanked the German government for their substantial financial contributions to the 10th Summit Meeting in Berlin, and acknowledged the other 15 donor governments for their continued cooperation and support.

IV. GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration

A. GFMD Input to the GCM, including GFMD’s role in the follow-up to the GCM

7. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme announced that Morocco will host the intergovernmental conference to adopt the GCM in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December 2018. Meanwhile, the GFMD Co-Chairs will submit the GFMD Thematic Recollection (2007 to 2017) as a contribution to the GCM process ahead of the scheduled stocktaking meeting in Puerto Vallarta on 4 to 6 December 2017. The GFMD ad Hoc Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM Co-Chairs, Germany and Bangladesh led the preparation of said thematic recollection. The WG began with a draft outline on 21 April and met on four additional occasions. It was agreed that the document would cover all six thematic clusters of the GCM thematic consultations contained in the UN General Assembly modalities resolution, and within these, focus on the areas in which GFMD has expertise.
8. GCM Special Rapporteurs were employed to collect results for the GCM report during the 10th GFMD Summit Meeting in Berlin (June). Comments from these results were included in the working draft that was produced in August, prior to the Workshop meeting in Vienna (September 2017). The draft was then distributed among members of the Friends of the Forum ahead of the 3rd GFMD Preparatory Meetings (October 2017) and received substantial feedback. The final draft was disseminated to SG members jointly with invitations to the 4th GFMD Preparatory Meetings.
9. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme shared that the document reflects the diversity of discussions within the GFMD context over the last ten years and thereby serves to inform the GCM process. Taking this into account, it does not intend to anticipate the national positions of GFMD participating states in the negotiation phase of the GCM. The GFMD contribution to the GCM is rather a thematic

recollection from 2007 to 2017 that reflects the best and most workable ideas and practices of the last decade.

10. At the invitation of the Chair, **Ms. Anne Hitzegrad**, on behalf of the German Co-Chair of the Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, outlined the process that the WG has led to coordinate the drafting process. This occurred in an inclusive manner by requesting written comments from the GFMD community at various points throughout the year. During the process, the WG was responsive in replying to questions and comments from member states and observers. This feedback was especially productive as the WG began to see a common vision emerge. During the October preparatory meetings, SG members engaged in a highly constructive discussion on the framing and presentation of the document, which defined more clearly the intention of the document.
11. The GFMD contribution to the GCM document title had been changed to “*Thematic Recollection 2007-2017 prepared by the GFMD for the GCM*”. In citing further examples, the words “input” and “endorsement” were replaced throughout the document by “thematic recollection” and “welcome”, respectively. It was anticipated that these changes would better reflect GFMD’s informal character and the diversity of discussions held within GFMD. To add, it was underlined that this thematic recollection is not a consensus document, but rather a diverse and comprehensive document that reflects the views from a wide range of GFMD stakeholders.
12. During the open discussion, intervening SG members generally welcomed the tentative final draft, with the exception of the United States of America. Some delegations expressed their wish to clearly communicate that the compendium of best practices and ideas is not reflective of any of the state’s national positions. SG members who expressed support for the thematic recollection also held the view that the report will be a source of inspiration for the ongoing GCM process.

B. Participation at Mexico Stocktaking Conference, 4 to 6 Dec 2017

13. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme reiterated that the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs received an invitation to participate in the Mexico stocktaking conference. However, the Puerto Vallarta stocktaking programme has been updated and GFMD will now have a prominent role only on the first day of the conference, in “Panel I – Global, regional, sub-regional and national perspectives” within the “Retrospection Session – Looking Back on Phase I”. The German-Moroccan Co-Chairmanship together will represent GFMD in the panel and share the key outcomes of decade-long GFMD discussions and partnerships.

V. GFMD-GMG-SRSG Collaboration

14. GFMD is linked with the UN through the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for International Migration and Inter Agency Global Migration Group (GMG). Speaking on behalf of the Office of the SRSG (OSRSG), Mr. Jonathan Prentice updated the Friends of the Forum on the GCM process. The OSRSG has finalized the consultations process, phase one of the GCM, and is now preparing the UN Secretary General’s report, which will be his input into the Zero Draft. The report will not be definitive as it is both an input to a Zero Draft and the system response to a global compact that has yet to come into existence. It is presumed that the GCM is going to be legally non-binding and that it will be based entirely around the level of cooperation that it secures among member states. While the GCM will not be an institutional or governance paper, the UN Secretary General will offer reflections on how he can position the UN system to best support member states in the implementation of the compact.
15. At the request of the Chair and on behalf of the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and Rector of the UN University (UNU), Dr. Parvati Nair addressed the Friends of the Forum to inform the latter about GMG activities of interest. Many of GMG’s efforts in 2017 have been devoted to, *inter alia*, supporting the intergovernmental GCM process and work of the SRSG, assisting with the

organization of thematic sessions, and contributing a body of six issue briefs to support the GCM thematic consultations. Speaking on the GMG-GFMD collaboration, Dr. Nair stated that most likely without GFMD as a driving force over the past 10 years, we would not be in a position to discuss a global compact today. Dr. Nair maintained that the GMG upholds its readiness to continue to collaborate with the GFMD and support its deliberations in whatever way is appropriate.

VI. Enhancing GFMD Communications

- An Update from the ad hoc Working Group on Communications

16. The WG Co-Chairs updated the FOF on recent GFMD communications' developments. The Troika and SG reached a decision in February 2017 to extend the mandate of the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on Communications. Morocco and Mexico have served as Co-Chairs of the WG and UAE has since joined the group. The third meeting of the WG was held on 21 November with the purpose to identify gaps in the current communications activities. This would inform the next steps towards developing a long-term GFMD "communications strategy" and "communications plan". GFMD's communication activities progress-to-date include a redesign of the web portal, the reclassification of over one thousand policy and practice entries, the launching of the GFMD mobile application, and the GFMD newsletter. To add, the Support Unit has begun drafting the "1st Year Report of the 2017-2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship" which will be circulated by February 2018.
17. The WG proposed earlier in the day to the Steering Group the following next steps:
 - a. The WG retreat in the 4th week of January 2018 to determine the objectives and desired outcomes that will frame the GFMD communications strategy.
 - b. The hiring of an external communications agency to lead the drafting of the GFMD communications strategy and possibly provide oversight, in close collaboration with the WG, the GFMD Support Unit and Steering Group.
 - c. The positioning of a dedicated communications staff member in the Support Unit.

The WG Co-Chairs indicated that they would present a document that details the financial implications of the proposed action steps for the consideration of the Steering Group and, subsequently the Friends of the Forum, in February 2018.

VII. Chairmanship of Future GFMD

18. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme advised SG members that to date no formal avowal of interest has been brought to the attention of the Co-Chairs for assuming the 2019 GFMD Chairmanship. He held the view that the year 2019 yields great challenges and rewards, especially considering the opportunities for contributing to the implementation of the GCM. He thus urged SG Member States to consider stepping forward to take on the Chairmanship after Morocco.

VIII. GFMD 2017-2018 Civil Society Process

19. At the invitation of the Chair, **Mr. John Bingham** addressed the Friends of the Forum to share Civil Society's most recent developments. According to him, representatives from Civil Society will take part in the stocktaking conference in Puerto Vallarta, alongside some 80 civil society leaders from around the world. They will present the *Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact* – a document that brings together the principal civil society perspectives and recommendations from GFMD discussions, and which serves as a starting point for multi-actor implementation.
20. With gratitude for the trust, partnership, and patience that he received from the GFMD community, Mr. Bingham shared that he will be stepping down from his long-standing tenure at ICMC and Civil Society Days. He affirmed that ICMC's coordinating office will continue to serve its role with energy and capacity, and he challenged the Friends of the Forum to adopt a communal "we" approach on the partnership and creative exchange on the dialogue on migration and development.

The GFMD Co-Chairs and FOF expressed their deepest appreciation for Mr. Bingham and good wishes for the future.

IX. GFMD Business Mechanism

21. Reporting on behalf of the Business Mechanism, **Ms. Stéphanie Winet** commended the GFMD for its added value as the guardian of wealth of good practice and also as a trusted platform for constructive partnerships. Further, she recalled the business consultation that took place in Dubai (November 2017) hosted jointly by the UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation and the Federation of UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As relayed by her, the three panels: 1. Governance of temporary migration in the Gulf, 2. Skills recognition, and 3. Responsible recruitment were successful in involving a range of stakeholders and creating awareness of the GCM process among the business community in the region. The Business Mechanism will consider hosting similar consultations in other regions to ensure follow-ups.
22. The Business Mechanism will be represented at the Stocktaking conference in Puerto Vallarta. In an effort to strengthen dialogue at the regional level, it will hold a webinar for International Organization of Employers' (IOE) members in December following the Mexico conference to discuss global developments and regional strategies. This regional approach will be replicated from previous business consultations in Asia that took place at the margins of the Colombo process, which led to the draft submission to the GCM. The Business Mechanism acknowledged the need for GFMD to provide a platform that would channel further inputs by non-government actors into the negotiations phase, and the need for continued input from Civil Society and Business Mechanism.

X. Any Other Business

A. FAO Request to become a GFMD Observer

23. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme informed the Friends of the Forum that the GFMD Troika and the GFMD Steering Group earlier welcomed the request from the Food and Agriculture Office (FAO) of the United Nations to become an Observer of the GFMD. He then invited the representative of FAO to address the meeting. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues outlined that the organizations' motivations to become an Observer is to contribute to enhancing the linkages between migration, agriculture, and rural development within the work of the GFMD. The FAO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will Co-Chair the 2018 GMG, and in this regard, FAO will strive to collect good practices to be shared with the GFMD.

B. Participation of the GFMD Co-Chair in a Conference on "Humane migration across the Mediterranean" (Malta)

24. Mr. Sissou shared that the GFMD accepted an invitation to participate in an event on 16 to 17 November organized jointly by the Parliament of Malta, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. The objectives of the meeting were to explore the role of parliaments in sustainable development and migration, and ultimately, promote safe, regular and orderly migration in the Mediterranean Sea. One point of dialogue was the role of GFMD in parliamentary debates. The GFMD Co-Chairs shared a number of practical experience based on findings from previous GFMD roundtable sessions, such as the 2012 roundtable in Mauritius on the public perception of migrants, and more broadly, communicated that through its inclusive character, GFMD has involved all stakeholders – including parliaments – in issues of migration governance.
25. The meeting was adjourned at 16h43.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
05 December 2017