

GFMD 2017-2018 Sixth Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 2 May 2018
14h30 – 17h30
Salle XXI, 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 around 120 delegates from 72 participating UN Member States and GFMD Observers at the sixth preparatory meeting of the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by **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 Friends of the Forum.

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

5. Mr. Lorenz, speaking on behalf of the German Co-Chairmanship, updated the Friends of the Forum 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 regional groups; one in February in New York and the other one in April in Morocco, during which international labour mobility was recognized as a key component for competitiveness; and (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: (a) 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 (b) 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 Friends of the Forum 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 FOF that the report of the workshop, finalized by ODI, would soon be available.

b. GFMD Thematic Contributions to HLPF 2018.

7. 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)

8. 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 Friends of the Forum would actively participate in this important workshop that was to be jointly organized with the ILO.

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

9. Mr. Nadir invited the Friends of the Forum 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)*

10. Ahead of the second roundtable (RT) consultations on May 4, the RT Co-Chairs present were invited to inform the Friends of the Forum about the status of preparation of their respective roundtables.
- Representing the RT 1.1 co-Chairs together with Canada, the United Arab Emirates explained that the concept of the Roundtable on *“Harnessing migrants’ existing capitals to build resilience”* would explore ways of empowering migrants to overcome hurdles in the migration journey by leveraging various elements of human, social and cultural capitals. A brief explanation on the structure of the RT background paper, including the set of guiding questions, was provided. Co-Chair UAE also informed the FOF that the RT team was still looking for a rapporteur, and encouraged any interested member state to come forward.
 - Representing the RT 1.2 Co-Chairs, together with Spain, Ethiopia thanked UNDP for leading the drafting process and outlined the main elements of the roundtable on *“Migrants’ engagement with public services: from basic access to co-production”*. This roundtable will focus on cities and municipalities and will revolve around the idea that migration is an urban phenomenon. In that context, it will address the challenges faced by migrants in accessing services, such as health and education. It will also explore how to make migrants co-producers of public service in both countries of destination and origin. Good practices from different countries will be included, as well as main challenges within public service delivery, including negative public opinion and increased xenophobia.
 - Representing the RT 2.1 Co-Chairs, together with Ecuador, Eritrea shared the key elements of the roundtable on *“South-South mobility; trends, patterns, and transferable learning”*. A specific focus will be on regional mobility in Africa, Latin America and Asia and on the role that sub-regional organizations could play, as well as lessons learned. Co-Chair Eritrea invited the Friends of the Forum to join the discussions on May 4 and contribute by sharing their valuable national experiences.
 - 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 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 already identified as RT rapporteur.

- Representing the RT 3.1 Co-Chairs together with Bangladesh, Zimbabwe thanked IOM for the preparation of the paper and presented a few comments. Recognizing the good starting point of juxtaposing governance with contemporary drivers of migration, Zimbabwe suggested to embed the discussions in the overall context of the GCM. The Co-Chair would like to include in the paper more concrete examples, data and statistics with regard to the drivers of migration, as well as examine the governance approach at the national, regional and global levels. In particular, Co-Chair Zimbabwe suggested to look at the linkages and impact of remittances and peace processes with the reduction of migration out of necessity.
- Representing the RT 3.2 Co-Chairs together with Sierra Leone¹, Mexico highlighted the priority issues included in the background paper which has been drafted by IFAD. The paper considers the scope of migrant contributions to countries of origin (remittances, nostalgic trade, skills acquisition and knowledge transfer...) and ways to support and enhance these contributions. Co-Chair Mexico informed the Friends of the Forum that no rapporteur has been identified yet, and any voluntary offer to assume this role would be highly welcomed.

d. GFMD 10-year review

11. Mr. Nadir introduced the GFMD 10-year review, whose objective 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. Mr. Sönke Lorenz delivered a brief report on behalf of Dr. Angenendt, who represented the GFMD Review Experts' Team² at the Steering Group meeting earlier in the day. 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, Mr. Lorenz 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.
12. Furthermore, Mr. Nadir informed the audience that the Co-Chairs intended to [write](#)³ 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 to deliberate on this issue.

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

13. An update on the Concept Note and the general programme of the GFMD 2018 Summit in Marrakesh was provided by Mr. Nadir. He informed the FOF that the Eleventh Summit will take place in Marrakesh. He announced that the order of events will be slightly modified, in

¹ In June, however, Sierra Leone withdrew as Co-Chair of RT 3.2.

² 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.

³ The GFMD Co-Chairs' letter was submitted to the GCM Co-Facilitators and the SRSG on 14 May 2018.

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.

B. Update on GFMD 2018 Provisional Budget

14. In her report to the Friends of the Forum, 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.

VI. GFMD and the Non-State Partners

A. The GFMD 2018 Civil Society Process

15. In his presentation, **Mr. Stéphane Jaquemet** updated the Friends of the Forum on the latest development of the work undertaken by ICMC and the GFMD Civil Society International Steering Committee (ISC). Two meetings have taken place, focusing on the GCM and what it could mean for the future of migration governance as well as for the organization of the civil society. Regarding the preparation for the GFMD Summit in December, a broad consultation within civil society is scheduled in July. This meeting would look at a new edition of the 5 Year 8 Point Plan of Action, define a collective vision on the way forward for the civil society movement, foster meaningful conversation with other stakeholders, and plan for the GFMD Common Space in Marrakesh.
16. Mr. Jaquemet shared some thoughts about the back-to-back schedules of the GFMD Summit (5 to 7 Dec) and the Inter-governmental Conference to adopt the GCM (10-11 Dec). In view of financial constraints to cover both events, the Civil Society Days (CSD) will probably be organized in parallel to the government days, with a focus on the post-adoption phase of the GCM. Moreover, “tea table” discussions focusing on the GCM implementation phase are envisaged on the weekend of 8-9 December. Regarding the selection process for the CSD, the ISC has discussed ways to bring new voices and new stakeholders to the space, while continuing the usual selection procedure, in order to allow for continuity and new representation. In terms of funding situation, the civil society budget for 2018 is USD 750,000. Mr. Jaquemet underlined the need for continued and new financial support from governments. He thanked the government of Bangladesh, Canada and the Netherlands for their contributions in the past year.

B. The GFMD Business Mechanism

17. **Ms. Stephanie Winet** reported on the recent activities of the GFMD Business Mechanism. During the Rabat Workshop, the Business Mechanism was invited to speak on the panel on labour and skills to address the need for migration to respond to labour market needs, to integrate it in the broader skills strategy and to encourage entrepreneurship. In Kampala, an

instructive Employer's meeting was organized together with the Federation of Uganda's Employers, focusing on regional integration, skills needs and best practices to promote youth employability, women and youth entrepreneurship. The meeting shed light on model policies and examples of practical cooperation and partnerships and also drew inputs from the employer's perspective which will feed the business paper to be presented in Marrakesh. On the GCM side, the GFMD Business Mechanism Meetings met with two regional groups. The first one with the WEOG Group was held on 22 February in New York and gathered heads of delegations and permanent representatives to provide a space to explain the position of the private sector on the GCM. A second meeting took place with the African Group on 9 April in Morocco.

18. In preparation for the December Summit in Marrakesh, the Business Thematic Meeting is working to integrate innovative ideas, by introducing a start-up competition on technology. The focus should also be on the skills and creative ideas brought by migrants.
19. Finally, Ms. Winet provided an update on budget and financial contributions. She underlined that the Business Mechanism does not benefit from the GFMD regular budget, but from public-private partnerships. It has been funded by the IOE, the European Commission, the Coca Cola Company, Switzerland and, most recently, the United Arab Emirates. She encouraged other governments to participate in this public-private partnership to ensure fixed-income and stability for the GFMD business mechanism.

VII. Any Other Business

20. Mexico, representing one of the Co-Chairs of the WG on Communications, updated the Friends of the Forum 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, a communication expert 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. This proposal was approved by the Steering Group earlier in the day.
21. The meeting was adjourned at 16h44.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.
28 May 2018