

Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development

Newsletter from Sweden's Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development



Five months to go until the GFMD Summit Meeting in Stockholm

Sweden's chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has now been running for almost a year. In this second newsletter we highlight some of the activities that have taken place and inform about upcoming activities in the months ahead.

The second UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

The second UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), which took place on 3-4 October, demonstrated a high degree of common understanding on the importance of migration for development. The adoption of the Mexican-facilitated declaration is a testimony to this consensus. The UN Secretary-General highlighted that this progress has been made possible largely by the climate of trust established in the GFMD and numerous stakeholders expressed commitments to continued engagement in the Forum. There was also strong support expressed for the continued leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration, Mr Peter Sutherland, to advance the debate and improve our collective handling of the issue of migration and development. The Secretary-General also tasked his Special Representative to convene regular meetings with the leadership of the GFMD and the Global Migration Group (GMG), which opens for strengthening cooperation and exploring shared priorities.

From the substantive discussions, there was a resounding support for including migration in the post-2015 development agenda. This was reflected in the declaration, national statements, the Secretary General's report [link], the opening and closing statements by the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General as well as contributions by the GMG and Civil Society.

All previous chairs, as well as the current and incoming chairs of the GFMD, convened a well-attended side event. The event, co-chaired by the Minister of Migration and Asylum Policy from Sweden and the Secretary of Labour from Philippines, focused on the key achievements of the GFMD to date and lessons learned in order to further enhance the work.

[See webcast from the side event](#)

[Read the Thematic Recollection](#)

GFMD Thematic meetings

During 2013, the Swedish Chair has arranged three thematic meetings to prepare for and support the preparatory work in the lead up to the GFMD-meeting in May in Stockholm. The three meetings have been structured around the focus areas of the Swedish Chairmanship:

- *Operationalizing mainstreaming of migration in development policy and integrating migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda* (22 May 2013). Co-convened by the governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland.



Panel at the thematic meeting on Labour Migration and Diaspora; Stefano Scarpetta, Eva Åkerman Börje, Jan Knutsson, Abdelouahed Souhail, Roderick van Schreven

- *Labour Migration and Diaspora: Improving Labour Market Complementarities and Economic Development Outcomes* (11 September 2013). Co-convened by the governments of Morocco and the Netherlands.

- *Migration as an enabler for inclusive social development – enhancing migrant empowerment and voluntary social and economic assets transfers* (20 November 2013). Co-convened by the governments of El Salvador and Greece.

Each meeting was attended by approximately 150 participants including government officials, international organi-

sations and civil society representatives. The participation of some 25 experts from capitals from low-income countries in each meeting was made possible by generous funding from GFMD-governments. The three thematic meetings were held in a constructive spirit and participatory manner and contributed to further enhancing and strengthening the policy focus within the GFMD. One last thematic meeting focusing on private sector engagement in the GFMD, will take place in Geneva in March 2014.

[Read the reports of all thematic meetings](#)

Engagement with civil society

The Swedish Chair has continued its engagement with civil society globally through the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), which is the global coordinator for civil society in the GFMD-process. Over time there has been a convergence between the interests of civil society partners and that of the states around key areas of migration and development – policy coherence, labor migration, protection and empowerment issues. The civil society 5-year action plan, developed in view of the High-level dialogue, constitutes an important agenda for future collaboration.

In Sweden, civil society is preparing for the GFMD-meeting in Stockholm in May. Caritas, the Red Cross and Concorde Sweden are organising a series of meetings across different parts of Sweden to highlight the links between migration and development. The first meeting was held in Stockholm on December 11, 2013 and focused on migration, development and entrepreneurship. Another two meetings will be held January 27, 2014 in Luleå and on February 5 in Gothenburg.



As part of the Chair's efforts to engage civil society, a youth forum has also been mobilized to sensitize Swedish youth on issues to be discussed during the GFMD meeting in Stockholm in May.

[Read more on GFMD Civil Society](#)

[Read the Civil Society Five Year Action Agenda](#)

The cooperation with the private sector

One priority during the Swedish Chairmanship of GFMD is to enhance the cooperation with the private sector. Despite areas of mutual interest, engagement with the private sector so far has met limited results within GFMD. The GFMD 2012 Assessment Report recommended that business be approached as a separate stakeholder acknowledging their role as potential catalysts for social and economic growth. With that in mind, the Swedish Chair teamed up with organizations that have built a high level of trust with business partners, including the World Economic Forum, the International Organisation of Employers and The Hague Process. Sweden has also drawn from the experiences of previous chairs, notably Switzerland. A Government Roundtable on Private Sector Engagement was set up to help guide the process and act as a sounding board. The Chair also commissioned a mapping study to help in formulating a roadmap for continued engagement with the private sector for the GFMD.

The GFMD Chair is also hosting informal business roundtables with interested governments focusing on access to skills and talent mobility. The first informal business roundtable was held 2 October 2013, in the margins of the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development in New York. The GFMD Chair, in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the Global Council on Immigration, hosted 25 participants from global corporations and interested governments



to discuss ways for states and businesses to improve access to talent while balancing the need for adequate protection for the domestic labour market. The discussion also addressed models of private-public partnerships and the impact of various immigration systems.

Forum meeting in Stockholm 14-16 May 2014

The preparations for the Forum meeting in Stockholm 14-16 May 2014, preceded by the Civil Society Days 12-13 May, are well underway. The meetings are expected to gather some 700 participants from around 150 countries. The invitation and draft programme for the forum meeting will be circulated late January/early February, which is also when the registration will open. The application process for the Civil Society Days, coordinated by the ICMC, will also open around that time.

The meeting will be opened by the hosts of the 2013-2014 Swedish Chairmanship in the GFMD: Tobias Billström, Minister for Asylum and Migration Policy and Hillevi Engström, Minister for International Development Cooperation. H.R.H Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden has confirmed her willingness to make an opening address. Swedish Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt, as well as the United Nations Secretary, General Ban Ki-moon, have also been invited to speak during the opening session.

One objective of the Swedish Chairmanship is to aim for more outcome-oriented discussions. Many governments are already actively participating in the preparatory work for the forum meeting and background documents are being drafted. In addition, the GFMD Expert Network is also being established which will include experts from Governments, international organization and civil society, including academia. The Swedish Chair would welcome additional governments and experts to join this work. An online discussion will also be launched shortly on the GFMD website.

We look forward to welcoming many of you to Stockholm in May next year.

Three questions to the Swedish Minister of Migration and Asylum, Tobias Billström

What is your main impression from the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development 2013, what was the most important achievement?



– The fact that so many countries participated and agreed on a declaration is a great indication of the importance given to the links between migration and development. The consensus declaration testifies to the progress made in the global debate. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that this progress largely

depends on the trust and consensus that has emerged through the GFMD and emphasised its importance to the continued global cooperation on migration.

What were the main results of the dialogue and how has it impacted on the Swedish GFMD Chairmanship?

– I was encouraged by the support given by many states to the GFMD process and to the Swedish Chairmanship's priorities. The overwhelming support expressed for including migration in the post-2015 development agenda was significant. This is a priority for our Chairmanship and it has the potential to inspire states, and other development actors, to plan for and act on the opportunities and challenges that migration brings. I also welcome the support expressed for SRSG Sutherland's global leadership and the task given to him to convene meetings with the leadership of the GMG and the GFMD. This will facilitate identification of areas of closer cooperation.

What are your expectations for the Forum meeting in Stockholm in May?

– I very much look forward to the meeting in Stockholm 14-16 May. I know that preparations are already well under way both substantially and practically. I hope that the meeting will focus on operative and results-oriented outcomes, and that it will gather senior officials from as many countries as possible. There will no doubt be rich discussions during these days in Stockholm and hopefully the meeting will lead to real advancements in the area of migration and development. My colleague Hillevi Engström, Minister for International Development Cooperation, and I look forward to welcoming you to Stockholm in May 2014.

Contact information

Do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development for further information.

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Coming activities

- 27 Jan: Seminar on Migration, Development and Rights in Luleå, Sweden, organized by Caritas Sweden, the Red Cross, the Swedish Church and Concord Sweden in collaboration with the Swedish GFMD Secretariat.
- 5 Feb: Seminar on Migration and Sustainable Development in Gothenburg, Sweden, organized by Caritas Sweden, the Red Cross, the Swedish Church and Concord Sweden in collaboration with the Swedish GFMD Secretariat.
- 11 Mar: 5th Meeting of the GFMD Steering Group, Troika and Friends of the Forum, Geneva
- 12 Mar: GFMD Business Round Table, Geneva
- 13 Mar: The Government Teams Final Preparatory Roundtable Meetings, Geneva