

GFMD 2017-2018 Sixth Meeting of the Steering Group

Wednesday, 2 May 2018
10h00 – 12h30
Salle XXII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Summary Report

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, GFMD Moroccan Co-Chair, together with **Mr. Sönke Lorenz**, representing the GFMD German Co-Chair, welcomed 22 participating [Steering Group](#) (SG) members¹ at the sixth preparatory meeting of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by **Dr. Steffen Angenendt**, representative of the GFMD Review Expert Team, and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.
2. Mr. Nadir explained that the objective of the meeting was to discuss the progress made since the last preparatory [meetings in February](#) and the next activities of the GFMD in 2018. He referred to the upcoming fourth round (May 14 to 18) of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) intergovernmental negotiations. He expressed his appreciation for the recognition of the role of GFMD in the GCM latest draft (28 May) and the invitation for the GFMD to be involved in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact. He noted three issues emphasized in the latest draft which have always been at the core of the GFMD: (1) the human rights dimension; (2) the issue of vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children; and (3) the concept of realization of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. Following these remarks, Mr. Nadir reported briefly on recent GFMD activities, namely, the GMG-GFMD Side Event on “*Migration and Rural Development – Sharing Experiences and Fostering Partnerships*” on the occasion of the IDM on 26 March and the Thematic Workshop on “*Migration for Development: a roadmap to achieving SDGs*” on 18-19 April. He then introduced the upcoming events – namely the Thematic Workshop on “*Labour Migration and Skills*”, to be held on the following day (3 May) in Geneva in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO); and finally the Thematic Workshop on “*Children and Youth on the Move*”, which will be organized together with UNICEF on 21-22 June in Agadir.

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

4. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on 23 April was adopted by the Steering Group.

¹ Of the 30 Steering Group Member States, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United States participated in the meeting.

III. GFMD and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)

5. Mr. Lorenz, speaking on behalf of the German Co-Chairmanship, updated the Steering Group on different GFMD-related activities and the link to the GCM process: (1) the GMG retreat, during which Ambassador Jürgen Schulz suggested to consider GFMD as a platform to facilitate operational partnerships and facilitate more regular contacts between the GFMD Taskforce and GMG representatives; (2) the two GFMD Business Mechanism Meetings with two regional groups: with the WEOG Group on 22 February in New York and with the African Group on 9 April in Morocco, during which international labour mobility was recognized as a key component for competitiveness; (3) the GFMD Civil Society exchange held in April in New York, focusing on the rights of children, especially unaccompanied migrant children. Mr. Lorenz also announced two upcoming events: (1) an informal meeting with the GCM Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Jürg Lauber and Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho, to be held on 19 June in Geneva; and (2) another GFMD-GCM Dialogue to be held on 4 September with a focus on the GCM implementation.

IV. GFMD and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

a. GFMD Thematic Workshop on Migration and 2030 Agenda

6. **Ms. Myriam Cherti** informed the Steering Group members of the main conclusions of the Thematic Workshop on “*Migration for Development: a roadmap to achieving the SDGs*” organized in Skhirat in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). The Workshop, which was attended by over 200 participants from more than 50 countries, presented opportunities to promote dialogue and share good practices on the implementation of migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda. It focused on challenges, opportunities and potential avenues for achieving SDGs related to migration. The two-day workshop highlighted the need to improve the evidence-based knowledge on migration and development, strengthen the legal framework to address forced migration due to the effect of climate change, and enhance the governance of migration and broaden partnerships. Participants stressed the crucial role of the GFMD in the implementation of GCM principles using a rights-based approach. To conclude, Ms. Cherti informed the SG that the report of the workshop, finalized by ODI, would soon be available.
7. Reacting on the summary, some SG members urged that the report be made available before the upcoming fourth round of GCM negotiations. One delegate held the view that there was no accepted consensus on the term “forced migration”.

b. GFMD Thematic Contribution to HLPF 2018

8. On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group (WG) on 2030 Agenda and GCM, **Ms. Ilse Hahn** presented the main points of the HLPF Report, which was submitted to the President of the ECOSOC on 27 April. Ms. Hahn explained that the report provides a solid contribution of the implementation of the migration-related SDGs in focus this year; namely, to create inclusive and resilient societies. The report, she asserted, emphasizes the many linkages – explicit and implicit -- between migration and relevant SDGs. The report also contains general and specific recommendations: (1) involve a wide range of stakeholders to increase the impacts of interventions; (2) adopt regional approaches to share experiences; (3) embed capacity-building to improve the sustainability of interventions; and (4) enhance the collection and sharing of data. A GFMD side event will be organized by the GFMD Co-Chairs on 13 July, on the margins of the 2018 HLPF in New York.

V. GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship

a. *GFMD Thematic Workshop on Labour Migration and Skills (May 3, Geneva)*

9. Mr. Sönke Lorenz underscored the timeliness and relevance of the GFMD thematic workshop on “Labour Migration and Skills”, given the fact that the recognition of professional skills has become a key element of the draft GCM. He expressed the hope that all Steering Group members would actively participate in this important workshop that was jointly organized with the ILO.

b. *GFMD Thematic Workshop on Children in the Context of Migration (June 21 to 22, Agadir)*

10. Mr. Nadir invited the Steering Group to also participate in the two-day thematic workshop to be held in Agadir on the issue of children in the context of migration. As Mr. Nadir emphasized, this was an important topic for all Member States. He highlighted the relevance of the Child Rights Initiative led by civil society organizations in the context of the GCM process, as well as the UNICEF six-point agenda for action. The workshop, he said, would discuss modalities and innovative approaches for the implementation of the GCM for and with the youth. The workshop has three main objectives: (1) to exchange practical examples of effective child-sensitive migration policies; (2) to identify solutions to address priority issues for children and youth on the move; and (3) to build multi-stakeholder coalitions. The GFMD Co-Chair welcomed feedback and invited Member States to co-chair the panels.

c. *GFMD 2018 Roundtable Preparations (May 4, Geneva)*

11. Ahead of the second roundtable (RT) consultations on May 4, the RT Co-Chairs present² were invited to inform the Steering Group more precisely on of the status of preparation of their respective roundtables.
 - a) Representing the RT 1.1 Co-Chairs, together with UAE, Canada explained that the concept of the Roundtable on “Harnessing migrants’ existing capitals to build resilience” was well aligned with Canada’s view that migrants represent an important source of human, social, cultural and economic capital, allowing them to become net contributors to the host society. Moreover, this contribution can be better harnessed through the availability of regular migration pathways. This RT will provide opportunities to share best practices and programmes that are effectively enhancing migrants’ capitals. The background paper will explore the benefits from and barriers to building human capital and identify mechanisms that could optimize the gains while addressing the challenges. Such challenge include the unrealistic expectations of the impact of human capital on the ability of migrants to respond to adverse external circumstances. On the procedural aspect, Co-Chair Canada informed the SG that Greece withdrew from its role as rapporteur and invited other Member States to step forward.
 - b) Representing the RT 2.2 Co-Chairs, and on behalf of Co-Chairs Egypt and Zambia, Philippines recognized ICMPD for the initial draft of the paper. This RT will attempt to clarify the definition of regional migration and mobility, as well as look at different forms and scope of cooperation with a regional focus in order to address policy coherence and activities and practices implemented by Member States. The background paper will also explore weaknesses partly on policy coherence at vertical and horizontal levels. The second part of the paper will focus on the main challenges related to the development of coherent regional mobility policies and – on the second hand - on the implementation of such policies. The paper will also look at ideas for

² The RT 1.2, 2.1 and 3.1 Co-Chairs were not present during the Steering Group meeting.

action and will finally introduce three guiding questions, yet to be formulated. The Co-Chairs were optimistic that the May 4 consultation would allow the RT members to reach consensus on the outline of the paper and agree on the timeline and specific roles. Meantime, Indonesia was identified as RT rapporteur.

- c) Speaking on behalf of RT 3.2 Co-Chairs, Mexico highlighted the priority issues covered in the background paper which has been drafted by IFAD. It includes addressing the scope of migrant contributions to countries of origins (remittances, nostalgic trade, skills acquisition and knowledge transfer...) and ways to support and enhance these contributions. Mexico informed the Steering Group that no rapporteur has been identified yet.

d. GFMD 10-year review

12. Mr. Nadir then introduced the GFMD 10-year review, the objective of which is to analyze and evaluate the contribution of the GFMD to the global dialogue on migration and development, and its impact on the implementation of policies and practices at the national and international level. Representing the group of experts³ mandated for this task, Dr. Steffen Angenendt provided further details. The Review will focus on two policy aspects, namely, assessing the value and relevance of GFMD in addressing migration development concerns and identifying policy options and options for practical actions to make GFMD fit-for-purpose to support Member States in the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM and Agenda 2030 commitments. In terms of next steps, Dr. Angenendt announced that a questionnaire will be sent to Member States in order to get their insights on the GFMD's added value in the past 10 years and on future perspectives. In parallel, a round of hearings will be held with the civil society and the private sector. A side event could be organized on the margins of the next GFMD preparatory meetings in September 2018 to get further feedback.
13. Dr. Angenendt reminded the Steering Group that a draft of the questionnaire was sent earlier for the SG's comments before circulation to all government Friends of the Forum. Several delegates expressed support for the exercise, but asked for more time before giving feedback and suggestions to the questionnaire. Some advised that the questionnaire should not be too prescriptive or focus too much on future perspectives. There was also a suggestion to incorporate questions specific to the GFMD budget and contributions, by getting feedback from the donors on the origin and evolution of their voluntary financial contributions, as well as from countries who have benefited from such financial support. Finally, one delegate proposed to incorporate inputs of similar previous exercises, in particular the assessment done during the Mauritius Chairmanship in 2012.
14. Furthermore, Mr. Nadir informed the audience that the Co-Chairs intended to [write](#)⁴ to the GCM Co-Facilitators and the SRSG to suggest what could be the role of the GFMD in the review and follow-up of the GCM, in a spirit of complementarity with other UN agencies. Moreover, a special meeting with the GCM Co-Facilitators will be organized on 19 June in Geneva in order to raise the issue.

³ The GFMD Expert Review Team is comprised of Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, GFMD Chair 2011 (Switzerland); Ambassador Esteban Conejos Jr., GFMD 2008 Chair (Philippines); Ambassador Arturo Cabrera, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN in Geneva; Dr. Steffen Angenendt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP); Sarah Rosengaertner, Policy Specialist and co-author of the Peter Sutherland Report; Mr. Chukwu Chikezie, Director, Up!-Africa Ltd and former Advisor to GFMD Chairs 2010 and 2012; and Mr. Maksim Roskin, Policy Analyst, GIZ. The GFMD Expert Review Team is assisted by the GFMD Support Unit, led by Ms. Estrella Lajom, in fulfilling its mandate.

⁴ The GFMD Co-Chairs' letter was submitted to the GCM Co-Facilitators and the SRSG on 14 May 2018.

e. *Eleventh GFMD Summit (5 to 7 December 2018, Marrakesh)*

15. An update of the Concept Note and the general programme of the GFMD 2018 Summit in Marrakesh was provided by Mr. Nadir. On the organization and the programme of the Summit, the GFMD Co-Chair informed that it will take place in Marrakesh. He announced that the order of events will be slightly modified, in view of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Migration taking place after the GFMD Summit. One idea was to hold a ministerial-level meeting on the last day in order to allow heads of delegation to attend both GFMD and GCM events. The Civil Society Days will most probably take place in parallel to the government days. Finally, on the organization of side events, the Co-Chairs would need more time to consider proposals.

f. *Update on GFMD 2018 Provisional Budget*

16. In her report to the Steering Group, Ms. Estrella Lajom informed that the external audit of GFMD accounts was successfully conducted in coordination with IOM. Thanks to the generosity of the German Government that covered most of the expenses of the GFMD 2017 Summit, only 45% of the total budget was spent last year. At the end of the first year of the 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship, a total of USD 781,066 contributions were not utilized. As in previous years, the donor countries would be requested to realign their left-over contributions to support the second year of the Co-Chairmanship. Anent the current financial status, a total of USD 216,883 was spent as of end April 2018. A contribution from Bangladesh in the amount of USD 24,000 has already been deposited, and pledges from France, Canada, the United States and Switzerland have been received.
17. In response, the United States announced their intent to make a contribution of USD100,000, and to provide matching contributions in order to encourage new donors to step forward.

VI. Any Other Business

18. Mexico, representing one of the Co-Chairs of the WG on Communications, updated the Steering Group on the next steps of the GFMD's long term communication requirements and financial implication. The WG Co-Chairs, in coordination with Mr. Harry Miskin of the UAE and the Support Unit, have invited three communication agencies to submit their proposal. Out of these three proposals, the Co-Chairs have recommended to the WG to select the agency CRK. Aside from offering the least estimated cost, CRK had already worked with the GFMD in 2016 and, during this time, proved to be a reliable and accountable agency that delivers quality and cost-effective work. The Steering Group did not interpose any objection to the proposal.
19. The meeting was adjourned at 12h04.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
28 May 2018