

# GFMD 2017-2018 Seventh Meeting of the Steering Group

Monday, 3 September 2018  
10h00 – 13h00  
Salle XXII, Building E, Palais des Nations

## Summary Report

### I. Welcoming Remarks

1. The GFMD Co-Chairs, **Mr. El Habib Nadir** and **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, welcomed 27 participating [Steering Group](#) (SG) members<sup>1</sup> at the seventh and final preparatory meeting of the 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship. The Co-Chairs were joined by **Ms. Eva Åkerman Börje**, representing the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration (SRSG), and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.
2. Convened two months after the release of the "[Intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)" (GCM) on 13 July 2018, the objective of the meeting was to discuss the progress made since the last preparatory [meetings in May](#) and the next activities of the GFMD in 2018, in particular with a view to the expected adoption of the GCM on 10-11 December. Mr. Nadir welcomed the role that Member States have envisaged for the GFMD in regard to the GCM implementation, follow-up and review. As such, 2018 must be a year of action, and of defining and refining the role of the GFMD in global migration governance.

### II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

3. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on 3 August was adopted by the Steering Group.

### III. GFMD 2019 Chairmanship

4. Mr. Nadir announced that the Government of Ecuador submitted its candidature for the GFMD Chairmanship in 2019. With Ecuador being one of the most actively involved countries throughout the GFMD's evolution, the Co-Chairs expressively welcomed this bid. Mr. Nadir pointed out further that it was high time to bring the Co-Chairmanship back to Latin America after Mexico's Chairmanship in 2010.
5. The Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UNOG, **Ambassador Luis Gallegos**, articulated to the Steering Group his country's resolve to strengthen the GFMD in this critical juncture of global migration governance. Given Ecuador's active participation in the GFMD – including the Ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, the Migration Laboratory, and the GFMD Review exercise - Ambassador Gallegos expressed his conviction

---

<sup>1</sup> Of the 30 Steering Group Member States, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United States participated in the meeting.

that his country is a leading voice on migration in the GFMD and the Latin American region and will thus strive to ensure the continuity of the Forum and its role in the implementation of the Global Compact.

6. Acknowledging the significant contributions made by Ecuador on issues of international migration, SG members clearly voiced their support and endorsed the Ecuadorian bid for the 2019 GFMD Chairmanship.
7. Reaffirming the incumbent Co-Chairs' full support to Ecuador, Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme encouraged other SG members to consider leading the Forum either as a Co-Chair of Ecuador in 2019 or as an incoming Chair for GFMD 2020.

#### IV. GFMD and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)

##### *a. [Final GCM Draft](#): Implications, Challenges and Opportunities for the GFMD*

8. Looking back to the 2006 High-Level Dialogue and the first meeting of the GFMD in 2007, Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme pointed out that the GCM represents a watershed moment for global migration governance. He correspondingly argued for GFMD's continued relevance and evolution in light of the provisions on its role in supporting the GCM implementation, follow-up and review.
9. Reacting to this statement, one SG member asserted that the GFMD should not be reduced to the role of supporting GCM implementation and follow-up but rather continue to be an independent, non-binding platform for dialogue and experience sharing.

##### *b. Update from the Office of the SRSO on the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the GCM*

10. **Mr. Omar Rabi**, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UN in New York, [presented](#) the logistical aspects of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the GCM to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco on 10-11 December 2018. Information regarding side events, registration, accommodation, visa requirements, *et cetera* may be found on the [official GCM website](#). **Ms. Eva Åkerman Börje** Senior Policy Adviser to the SRSO, shared the salient features and sessions of the intergovernmental conference, and solicited the support of the GFMD to continue creating the necessary momentum ahead of the GCM adoption in December. She also announced that the OSRSO will host a side event – themed “Road to Marrakech” – on 26 September 2018 in New York, which will be attended by the UN Secretary General.
11. The Philippine delegation took the floor to inform the SG about the Manila Conference on the Future on Migration, hosted by the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs on 14-15 August 2018. Over 100 participants came together to discuss challenges and solutions regarding the future of migration, global migration governance, human rights and sustainable development. The final outcomes of this meeting will be shared in due course in order to support governments in their GCM implementation planning.

#### V. GFMD 2017-2018 Preparatory Activities

- a. GFMD Ten-year Review – Initial policy implications based on responses from Governments, CS, Private Sector and GMG agencies*

12. Mr. Nadir recalled that during the previous meeting of the Steering Group, he presented the objectives of the GFMD 10-year review, and a member of a team of experts, Dr. Steffen Angenendt, shared further details about the review methodology. Thereafter, the GFMD review expert team proceeded to conduct the survey among governments, Global Migration Group (GMG) agencies, civil society and private sector.
13. As a follow up, the review team leaders, **Ambassador Eduard Gnesa** (GFMD 2011 Swiss Chair) and **Ambassador Esteban Conejos, Jr.** (GFMD 2008 Philippine Chair), presented to the Steering Group some preliminary findings on the questionnaire responses from governments. With regards to the perceived added value of the GFMD, governments emphasized the acquisition of knowledge and new insights; the facilitation of implementation; and the opportunity for networking. These results reflected the outcomes of the first GFMD review in 2012 which summarized GFMD's added value in terms of Three S's: 'substance, space and stakeholders.' With regards to the future of the GFMD, while some Member States remained tentative and possibly uncertain about the GFMD's specific future role in relation to the GCM, there was a strong sense of support for the GFMD to focus on its core competencies: informal policy dialogue; data, knowledge and learning; and multi-stakeholder partnerships and projects.
14. Responses from non-state stakeholders, on the other hand, revealed mixed opinions on the GFMD's relationship with the UN, with some urging a closer relationship and others suggesting greater independence. While there was generally strong support for greater involvement of the private sector through the business mechanism, there were differing views on GFMD's engagement with the civil society. The GFMD civil society recommended closer involvement in the process; however, a number of states emphasized GFMD's government-led nature. Finally, inputs from the GMG suggested that while some agencies desired more delineation of responsibilities between their activities and the GFMD, there were no specific suggestions on what this might mean.

*b. GFMD Dialogue on GCM Implementation (September 4)*

15. **Ms. Myriam Cherti**, an IOM-seconded policy advisor to the Moroccan GFMD Chair, explained the Co-Chairs' motivation for organizing the [GFMD Dialogue on the GCM Implementation](#), on 4 September in Geneva. The Dialogue presented an opportunity for states to concretize ideas on GFMD's role in supporting GCM implementation and to reflect on possible implications for the Forum itself.
16. One SG member reacted by urging the GFMD to focus on the development and migration nexus, and to see if the current format of the GFMD is adequate to undertake the envisaged role in GCM implementation.

*c. GFMD 2018 Final Roundtable Team Consultations see [Overview of RT Teams](#) (as of 18 September) and [Schedule of RT Consultations](#) (September 5)*

17. As enunciated by **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit, the GFMD Roundtable sessions lie at the core of GFMD debates, and are a key component of the GFMD Summit meeting. Each year, Government-led teams are formed with voluntary co-chairs and team members who commit to prepare the background paper and organize the actual RT discussions. For 2018, 77 Member States have participated in the preparatory work of the GFMD 2018 RTs, supported by some 22 GFMD Observers, many of which are members of the GMG. Some seven international organizations, including IOM, ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, ICMPD, OSCE, and IFAD, have lent their technical expertise in drafting the various background papers, under the guidance of the RT Co-Chairs and with inputs from RT team members.

18. The respective RT Co-Chairs were invited to inform the Steering Group on the status of preparation of their roundtables. They all confirmed that the RT background paper drafting process is on track, and that the scheduled third RT consultations on 5 September would be the final opportunity to consult with the team members and solicit comments and inputs. Another objective of these consultations is to agree on the format and scenario of the Marrakesh RT discussions. In this regard, Mr. Nadir highlighted the fact that the RT 1.1 and RT 3.1 teams were still looking for session rapporteurs, inviting SG members to volunteer for this role.

*d. Update from GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on 2030 Agenda and the GCM*

*i. Migration Laboratory*

19. **Ms. Ilse Hahn**, Head of the Division of Policy Issues and Migration at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), reminded the Steering Group that the Migration Laboratory was introduced in 2017 in the framework of the ad hoc WG on 2030 Agenda and the GCM. The Migration Lab, commissioned by GIZ in coordination with the GFMD German-Moroccan Co-Chairs, brought together in three separate sessions and locations from November 2017 to May 2018 some 33 participants from 18 different countries representing governments, civil society and the private sector. The Lab led to eight tangible multi-stakeholder project proposals – the outcomes of which aim to enrich the efforts of the GFMD in support of the implementation of the GCM and the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the support of the Moroccan Co-Chair, the Migration Lab will organize a side event at the Marrakesh Summit, wherein Lab participants will present their project proposals.

*ii. GFMD Side Event at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 (July 13, New York)*

20. Furthermore, Ms. Hahn shared a recap of the [GFMD Side Event at the High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\) 2018](#) on 13 July in New York. As in 2017, the GFMD provided substantive input to the 2018 HLPF by showcasing its contribution towards the respective SDGs in focus and the 2030 Agenda more broadly. The side event was aptly themed “GFMD Perspective on Migration for Sustainable and Resilient Societies” and featured a multi-stakeholder panel led by the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, Mr. Nadir. With a view to the 2019 HLPF on “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, Ms. Hahn reaffirmed the Working Group’s readiness to prepare another GFMD input, subject to the ECOSOC’s invitation.

*e. Update from GFMD Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications*

21. The Ad hoc WG on Communications Co-Chairs, Mexico and Morocco, provided an update on the progress achieved to date. At the last meeting in May, the SG endorsed the WG Co-Chairs’ proposal to engage the services of an external entity, CRK Communications Agency, to assist in the development of a GFMD communications strategy. Since then, a questionnaire was sent to the WG members and past GFMD Chairs with the aim to solicit feedback on the ideal communication set up for the GFMD. The responses yielded recommendations on how the GFMD could improve its communication activities. These include improving existing GFMD communication channels such as social media, the website and mobile app as well as enhancing GFMD’s branding and visual identity.

22. The WG Co-Chairs also announced that the drafting of the GFMD Communications Strategy is underway, focusing on two objectives: to optimize the visibility of the GFMD and to increase the interest and participation by its target audience and relevant stakeholders. The

draft strategy will also integrate the envisaged role of the GFMD for the GCM. The WG Co-Chairs invited SG members to share their views and ideas in writing, with the aim to have a strategy that can be endorsed for adoption at the Marrakesh Summit.

*f. Revised Provisional Budget of GFMD 2018*

23. In her report to the Steering Group, Ms. Estrella Lajom presented the revised provisional budget and financial situation as of 30 August 2018. The budget was revised to account for the increased preparatory costs due to more meetings and side events organized than initially foreseen, as well as the additional costs related to the GFMD review exercise and the drafting of a GFMD communications strategy. In addition, the Support Unit recruited a new Administrative and Finance Assistant through an open process. Taking into account (1) preparatory costs, (2) the final Summit meeting in Marrakesh and (3) the GFMD Support Unit operational costs, the revised budget amounts to USD 2,230,861, inclusive of a 5 per cent contingency. The GFMD expenses as of 30 August have totaled USD 639,252, and the projected expenses from September to December 2018 are USD 1,591,609. Thus, there is a funding gap for the core 2018 budget of USD 664,945. Adding the commitment to provide a seed funding of USD 400,000 for the GFMD in 2019, the total funding gap amounts to USD 1,064,945.
24. Ms. Lajom acknowledged the countries that have steadily funded the GFMD. In 2017, left over contributions were offered by Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Morocco, Spain, UAE and USA, amounting to USD 781,066. Fresh contributions (2018) totaling USD 163,632, were received from Bangladesh, Germany and Mexico. Pledges with amounts totaling USD 621,218 were received from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland and the UAE. Sweden also pledged a contribution without an indicative amount.
25. In light of the GFMD's envisaged role in supporting the GCM implementation, follow up and review, the German GFMD Co-Chair called on SG members to offer financial contributions in order to sustain the GFMD process.

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

26. A brief synopsis on the [provisional program](#) of the Marrakesh Summit was provided by **Mr. Ahmed Skim**, Director of Migration Affairs at the Directorate of Migration Affairs, Ministry in charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs.
27. Registration<sup>2</sup> and other practical information will be communicated by the GFMD SU in due course.

## **VII. Proposal for a Mayors Mechanism in the GFMD**

28. A proposal to establish a [Mayors Mechanism within the GFMD](#), submitted by IOM and the City Diplomacy Unit (CDU) was circulated to the SG Members on 3 August 2018. After bilateral discussions, the Co-Chairs have agreed to lend their support to the proposal, given the increased awareness and recognition of the role of cities and local governments in addressing migration as a global issue. To inform the SG about the objectives and mechanics of the proposal, the Co-Chairs invited **Ms. Jill Helke**, Director of International Cooperation and Partnerships (ICP) at IOM, and **Ms. Colleen Thouez**, Director of Welcoming and Integrated Societies Division at the Open Society Foundations (OSF), to the meeting.
29. Ms. Helke highlighted the increasingly critical involvement of mayors and local governments in the GFMD in the context of GCM implementation. She also reminded the SG that the

---

<sup>2</sup> The official invitation was circulated to all Friends of the Forum on 12 September 2018.

Mayoral Forum, a yearly meeting first held in 2014, has provided a platform for local leaders to exchange knowledge, create networks and manage migration challenges. In 2017, the Forum was for the first time held back to back with the GFMD Summit in Berlin, allowing outcomes to be shared. The incorporation of the local level in the GFMD has so far been essentially ad hoc. The proposal thus advocates for the local dimension to be formally incorporated into the process by transforming the annual Mayoral Forum into a “Mayors Mechanism,” which could stand as a ‘third pillar’ of the GFMD, alongside the GFMD Business Mechanism and the GFMD civil society. Ms. Thouez added that the proposal is also supported by UNITAR, and that the 5<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Forum will be held in Marrakesh on 8 December 2018 as part of the overall Migration Week.

30. Steering Group members who took the floor affirmed the important role of local governments in migration policymaking and governance. At the same time, three of them expressed some hesitation and stressed that the inclusion of the local level must not undermine the state-led nature of the GFMD. A question was also raised about its possible financial implications.
31. Mr. Nadir added that the Co-Chairs support the proposal in view of the GFMD’s multi-stakeholder space for debate and cooperation around migration issues. While the topic of financing might pose an issue, the addition of a Mayors Mechanism could bring an added value to the GFMD.

#### **VIII. Any Other Business**

32. With a view to the role of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) in the implementation and review of the GCM, the UAE announced that it will host a side event immediately after the SG meeting to discuss the engagement of RCPs. The Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair will serve as moderator of the event, with outcomes feeding into Session II of the GFMD Dialogue on the GCM. The UAE expressed its hope to organize another side event on the same topic during Migration Week in Marrakesh.
33. In his closing remarks, Mr. Nadir thanked the 27 SG countries for their participation and encouraged participants to attend the ensuing side event.
34. The meeting was adjourned at 13h10.

21 September 2018