

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

Monday, 5 February 2018

14h30 – 17h30

Salle XVIII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Summary Report

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, GFMD Morocco Co-Chair, together with **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, the GFMD German Co-Chair, welcomed around 130 delegates from 92 Member States and 18 Observers at the fifth preparatory meeting of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by **Ms. Nahida Sobhan**, representing the GFMD 2017 Chair, Bangladesh; **Mr. Jonathan Prentice**, representing the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration; and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.
2. On behalf of Bangladesh, Ms. Sobhan took the floor to express her and her Government's deepest condolences at the demise of the late Sir Peter Sutherland. She also praised the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs Germany and Morocco for their great partnership, and affirmed her Government's commitment to the GFMD process.

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

3. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on 18 January was adopted by the Friends of the Forum.

III. Honoring Former SRSG, Sir Peter Sutherland

4. On January 8, the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs issued a statement on the death of Mr. Peter Sutherland. To pay homage to the founding father of the GFMD, the Co-Chairs wanted to remind the GFMD community about Mr. Sutherland's legacy. In his statement, Mr. Nadir regarded Mr. Sutherland as a truly remarkable person who had left his imprint on the Global Forum. He echoed the former UN Secretary-General's words in saying that it was thanks to Mr. Sutherland's tireless efforts that the GFMD was established. Mr. Sutherland had also left behind his report detailing specific recommendations with a view to the Global Compact for Migration. Mr. Nadir informed the FOF that the GFMD Support Unit has opened a [space](#) on the web portal for tributes and invited members to contribute their own.
5. Following a [video](#) tribute prepared by the GFMD Support Unit, Mr. François Fouinat, Senior Adviser to the former SRSG for International Migration, reflected on Mr. Sutherland's enormous contributions to the international migration stage, driven by his compassion for migrants and refugees. Since mid-2015, appalled by the Syrian refugee crisis and the tragedies linked to the large exodus towards Europe, Mr. Sutherland emphasized, notably in the Global Forum, that responsibility should not be determined by proximity. He advocated for a global response and a more active engagement of the UN.

6. Mr. Fouinat further recalled that, “Nobody like him was able to summon the energies and promote bold ideas that could allow progress to be achieved in the most complex aspects of migration. ... Not only did he spearhead the most crucial developments in the international debate on migration, but he also had the good instinct of consigning his views and suggestions in a Report.” The Sutherland Report is the fruit of eleven years leading to the international debate on migration. According to Mr. Fouinat, the best homage the Forum can render to Mr. Sutherland would be to closely look at the recommendations in the Sutherland report. As for the GFMD, Mr. Sutherland’s message was for the Forum to strengthen itself to develop its capacity as a policy review body, support consensus building on an ambitious global compact on migration and act as a platform to acknowledge government efforts to fulfill their SDGs commitments in the migration context.
7. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme took the floor to share his personal reflections on Mr. Sutherland’s death. The German Co-Chair described the former SRSG as a master who shaped his ideas on migration. He viewed the Sutherland Report as a polar star that could guide the Global Compact. In his view, the best way to honor Mr. Sutherland is to cooperate and persist on a joint endeavor and commitment to keep the Global Forum alive and as open, positive and free thinking as it has always been.

IV. GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM)

*- Presentation of the UN Secretary-General’s Report: “Making Migration Work for All”
By Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Office of the SRSG for International Migration*

8. Mr. Prentice, speaking on behalf of the SRSG for International Migration, updated the FOF on the GCM process ahead of the release of the Zero Draft later in the day in New York. The Office of the SRSG (OSRSG) released the UN Secretary-General’s report in January titled, “Making Migration Work for All,” which served as an input to the GCM Zero Draft. The report has three main elements – the centrality of state sovereignty, the necessity to situate the discussion of migration firmly within the 2030 Agenda, and an emphasis on the inevitability of state interdependence – which articulate that the Global Compact could, and should be an agreement to cooperate.
9. Furthermore, Mr. Prentice explained that the report has three substantive pillars: (1) the recognition that although the majority of migrants move in a regular fashion, their situation is one in which they are exposed to a large number of vulnerabilities; (2) there is a clear call for an increase in legal pathways as one principle way to reduce recourse to irregular migration; and (3) a strategy for how to manage large mixed movements. Mr. Prentice underlined the need for clarity in the debate over drivers of migration and detailed the key challenges and reflections on how the GFMD can contribute to the GCM process. This includes demonstrating support for the process itself, engaging in concerted efforts to dispel the notion that negotiating the GCM is inimical to the concept of state sovereignty and continuing the collective efforts to avoid divisive and often inaccurate language.

V. GFMD and the High Level Political Forum (2018)

- GFMD Contribution to the HLPF 2018

10. The GFMD Co-Chairs received an invitation to contribute to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 by the President of ECOSOC, focusing on the actions of the GFMD in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The GFMD Ad hoc Working Group on 2030 Agenda and GCM, Co-Chaired by Germany and Bangladesh, will prepare the GFMD’s contribution to the HLPF 2018 which focuses its review on the following migration-related SDGs: 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17. The Ad hoc WG held a meeting on 26 January and will have further meetings to prepare the GFMD’s report. It will also support the organization of a GFMD thematic workshop on “Migration and 2030 Agenda” to be held on 18-19 April in Rabat. The deadline set by ECOSOC for the GFMD to submit its input to the HLPF is 27 April 2018.
11. On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the WG on 2030 Agenda and GCM, **Ms. Carmen Esser** gave an overview of the broad outline and initial ideas for the report that will be presented to the HLPF 2018.

She conveyed the WG's view that through the submission of GFMD's report to the HLPF 2017, the GFMD has established itself as a trusted expert body that can add value to the implementation and review of the migration-related SDGs. Equally, the side event on the margins of the HLPF 2017 helped illustrate the development-oriented migration policies that the GFMD has consolidated and are now posted on the Platform for Partnerships database. A similar side event on GFMD's recommendation to the HLPF 2018 will be organized by the GFMD Co-Chairs.

VI. Report on the First Year of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship

12. To contextualize the transition to the second year of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme delivered a preview of the full report on the first year of the Co-Chairmanship. The GFMD launched its German-Moroccan Co-Chairmanship on 19 December 2016 at UN headquarters in New York, just a few days after the highly successful Ninth GFMD Summit in Dhaka. The GFMD theme of the first year, "Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration" signaled the imperative to address and balance the interests between migrants and countries of origin, transit and destination within the framework of safe, regular and orderly migration. The Co-Chairs' work plan for 2017 took into account two important global processes – migration in the 2030 Agenda and the launch of the Global Compact for Migration – and successively submitted input to the 2017 HLPF and GCM stocktaking phase, respectively. In this context, Germany and Morocco committed to lead the Forum towards enhancing its added value and identifying inter-linkages with existing processes in order to promote more action-oriented outcomes.
13. The GFMD's 2017 Calendar of Key Activities included, among other events, four preparatory meetings (two of which took place pre-Summit), two thematic workshops, two GCM dialogues and the Tenth GFMD Summit Meeting in Berlin. The German-Moroccan Co-Chairs took advantage of GCM-related events to promote the GFMD 2017-2018 agenda and also strengthen the mandate of the Ad hoc Working Group on 2030 Agenda and GCM. Parallel to this, the Support Unit, in close coordination with the GFMD Co-Chairs and Ad hoc WG for Communications, increased GFMD's communications efforts to attain greater visibility and support for the Forum. An improved GFMD website was re-launched, including the addition of around 100 new Platform for Partnership entries and the reclassification of these themes vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact thematic areas. To add, the GFMD introduced a quarterly newsletter in the beginning of 2017 and launched the first ever GFMD Mobile App in time for the Berlin Summit, reaching over 500 downloads. The GFMD's social media follower base and engagement also increased by over 100 per cent.
14. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme noted that 2017 was pivotal for the GFMD in showcasing its contributions to the development of the 2030 Agenda and GCM. Looking towards the GCM negotiations that began on 20 February, he affirmed to the FOF that the GFMD will continue to deliberate on its possible role in a post-GCM world. He thanked all Friends of the Forum for the support given by the GFMD community during the first year of the Co-Chairmanship, and expressed the hope for the same level of engagement in 2018.

VII. Second Year of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship

A. Draft Concept Note and Work Plan

15. Mr. Nadir then presented the main features of the GFMD agenda for 2018. The three elements of this year's work plan are: (1) continuity between the Berlin and forthcoming Marrakesh Summits, (2) aligning the GFMD with the Global Compact drafting process, as well as the adoption and implementation phases, and (3) taking stock of the implementation of migration-related SDGs in the 2030 Agenda.
16. The theme for GFMD 2018 is, "*Honouring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of Migrants for Development*," which signals the need to move into action in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and GCM, and in the spirit of the global social compact that the GFMD advocated for

in 2017. 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’s vulnerability and consider how migrants could overcome these vulnerabilities so that they can contribute to local economies and become agents 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, “*Good Migration Governance for Sustainable Development*” will analyze the ways in which global migration governance models can be aligned with contemporary drivers of migration.

17. The three main RT themes are divided into six RT sub-themes:

- RT 1.1: Harnessing migrants’ existing capitals to build resilience
- RT 1.2: Migrants’ engagement with public services: from basic access to co-production
- RT 2.1: South-South mobility: trends, patterns and transferable learning
- RT 2.2: Regional mobility and policy coherence to support development
- RT 3.1: Aligning governance with contemporary drivers of migration
- RT 3.2: Beyond remittances: enhancing the transnational civic engagement of diaspora and migrants

18. In addition to the said roundtable themes, a number of important events would form part of the 2018 Calendar of Key Activities. The usual preparatory meetings will be held in Geneva on 5 February, 2 May and 3 September. Three thematic workshops will also be organized to focus the discussions on crucial issues, namely: “Migration and 2030 Agenda” (Rabat, 18-19 April), “Labour Migration” (Geneva, 3 May) and “Children in the context of migration” (Morocco (TBC), June). On 4 September, GFMD will hold a dialogue on the GCM to consider those elements that have not been captured in the negotiated Global Compact, and reflect on GFMD’s role in the implementation and follow up/ review processes. Like in 2017, GFMD in 2018 will organize *side events* on the margins of relevant international conferences, such as the UNDESA Annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration (15 February), the International Dialogue on Migration¹ (26 March and 9 October), and the High-level Political Forum (July). All these preparatory activities will lead to the 11th GFMD Summit in Marrakesh on 5-7 December, on the eve of the GCM intergovernmental conference on international migration scheduled on 10-11 December, also in Morocco.

19. During the open discussion, intervening FOF members welcomed the concept note and expressed optimism that it will contribute to, and strengthen the GCM, given its alignment with the current discussions. Delegates provided reflections on the substantive aspects of the concept paper, acknowledging the themes that are aligned with their respective objectives. One intervention advised the Co-Chairs to reconsider its approach to RT 3.2, which tends to understate the importance of remittances. The intervener suggested to go beyond thinking about remittances only in aggregate billions but also terms of in-kind remittances. Mr. Nadir encouraged FOF members to submit written comments on the concept note by 28 February² so that the Co-Chairs can distribute the finalized version by 16 March.

B. First Government-led Roundtable Preparatory Meetings on February 6

20. The Co-Chairmanship would host its first round of government-led Roundtable Teams Consultations for the year on 6 February. As in the past year, two sessions with three parallel meetings – one featuring RT 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 and another featuring RT 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2 – would be held. All members were encouraged to attend the meetings organized around their subjects of interest.

¹ The specific theme for the IDM in October remains TBD, although it will revolve around the health of migrants. The GFMD welcomes any suggestions and comments in this regard.

² An initial date of 23 February was presented, however the GFMD Co-Chairs have decided to extend the submission deadline to 28 February.

C. Provisional Budget of the GFMD in 2018

21. In her report to the Friends of the Forum, Ms. Estrella Lajom presented the preliminary budget for the period 1 January to 31 December. Taking into account (1) preparatory costs, (2) the final Summit meeting in Marrakesh and (3) the GFMD Support Unit operational costs, the proposed budget amounts to USD 2,311,711. This amount includes the provision for a dedicated Communications Officer and an external development expert to support the contribution of the GFMD to migration in the 2030 Agenda, as well as a standard 10 per cent contingency. The GFMD expenses as of 31 December 2017 totaled USD 1,023,969. With the balance of resources carried forward amounting to USD 809,273 and an assured seed funding of USD 400,000, the funding gap as of 5 February stands at USD 1.5 million. Ms. Lajom thanked the countries that have steadily funded the GFMD and acknowledged that Germany shouldered the majority of costs for the GFMD in 2017, which granted the Forum left over balances in 2018. As an aside, she informed the FOF that the SU has been working closely with IOM to streamline processes to make it more efficient for facilitating and managing international contributions from donor countries.

VIII. GFMD Cooperation with the Global Migration Group (GMG)

22. At the invitation of the Chair, the Co-Chairs of the 2018 Global Migration Group ([GMG](#)) – FAO and IOM, presented their priorities for the year ahead. In strengthening its collaboration with mechanisms such as the GFMD, they reiterated the GMG’s commitment to support Member States in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, with a particular view to SDG target 10.7 on the facilitation of safe, orderly and responsible migration, through, *inter alia*, the implementation of well-managed migration policies. The Co-Chairs also affirmed the GMG’s intent to contribute to the GCM process and readiness to support the Office of the SRSG by providing technical expertise and data on migration-related matters.

IX. GFMD 2018 Civil Society Process

23. **Mr. Stéphane Jaquemet** addressed the Friends of the Forum for the first time as the new Director of Policy at the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) – coordinating office of the Civil Society – following Mr. Jonathan Bingham’s departure. In his presentation, Mr. Jaquemet acknowledged that the GFMD 2018 would be a significant year for migrants and refugees considering that the Summit Meeting will take place immediately before the GCM intergovernmental conference. He welcomed the GFMD Co-Chairs’ aspiration for the GFMD to explore its role in the GCM implementation and follow-up processes.
24. With a view to the GCM, Mr. Jaquemet articulated the Civil Society’s reflection which is embodied in the document, “Now and How: Ten Acts for the Global Compact,” a key outcome of the Civil Society Days in 2017. The Civil Society welcomes the GFMD 2018 draft concept note and fully supports the Co-Chairs’ priority of carrying out a ten-year review to highlight the Global Forum’s successes and challenges.

X. GFMD 2018 GFMD-Business Mechanism

25. Representing the GFMD Business Mechanism, **Ms. Stéphanie Winet** took the floor to present its work plan for 2018. Two key words – practical and regional – characterize the Business Mechanism’s intent to focus on the implementation of the business recommendations that were presented at the GFMD Berlin Summit Business Meeting and also in its report, “Toward a Global Compact on Migration: Perspectives on Labour Migration from the GFMD Business Mechanism.” The 2018 objective of the Business Mechanism is to contribute to the GFMD agenda, as well as to the GCM through stronger regional involvement. To continue its engagement in the GCM process, the GFMD Business mechanism will host lunch events in New York that will focus on four main themes: (1) skills mobility, (2) responsible recruitment, (3) labour market integration and (4) entrepreneurship for development.

26. As part of the GFMD Business Mechanism's update, **Mr. Menno Bart**, Public Affairs Manager of the Adecco Group – a leading workforce solutions partner in the recruitment industry – addressed the Friends of the Forum. In his presentation, Mr. Bart underlined the importance of labour market inclusion for migrants and refugees, investing in skills mapping and language training and amplifying the voice of business in the positive effects of migration. The Adecco Group remains a leading agency abiding by a strong code of conduct and quality standards, and also by working closely with partners such as ILO and IOM. He imparted his view that the business community can only succeed if governments play their part.

XI. Voluntary Pledging for GFMD 2018 Related Activities

27. Ms. Sobhan announced that the Government of Bangladesh would make a financial contribution to the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship (\$20,000) and to the GFMD Civil Society (\$5,000). As a member of the GFMD Troika, Bangladesh urged other countries to offer financial support in order to ensure the continuity of the GFMD process.

XII. Any Other Business

28. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme advised FOF members that to date no formal expression of interest has been brought to the attention of the Co-Chairs for assuming the 2019 GFMD Chairmanship. He believed that the year 2019 yields great challenges and rewards, especially considering the opportunities for contributing to the implementation and follow-up of the GCM – and honoring the work of the late Sir Peter Sutherland. He thus urged FOF Member States to consider stepping forward to take on the Chairmanship after Morocco.

29. In his closing remarks, Mr. Nadir thanked the participants and encouraged all to submit comments on the concept paper by 28 February.

30. The meeting was adjourned at 16h59.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
19 March February 2018