

# GFMD 2017-2018 Third Meeting of the Steering Group

Monday, 9 October 2017  
09h30 – 12h30  
Salle XXIV, Building E, Palais des Nations

## Summary Report

### I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Mr. Sönke Lorenz**, Head of the German Task Force, welcomed the participating [Steering Group](#) (SG) members<sup>1</sup> at the third meeting under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco. **Mr. El Habib Nadir**, Secretary General of the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs represented the Moroccan Co-Chair. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by **Mr. Toufiq Shatil**, representing GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh and **Ms. Amy Muedin**, representing the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration, and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

### II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

2. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on September 27 was adopted by the Steering Group.

### III. Presentation of the GFMD 2018 Agenda

3. Mr. Nadir, speaking on behalf of the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, introduced the draft thematic agenda and work plan for the second year of the German-Moroccan Chairmanship. He indicated that the 2018 Agenda was a proposition, subject to change based on inputs from the GFMD Steering Group and to be aligned with the development of the Global Compact for Migration. The results of the GCM stocktaking conference in Puerto Vallarta in December 2017, the introduction of the Zero-Draft of the GCM in February 2018, as well as the preparations for the Intergovernmental Conference on Migration in autumn 2018 will be considered in determining the GFMD 2018 priorities.
4. Mr. Nadir underlined the element of “continuity” in shaping the 2018 agenda. Following the Berlin Summit, the year 2018 will put an emphasis on action and moving to action, particularly in terms of supporting the implementation of the GCM. The substantive agenda of GFMD 2018 will be around three main themes. The first roundtable on “*From Vulnerability to resilience*” will focus on reducing the vulnerability of migrants to ensure the most beneficial impact of migration on development. The second roundtable on “*South-South Mobility*” will tackle the development aspects of countries of the Global South. Finally, the third roundtable will focus on the “*Drivers of migration and human security.*”

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

5. A number of important events were flagged which would form part of the 2018 Calendar of Key Activities. Two *thematic workshops* will be organized in 2018 -- one in Berlin in April and another in Rabat in June. One or two *GFMD Dialogues* may be held to focus on the Zero Draft of the GCM, and the anticipated implementation and follow up of the GCM. Three rounds of *preparatory meetings* will take place in Geneva in February, May and September to prepare the 11<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit in Marrakesh to be held on 4 to 6 December. In addition, *side events* will be organized on the margins of major international conferences, such as the UN Coordination Meeting on International Migration (February), the International Dialogue on Migration and the HLPF (July). The Marrakesh Summit, according to the Moroccan Co-Chair, will feature the usual participation not only of governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, but also local actors and parliamentarians, as they are also important stakeholders in migration and development.
6. In the open discussion that followed, the intervening members of the Steering Group welcomed the proposed themes for the GFMD 2018 discussions, as well as the Moroccan Co-Chair's focus on action and the inclusion of local actors and parliamentarians. A few asked to further contextualize the third roundtable on human security -- a topic that touches on many other issues— in order to define its focus.

#### **IV. GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration**

##### *A. GFMD Inputs to the Global Compact on Migration, including GFMD's role in the follow-up to the GCM*

7. Before introducing the GFMD's contribution to the GCM, Mr. Lorenz invited Ms. Amy Muedin to address the Steering Group on behalf of the SRSG for International Migration and Development, Mrs. Louise Arbour. Ms. Muedin highlighted the progress of the GCM process, clarified the role of the key actors involved in the different phases, and elaborated on the next steps. She explained that in the current Phase I – Consultation, Member states have had the opportunity to provide inputs, not only during the Informal Thematic Sessions, but also during the GFMD and RCP meetings and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The next phase – Stocktaking – will culminate with the Puerto Vallarta Conference on 4-6 December and will result in the Chair's Summary which will be prepared by the co-facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland. Finally, Phase III – Negotiations – will include the release of the Zero-Draft of the Global Compact in February 2018. The negotiations will then take place from February through July 2018, for a number of days each month.
8. Ms. Muedin clarified the separate work streams of the SRSG and the GCM co-facilitators. While the Zero-Draft of the GCM will be produced by the co-facilitators, the SRSG will release by the end of January the UN Secretary General's report which will serve as a key input to the Zero Draft text and will provide an overall vision for the GCM. As relayed by Ms. Muedin, the SRSG holds the view that the GCM should have three core principles. First, the Compact should be people-centered and take into account the perspectives of the migrants and the communities in which they live. Second, it should focus on international cooperation by recognizing both state sovereignty and the existence of interdependence between states. Finally, it should be forward looking and able to respond to the current and future challenges.
9. Ms. Muedin challenged the Steering Group Members to reflect on the future of the GFMD that is inter-linked with the GCM. In her view, the GFMD can support consensus-building towards an ambitious GCM and support the implementation of the Compact. The GFMD also needs to be closer to the UN system, in order to avoid duplication. Thanks to GFMD's state-led character, it can provide crucial support and add value to the GCM through confidence building and experience sharing, and by bridging the existing gaps between Geneva, New York and the capitals.
10. Mr. Lorenz then took over the floor in order to kick start the discussion on the draft Chapter 3 of the GFMD's Draft Inputs to the GCM, which is being prepared by the ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM. This particular chapter describes the potential role that the GFMD

might take in the implementation and monitoring phase of the GCM, which could have four key elements:

- GFMD as a platform for open and profound dialogue;
- GFMD as a platform for practical cooperation and partnerships in order to advance the aims and objectives of the Compact;
- GFMD as a platform for voluntary sharing of experiences, progress and evidence on the GCM;
- GFMD as a platform outside the UN system but interacting with it.

11. During the open discussion, intervening Steering Group members generally welcomed the recommendations contained in the draft Chapter 3. However, some expressed reservations about ascribing a future role for the GFMD with regard to the review and follow-up of the GCM. They opined that it was premature to do so, and instead urged to wait until the formal GCM mechanisms have been clearly identified and elaborated before defining the GFMD's position. Other members cautioned against any change in the structure and governance of the GFMD that may be required if the GFMD were to integrate in its agenda the formal review process of the GCM commitments. To protect the state-led character of the GFMD, they enjoined the Co-Chairs to carefully consider with the rest of the GFMD community any proposal for the GFMD's future. A suggestion was also made to enter into dialogue with the SRSB and IOM to develop synergies and avoid duplication of work.
12. On the other hand, one Steering Group member recalled the outcomes of the discussions at the Berlin Summit. During the Future of the Forum special session therein, participating heads of delegations agreed that it was in the interest of the GFMD to pro-actively define or suggest a role for the GFMD in the Global Compact Process, instead of leaving its fate in the hands of other actors. At this juncture, Mr. Lorenz and Mr. Nadir expressed the GFMD Co-Chairs' perspective that it would be important, timely and relevant for the GFMD to define its future role, without undermining the state-led nature of the process. Another Steering Group member supported this view, and emphasized that the text in the draft Chapter 3 leaves sufficient flexibility to adapt to the GCM process, and does not call for changing the core nature of the Forum. Before closing the discussion on this agenda item, the Co-Chairs informed the Steering Group that the draft would be revised, and the full GFMD Draft Inputs to the GCM report will be circulated ahead of the next GFMD preparatory meetings to be held on November 22 in Geneva.
13. As a next step, Mr. Lorenz invited the Steering Group members to provide written comments on the draft Chapter 3 until October 16. He also indicated that the ad hoc Working Group is working in parallel on the rest of the GFMD's report and incorporating the inputs from the Vienna Workshop. The Working Group will meet again in the week of 25 October and sometime in November. The objective is to distribute the full draft of the report to the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum ahead of the next preparatory meeting on November 22.
14. On a related note, Mr. Lorenz conveyed to the Steering Group the GFMD Co-Chairs' interest to consider applying for an ECOSOC Observer status in order to keep track and inform GFMD participating member states of the status of the inter-governmental GCM negotiations. Some Steering Group members welcomed the idea, saying that the GFMD could play a vital role in the GCM negotiations by bringing a common understanding and by building trust and bridging gaps. Without changing the nature of the GFMD and enlarging its role as a decision-making entity, the GFMD could help in moving forward the discussions. The Co-Chairs offered to look into the potential practical and political benefits for the GFMD to be accorded an ECOSOC Observer status, and report back to the Steering Group at the next meeting on November 22.
15. Mr. Lorenz then gave information about upcoming GFMD and GCM-related events:
  - a) The GFMD Co-Chairs have been invited to share about the highlights of the GFMD discussions on Cluster 5 – Smuggling of Migrants and on Cluster 6 – Labor Migration during the GCM Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on October 11 in Geneva. The Co-Chairs' comments will be based on the outcomes of the GFMD dialogues and the stocktaking meeting in Vienna.

- b) The 6<sup>th</sup> and final informal thematic consultations will take place on 12-13 Oct 2017 in Geneva, focusing on the topic of labour mobility. Steering Group members were urged to actively participate in it.
- c) The GFMD was invited to play a prominent role during the first and third days of the GCM stock-taking event to be held in Puerto Vallarta on 4 to 6 December 2017. The Co-Chairs will use this opportunity to present the GFMD's contributions to the GCM.
- d) The GFMD Co-Chairs have been invited to address the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Regional Consultative Process on October 10 in order to share about the GFMD's initiatives on the GCM and the results of the Vienna Workshop on the GCM themes.

## **V. GFMD and the 2030 Agenda**

- 16. Reporting on behalf of the ad hoc WG on 2030 Agenda and GCM Co-Chairs Bangladesh and Germany, Ms. Ilse Hahn updated the Steering Group on the WG's efforts in regard to the 2030 Agenda. She reminded the Steering Group about the GFMD's contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2017, including the organization of a side event in New York. She was optimistic that the groundwork done for the 2017 HLPF will be helpful in the preparation of GFMD's contribution to the 2018 HLPF which will focus on the theme, "*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*". The ad hoc WG, she said, stands ready to lead the preparations of GFMD's report for the 2018 session, if invited to do so.
- 17. In response, a Steering Group member affirmed the importance of the GFMD establishing itself as a crucial actor in the follow up of the Agenda 2030. To add value to this process, the delegate proposed to refer to the Dhaka Summit recommendation to have a standing agenda item on the follow up of the 2030 Agenda and to invite expert agencies to reflect on the global state of affairs, particularly on the human development outcomes of migrants.

## **VI. Any Other Business**

- 18. Before closing the meeting, Mr. Nadir gave information that the Co-Chairmanship has received a joint invitation from the Parliament of Malta, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean to a conference entitled "*Promoting a better regional cooperation for reasonable and human migration in the Mediterranean*" on 16-17 November 2017. The Moroccan Co-Chair will make a presentation during the session "Tackling the drivers of migration: the importance of promoting sustainable development in countries of origin".

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.  
30 October 2017