

## GFMD 2014-2015 First Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 22 October 2014

La Salle V, R3 Level, ILO

### Summary Report

#### Welcoming Remarks

1. The first meeting of the Friends of the Forum under the Turkish Presidency was chaired by Mr. Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. He represented the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, who will chair the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD meeting in Istanbul in 2015. He was joined on the podium by Ms. Esen Altug, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Eva Åkerman Börje, Swedish GFMD Chair, and Mr. Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary General's Special Representative for International Migration.

2. The Chair welcomed over 100 delegates representing 80 governments and 18 observer organizations. In his opening remarks, the Chair announced that in accordance with the decision taken by the GFMD Troika during the Swedish Chairmanship and endorsed by the Steering Group on 21 October, Bangladesh will chair the 2016 GFMD. He also mentioned that Morocco will consider chairing the GFMD process in 2017. In this regard, the Chair invited Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, to sit at the podium to complete the GFMD 2014-2015 Troika.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Provisional Agenda of the meeting was adopted. In addition, the Chair, reminded all Friends of the Forum that the first GFMD pledging meeting was to be held in the afternoon. This meeting is one of the key elements of the new Long-Term Financing Framework which aims to facilitate planning and promote the predictability of funding for the Chair-in-Office. He thus invited all Friends of the Forum to participate in it.

#### The Concept Paper and Work Plan of GFMD 2014-2015

4. The Chair expressed appreciation and thanked the 23 governments that had so far submitted comments – in writing and/or during the first GFMD Steering Group meeting on 21 October -- on the proposed Concept Note. He encouraged other participants to submit their comments as well. The proposed GFMD 2014-2015 thematic agenda and work plan will be implemented under the overarching theme, “**Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development.**” This theme signals recognition that international migration cannot be managed effectively by any one country alone, or by states without the cooperation of other stakeholders, including international organizations, civil society, the private sector and migrants themselves. It also emphasises that mobility within the right policy framework is a positive factor for development.

5. During its Chairmanship, the Turkish Chair will aim to achieve 3 objectives: a) deepen the discussion on the protection of the human and labor rights of migrants; b) further explore the development impact of migration on public policies, particularly at the sectorial level; and c) take the results of the GFMD into other regional and international agenda-setting processes in which Turkey is playing a key role, particularly the G-20 Group of States, the first World Humanitarian Summit and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

6. To achieve these objectives, the GFMD 2014-2015 work plan will be organized around three roundtables: *RT 1 on Human Mobility and Wellbeing of Migrants*, *RT 2 on Migration as a factor in development*, and *RT 3 on Enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility*. Each roundtable will have two sessions and will be supported by a thematic meeting. The Chair made a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed GFMD 2014-2015 roundtables and thematic meetings.

7. During the open discussion, many delegates expressed their appreciation to Sweden for the excellent Chairmanship of GFMD 2013-2014. They congratulated Turkey for chairing the GFMD 2014-2015 process. In expressing their support for the Turkish GFMD Chairmanship, it was underlined that Turkey is in a unique position to organize the next GFMD meeting because of its unique migration experiences as a home, destination and transit country. Likewise, delegates commended Bangladesh for taking on the GFMD 2016 chairmanship. They also thanked Morocco for its flexibility to consider assuming the Chairmanship in 2017.

8. Many delegates congratulated Turkey for the quality of the proposed concept note and the innovative and strategic GFMD 2014-2015 work programme. Many found the overall concept note to be well-balanced, with highly relevant roundtable themes. All speakers supported the overarching theme on strengthening partnerships, dialogue and cooperation on migration and development issues, especially in light of ongoing discussions on post-2015 sustainable development and in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. Speakers representing agency members of the Global Migration Group welcomed the emphasis on collaboration with the GMG and the UN System.

9. The continued focus in RT 1 on migrants' protection, particularly by improving public perception of migrants and migration, was well-received. RT 2's renewed emphasis on the linkage between migration and development was likewise lauded. A more targeted and action-oriented thematic workshop was suggested to help ensure the integration of migration in future development agenda. RT 3's ambition to tackle new and emerging issues was generally well-taken, although a caution was raised that a discussion on forced migrants might encompass refugee issues that are well-established in other venues and with agencies such as the UNHCR. It was suggested that RT 3 also look at questions relating to displacement in the context of natural disasters and environmental change, such as what is advocated by the Nansen initiative. Delegates also supported the accent on private and public sector cooperation to support migrant/diaspora entrepreneurship, with a focus on small and medium enterprises. In this regard, it was suggested to link the GFMD 2014-2015 with the Global Forum on Remittances and Development which is to be organized by IFAD in 2015.

10. Some delegates asked for clarification of certain terms and thematic focus. One delegate expressed concern that the concept of human mobility was much broader than international migration, which should be the main focus of the GFMD. Another asked how the Turkish Chair intended to promote a more substantive and interactive engagement with the Friends of the Forum. In supporting the overall focus on strengthening partnerships, it was underlined by one delegate that local authorities are the implementers of policies on migration and development and should thus be included in the GFMD debate and, if possible, be allowed to participate in future GFMD meetings.

11. Most speakers expressed their readiness to work with the Turkish Chair in achieving fruitful results. Some immediately responded to the Turkish Chair's invitation to join the GFMD 2014-2015 Government RT teams. Following is an overview of governments' interests in the proposed six RT sessions after the meeting<sup>1</sup>, with indications from governments of their interest to serve as co-chair, member or rapporteur:

***RT1: Human Mobility and Wellbeing of Migrants***

***RT Session 1.1: Partnerships to Protect the Rights of Migrants***

Co-Chairs: Mexico, El Salvador

Team Members: Thailand

***RT Session 1.2: Reducing the Human and Financial Costs of Migration: Cooperative Approaches to Fair Recruitment Practices and Laws Remittances Fees***

Co-Chairs: Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates

Team Members: Bangladesh, France

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<sup>1</sup> This reflects as well the interests expressed by Steering Group members during its first meeting on 21 October 2014.

## ***RT 2: Migration as a factor in development***

### ***RT Session 2.1: Mainstreaming migration into planning at the sectoral level***

Co-Chairs: Morocco

Team Members: Bangladesh

### ***RT Session 2.2: Making migration work post-2015: implementing the SDGs***

Co-Chairs: Bangladesh, Greece, Mexico

Team Members: Netherlands

## ***RT 3: Enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility***

### ***RT Session 3.1: Enhancing human development and human security for forced migrants through international cooperation on labor market access, mobility and resettlement***

Co-Chairs: Greece

Team Members: Bangladesh

### ***RT Session 3.2: Private sector-government cooperation to support migrant/diaspora entrepreneurship, with a focus on small and medium enterprises***

Co-Chairs:

Team Members: Netherlands, France

12. The Chair was grateful for the thoughtful comments and suggestions that were offered during the meeting. He promised to incorporate these comments as the draft concept note is further refined. The Chair's aim is to send a second draft concept paper by 7 November.

## **Report on GFMD 2013-2014**

13. The Chair then invited Amb. Åkerman Börje, outgoing GFMD Chair, to present the report on the GFMD 2013-2014 process. The GFMD 2012 assessment report and the GFMD 2013-2014 overarching theme, “*Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development*” guided the 18-month work plan of the Swedish Chairmanship. Broad-based consultations were spearheaded by the Chair as the Swedish GFMD concept paper was elaborated. GFMD 2013-2014 aimed to enhance the development focus of the GFMD and to make the GFMD a more stable, dynamic and durable process. The roundtable discussions in Stockholm resulted in recommendations on how migration could be placed in the post-2015 development agenda, which were communicated to the UNSG and Open Working Group on Sustainable Development in New York. New initiatives were introduced to promote dynamism in the process, including organizing thematic meetings in support of each roundtable, a new format for RT background papers, a GFMD survey, experts network, and online discussions. The GFMD Policy and Practice Database (PPD), an enhanced component of the GFMD Platform for Partnerships, was established to serve as a repository of migration and development programs and policies that governments have shared about in the context of GFMD discussions. Terms of references of the existing GFMD structures –notably the Troika, the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum – were elaborated to clarify their respective mandates and expectations. Efforts to reinforce the GFMD Support Unit were likewise initiated. A new long term financing framework was developed to promote funding predictability and overall sustainability of the process.

14. During the Swedish Chairmanship, the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN High Level Dialogue on international migration took place in New York. By way of an input, the GFMD under the leadership of the Swedish Chair developed in coordination with all former GFMD Chairs and submitted to the UN a Thematic Recollection of the GFMD process. The Swedish Chair also engaged with all crucial stakeholders both at the national and international levels. Regular meetings were held between the leadership of the GFMD and the GMG, together with the SRSB, in order to coordinate work plans and find synergies.

15. The final meeting was held in Stockholm on 14-16 May 2014, gathering over 800 participants from some 130 countries, including some 99 delegates from 70 low income countries and record high number of participants from Development Ministries. In terms of expenditure, GFMD 2013-2014 spent significantly less than what was projected because of the Swedish government's generosity to cover most of the costs of the Stockholm meeting, lower actual costs of facilitating the travel of funded delegates, and delay in hiring of

Support Unit staff. Thus, the Swedish Chair left unspent a substantive amount that will be carried forward to GFMD 2014-2015, subject to the agreement of concerned donors.

16. Ambassador Åkerman Börje concluded her report by thanking all donors for their financial contributions, as well as all governments and observers for their collaboration throughout the GFMD 2013-2014 process. She indicated that a short evaluation will follow later and hoped for participation by all Friends of the Forum. The Turkish Chair thanked Amb. Åkerman Börje for paving the path for a more relevant and dynamic GFMD process, and for preparing the Operational Recommendations from the outgoing GFMD Chair which were presented at the Steering Group meeting on 21 October. Amb. Samsar promised to build upon GFMD 2013-2014 achievements together with the incoming Chair Bangladesh, in order to strengthen the GFMD as a process.

### **Update from the SRSG on Migration in Post 2015 Development Agenda**

17. Mr. Sutherland first offered some general remarks about the achievements and challenges of the GFMD as an intergovernmental and voluntary process. Having established itself as the only global platform on migration and development, GFMD however remains to be ad hoc, with existing structures and mechanisms that need to be reinforced. He stressed that flexibility is the key in order to sustain the process. In this regard, he commended Bangladesh and Morocco for the approach they have taken concerning the respective GFMD Chairmanship in 2016 and 2017. He urged all member states to assume broader responsibility and demonstrate real commitment to the GFMD by providing financial and in-kind support to ensure its sustainability.

18. The SRSG highlighted that migration is the biggest issue of the world, which has been largely ignored by the international community for decades. Thanks in large part to the work of the Global Forum, remarkable progress has been achieved in advocating for the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development goals. From a position where migration was not contemplated in any development goal, migration is now under consideration in elaborating several developmental goals, including goal 4 on education, scholarships, student mobility, movement of young people across borders; goal 5 on trafficking, with a focus on women and girls, employment and decent work, migrant worker rights, women migrants; goal 10 on inequality, planned and well managed migration policies and migrant remittances; goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, trafficking with a focus on children; and goal 17 on data disaggregation relevant to health and education. Migration is also referred to in some of the larger goals such as poverty eradication, sustainable cities, and climate change. He urged all Friends of the Forum to encourage their capitals and delegations in New York to actively take part in the ongoing deliberations in order to ensure that migration will find its place in many Post-2015 Development Goals.

### **GFMD 2014-2015 Civil Society Process**

19. The Chair then requested Mr. John Bingham, the Head of Policy of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), coordinating office of the GFMD civil society process, to share about the outcomes of the GFMD 2013-2014 and the civil society road map for GFMD 2014-2015.

20. Mr. Bingham congratulated the Swedish Chair for the high standard on substance, process and politics in organizing GFMD 2013-2014. He was grateful for the consistently positive reference in the Swedish GFMD Chairmanship report to the engagement of global civil society in the GFMD process. A record 356 delegates -- 202 civil society delegates and 55 government representatives -- participated during the Civil Society Days in Stockholm, more than half of whom were migrants. GFMD Civil Society Days 2014 came out with *Recommendations and Benchmarks*, each with 3 clear benchmarks to measure progress, matching Civil society's *5-year 8-point plan of action* for collaboration with governments from the UN High Level Dialogue last year. Some recommendations were distinct and others of direct convergence with government recommendations.

21. According to Mr. Bingham, the GFMD 2014-2015 civil society program will focus on activities relating to the Chair's concept paper but flowing more directly from the work and recommendations of civil society in the GFMD to date. ICMC will work with the International Civil Society Steering Committee in drafting the concept paper and in keeping track of progress achieved on the 5-year 8 point plan for collaboration with governments. Regional meetings and global thematic work will also be organized.

22. The projected budget for GFMD Civil Society 2014-2015 is USD \$ 890,000, which is the same as the GFMD 2013-2014 budget. Thanking all governments that have offered financial contributions last year, he underlined the existing budget gap of USD \$ 350,000 and called on governments to help fill the gap.

23. Mr. Bingham also talked about the “*Stockholm Agenda on migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas*” – a unified Civil society position directly coming out of the GFMD and parallel civil society processes in Stockholm. It contains goals and targets for national and global development agendas. Civil society took positive note of the references to migrants and migration in the Outcome Document of the states’ Open Working Group on the post-2015 development process, but would like to see some indicators/targets relating to portability of skills and pensions and forced migrants. .

### **Any Other Business**

24. The Chair thanked Mr. Bingham for his thought-provoking presentation and then opened the floor for comments. Seeing none, he invited the Friends of the Forum to attend the first GFMD pledging meeting in the afternoon. He thanked everyone for their active participation and expressed the hope to see them again at the next Friends of the Forum meeting on 24 November 2014.

25. The meeting was adjourned at 12h30.