

## **GFMD Thematic Workshop on GFMD's contribution to the GCM**

### **GCM Cluster 3: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration**

**6 September 2017, 10:30-12:30  
Hotel Savoyen – Mancini 3b**

1. The above-entitled working session was chaired by **Mr. Ola Henrikson**, Director General for Migration and Asylum from the Swedish Ministry of Justice. The GCM rapporteur, **Dr. Steffen Angenendt** of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, presented an overview on the GFMD report's chapter on GCM Cluster 3; while **Ms. Michelle Klein-Solomon**, Director of the Migration Policy and Research Department of the IOM, served as an expert rapporteur and summarized the discussions at the end of the session.
2. In opening the session, **Mr. Ola Henrikson** reflected on major recent advancements in global cooperation on migration, in which GFMD played an instrumental role. According to him, in a context marked by lack of opportunities and mismatches between sending and receiving countries, the GCM is a unique opportunity to consolidate global cooperation, by offering the possibility of a well-governed migration through safe, orderly and regular means. He articulated the imperative to have three levels of cooperation and dialogue. At the international level, the GCM could provide a system-wide coherence and facilitate the streamlining of migration functions in the UN system, with IOM taking a leading role in the follow-up of the GCM. At the regional front, there is a need to strengthen regional cooperation and partnerships among, and build capacities of origin, transit and destination countries. Finally, at the national level, a whole-of-government approach will be needed to responsibly and effectively manage migration.

### **Overview on the GFMD Report's Chapter on GCM Cluster 3**

3. Mr. Angenendt highlighted that the GFMD, in its decade-long existence, has always put cooperation and governance at the core of its discussions. GFMD has proposed several key recommendations in that respect, as articulated in the report:
  - a) Policy and institutional coherence can be enhanced through mainstreaming migration, a whole-of-government approach, robust monitoring mechanisms and regional partnerships;
  - b) Multi-stakeholder involvement should be fostered through the participation of local governments and clarification of the respective roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders;
  - c) A fact-based governance and improved collection of reliable and disaggregated data; and
  - d) The topic of return and reintegration is essential, but requires monitoring and key indicators.

4. The Chair opened the floor and invited all participants to respond to the three guiding questions. Below is a summary of the main takeaways from the discussions.

**Question 1: How can the GCM facilitate sustainable implementation of commitments in international standards and frameworks related to the topics covered by this thematic cluster?**

- There was wide recognition that the GCM offers an opportunity to fill gaps at the global level by facilitating the use of regular migration routes and by offering a coordinated and consolidated approach to managing migration. Participants further urged the GCM to enhance the implementation and operationalization of existing frameworks. It was suggested that the GCM could define principles and standards, either through a soft-law framework, or through the introduction of a peer-review mechanism, similar as the Universal Periodic Review.
- There was also strong acknowledgement of the role played by the GFMD in facilitating consensus, trust-building, exchange of best practices and promoting collaboration. Reflecting on a future role for the GFMD in the framework of the GCM, participants asserted that the GFMD should retain its essential characteristics as an informal and voluntary space for creativity. The GFMD could rethink its purpose and expand its functions, for example by serving a guardian role with respect to the commitments made by Member States.
- At the national level, participants recognized the need for a comprehensive balanced migration policy and, more importantly, strengthened capacities of governments to address migration in a coherent, holistic and coordinated way. To that end, they called for “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approaches, as well as resources and proper training of government officials. They also identified the need to mainstream migration in socio-economic policies and mechanisms of countries of destination.

**Question 2: How can the GCM further advance relevant recommendations and good practices shared within the GFMD and affirmed in several UN documents, notably the Sutherland Report, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the latest Report of the Secretary General on Migration?**

- The idea of moving from generalization to action was welcomed. An important step in that regard would be for states to identify priority areas. As it might not be possible to reach consensus on all areas, states with the same priorities and interests could thus form coalitions and launch processes on specific points and generate concrete outcomes. The GCM could therefore serve as a platform for states to establish such a form of mini-multilateralism.
- Several governments referenced the critical work that has been ongoing with the regional cooperative system, through the regional consultative processes, in strengthening migration governance and implementation of standards. It was agreed that the experiences, nuances and particularities brought by RCPs could better inform, feed into, and be linked up with the global discussions.

- Some participants saw a need for an institutional architecture that would support the implementation and the future role of IOM in the GCM context. Participants clearly recognized the value of IOM as both an implementing agency and a provider of policy guidance. Following its entry to the UN system, it was deemed that IOM should play an implementing and leading role for consolidating and reviewing the commitments, in coordination and cooperation with relevant agencies. Without jeopardizing its operational character, the lead policy advisory role of IOM would require adjustments in the organization's mandate, capacity and resources. However, these issues are a matter for Member States to resolve, and discussions along these lines are going on within the IOM Council. In the same vein, it was recognized that any change in the overall institutional architecture will also have an impact on the future role of GFMD.
- Participants supported the view that return and reintegration is an essential element of effective migration management systems and facilitation of legal migration channels. Taking into account both perspectives of sending and receiving countries is key; and a win-win situation for all is contingent on the ability to find sustainable solutions, foster a clear dialogue and promote the sharing of responsibility. It was stressed that return should be linked up with development objectives in the country of origin; it must be voluntary and based on human rights in order to avoid secondary movements. In this respect, participants shared the view that assessing successful and sustainable return and reintegration should not only be based through the prism of return numbers but through long-run data on reintegration. Finally, reference was made to the Sutherland Report which invites states to establish guidelines and shared principles for effective return.

**Question 3: Which current challenges, if any, are not yet sufficiently covered by existing international standards and frameworks and therefore require specific emphasis by the GCM?**

- The continuing dearth of comprehensive and disaggregated data remains as a major policy gap, and hinders the ability and efforts of states to understand the migration phenomenon and develop evidence-based policies. Another major challenge identified was the comparability of data and the importance of accountability, verification and methodology. Participants encouraged the GCM to improve the collection, disaggregation and sharing of migration and migrants' data, in order to enhance the capacities of states to collectively understand and address the challenges at hand, counter the negative narratives on migration, and create a knowledge framework on migration at a global level.
- Participants further reflected on how to better collect data and define the impact of all aspects of migration in practical terms. Some held the view that the GCM should not merely sound a call for data, but rather identify more operational recommendations. They cited for example that census data and household surveys could generate comparable data across countries and across situations. Another possibility is to measure the human development outcomes for migrants as an indicator of the results and outcomes of specific policies. The Migration Governance Index of IOM, jointly implemented with the Economist Intelligence Unit and the Migration Governance Framework were highlighted in this regard. Participants encouraged to make use of the five recommendations of the Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research and Policy, as stated in the Sutherland Report. It was finally recommended to set up a targeted fund for migration research and data collection and to introduce the collection and analysis of big data.

5. At the end of the session, the thematic expert rapporteur summed up the highlights of the discussions. The following table outlines the main points of convergence, practical recommendations and remaining challenges or issues for further discussion.

<b>Points of Convergence</b>	<b>Practical Recommendations</b>	<b>Challenges / Issues for further discussion</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• role of actors and institutions at the national, regional and global level</li> <li>• migration as a genuine choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mainstream migration in socio-economic policies of CODs;</li> <li>• establish knowledge framework to generate and synthesize data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying and producing migration-related data</li> <li>• ensuring an effective return and reintegration</li> </ul>