
GFMD 2022-2023 Second Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Centre International Conférences Genève (CICG)

Tuesday, 18 March 2023 - 15:00 - 17:00 CET, hybrid

Report of the Proceedings

Welcome Remarks

1. Mr. François Vandeville, Deputy Ambassador in charge of migrations, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, opened the meeting welcoming the Friends of the Forum, H.E. Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of IOM and H.E. Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Geneva to the second GFMD Preparatory Meeting held under the French GFMD 2022-2023 Chairmanship.
2. Ambassador Bonnafont thanked the previous Chair, the UAE, and the Steering Group for convening earlier in the day to ensure a collaborative governance of the Forum; recalled the six thematic priorities for the Summit roundtables at the core of the GFMD 2022-2023 program;¹ and stressed the added value of the GFMD as an inter-State informal, voluntary process, which provides a unique space to engage multiple stakeholders and multi-disciplinary expertise on migration and development. Ambassador Bonnafont emphasized the importance of an open, frank dialogue space within the GFMD to foster innovative solutions, maximizing the positive contribution of human mobility to sustainable development. Recalling that migration requires international cooperation and multi-stakeholder approaches, Ambassador Bonnafont called for renewed partnerships and global responses to migration challenges. He announced that **the 14th GFMD Summit will take place in Geneva on the week of 22-26 January 2024**. The decision to hold the Summit in Geneva was made due to the congested 2024 agenda in Paris, which includes the 2024 Olympic Games and the Summit of the Francophonie, and to maximize the participation of delegations, fostering relations with UN institutions. Thanking the Swiss authorities for their support, IOM for hosting the Secretariat and Member States for their financial contributions, which demonstrate continuous interest and renewed confidence in the GFMD process, Ambassador Bonnafont called for both financial and substantive contributions to sustain the process and encouraged the FOF to engage actively in the GFMD program.

¹ 1. The impact of climate change on human mobility; 2. Rights and migration; 3. Diasporas as actors of economic, social and cultural development; 4. Labor migration and economic inclusion of migrants; 5. Improving the perception of migration in public opinion through narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse; 6. The multi-level governance of migration.

3. Mr. António Vitorino, IOM Director General (DG), highlighted the GFMD's unique role as the only inter-state consultative process that links migration and development at the global level, providing a critical space for dialogue with Member States and a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The GFMD has been instrumental in leading the dialogue on migration, culminating in the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and the Program of Action for the next decade. Mr. Vitorino reaffirmed IOM's commitment to the Forum and praised France for its program. The IOM DG acknowledged France's initiative in organizing a Summit for financing sustainable development and climate change measures and recalled the importance of streamlining migration into development programs and national plans to leverage the full potential of migration to achieve the SDGs.
4. Ms. Alia Ibrahim, Director of International Organization UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, acknowledged the progress made in establishing the permanent Secretariat and in including the mechanisms and stakeholders into the GFMD process. Ms. Ibrahim thanked IOM for its continued support to the Forum and reiterated the UAE thematic and financial support to the Chair's programme.

Adoption of the agenda

5. The meeting agenda was adopted without any changes.

The GFMD 2022-2023 France Chairmanship

6. France informed GFMD Member States and Observers that the permanent Secretariat was established through a renewed Memorandum of Understanding signed by France as GFMD Chair and IOM in January 2023.
7. The Chair expressed gratitude for the financial contributions of Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Philippines, Mexico and the UAE and recalled that voluntary contributions of Member States cover the operating costs of the Secretariat (USD 600,000) and the solidarity mechanism to sponsor delegations from low and middle-income countries (forecast USD 500,000), and that about half the funding target had been met. The Chair called for voluntary contributions from GFMD Member States to ensure the long-term sustainability and inclusiveness of the Forum.
8. France announced a special contribution of 100,000 euros to each stakeholder group, i.e., the GFMD Civil Society, Business, Mayors Mechanisms and the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) to promote stakeholders' engagement in the process.

Updates on the GFMD 2022-2023 Calendar

9. The Deputy Ambassador for migration of France, Mr. François Vandeville invited the FOF to participate in the upcoming workshops to be held in Paris: a workshop on [Narratives, Culture and Human Mobility](#) to be held at the National Museum of Immigration History on

27 June; and a workshop on [Climate change and human mobility](#) to take place at the French Development Agency (AFD) on 28 June.

10. France announced that the Summit will be a high-level event scheduled for the week of 22-26 January 2024. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that all stakeholders are represented and that the mechanisms have dedicated spaces.
11. France announced that the next roundtable consultations will be held on 24-25 October 2023 with the aim to finalize the background papers by end November.
12. The Philippines thanked France for having taken the Chair of the GFMD and successfully relaunched the process and called for an early identification and hand-over to the next Chair to avoid a vacancy like the one experienced between 2021-2022.
13. France expressed its commitment to ensuring the sustainability of the Forum, which entails institutional and financial consolidation. France encouraged interested States to step forward and ensure a rotation in leadership, ideally alternating among regions of the world. France also pledged to support to the successor Chair, securing left-over funds for a smooth transition.

Update on the GFMD 2022-2023 Government-led Roundtable Teams (GRTs)

14. France shared the updated composition of the GRTs and thanked the Co-Chairs, penholders and members for their contributions to prepare the background papers for the Summit roundtables. Presenting the provisional timetable for the upcoming months, France expressed its confidence that this preparatory work in the lead up to the Summit will result in concrete added value for the Forum, recalling also the importance of sharing the outcomes of the GFMD dialogue with other multilateral processes.

Briefings and updates of GFMD Working Groups

15. The Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration presented a GFMD contribution to the 2023 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). France expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Working Group and acknowledged the contributions made, which demonstrate WG members commitment, thanking the other WG Co-Chair's - the Civil Society Mechanism and the United Arab Emirates. Civil Society acknowledged the productive collaboration and presented highlights of the [Focused input to the 2023 HLPF](#), which covers SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 and includes an extensive annex on related practices drawn from the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP). The report, divided into six sections, also included inputs provided by the WG on the impacts of Covid-19 on migration and development.
16. The Mayors Mechanism announced a two-year extension of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration, co-chaired with Canada and Ecuador, and updated on recent working group meetings, which resulted into two new initiatives on regional narratives led by the Inter-American Development Bank and the OECD.

17. Ecuador provided an update on the [*It takes a community*](#) (ITAC) campaign, including an expert meeting on narratives in South America held on 28 February. Ecuador expressed satisfaction with the revamping of the ITAC website and invited the FOF to check the portal to access and contribute interesting initiatives and tools on migration narratives. Several live chats are planned that will be transmitted on social networks. Ecuador invited member states to take part in the activities of the WG.
18. Canada indicated that an ITAC meeting will be held on the sidelines of the GFMD thematic workshops to be held in Paris. The meeting will take place at the Canadian Embassy in Paris on 26 June. Friends of the Forum are warmly invited to participate to this event.
19. France reminded Member States about the possibility of proposing the creation of a new Working Group.

Findings and recommendations of the first GFMD Workshop on ‘The Impact of Climate Change on Labour Migration: Exchanging Practices and Exploring Opportunities for Sustainable Development, Decent Work and a Just Labour Market Transition.’

20. Argentina commended the Chair for organizing the event on Labor Migration and Climate Change in Geneva on 29 March. Two expert panels offered an in-depth reflection on the effects of climate change on migration.
21. Argentina raised the issue of temporary protection for migrants fleeing climate crises and highlighted innovative measures implemented in Argentina, including special visas for Mexico and Central America, and a similar agreement within MERCOSUR. Argentina also emphasized the importance of visa policies considering migrants skills, especially for young people with strong potential for the green economy, and the need to create decent jobs to prevent the brain drain, especially in countries requiring green skills.
22. The ILO thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for the organization of the GFMD workshop and acknowledged that it has allowed a dialogue between actors specialized on climate change and migration. The ILO indicated its availability and interest in co-organizing further workshops.

Open floor for updates of the Friends of the Forum

23. The Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) plans to host the next Youth Forum before the GFMD Summit and confirmed its availability to organise a Youth Leadership and Innovation Award for the Summit. MYCP invited Member States to support young delegates' participation, especially those from marginalized communities. The award categories will be aligned with GFMD thematic priorities of climate mobility, diaspora and migrant health, and access to rights. MYCP is seeking partners for mentorship and capacity building for award finalists, working with UNICEF, IOM, and the Columbia University's Migration working group. MYCP highlighted the success of the previous edition under the UAE chairmanship, where winners implemented data analysis on xenophobia in South

- America. They invited all member states and stakeholders to join their efforts and expressed hope that young people's priorities would be reflected in the GFMD discussions.
24. The Business Mechanism highlighted its longstanding engagement with the GFMD since its inception. Recognizing the need for more impactful communication, they welcomed the Chair's suggestion to produce short videos. In addition, the Business Mechanism reiterated its commitment to contribute to the GFMD Working Group on Public Narratives, in particular the *It Takes a Community* campaign by participating in a live chat. The mechanism also expressed its willingness to renew the successful private sector pavilion at COP27 and presented their priorities and roadmap, articulated around three pillars: research and data, advocacy, innovation and technology. Under the first pillar, the Business Mechanism will develop several position papers in line with GFMD program, such as "*Impact of remote work on mobility and the rise of innovative immigration pathways such as digital nomad programs*" and "*The impact of climate change on migration from employers' perspective*" and "*The business case for migration from viewpoint of employers based in countries of origin*". For advocacy, the IOE and the Business advisory group will continue to facilitate public-private dialogues at global and regional levels, bringing together employers and government representatives to discuss and identify solutions on how to improve migration frameworks and legal pathways conducive to regular migration. Such dialogues have been conducted in four African sub-regions in 2022. Regarding the third pillar on innovation and technology, the Business Mechanism aims to present concrete innovative solutions through tech start-ups and announced a new edition of the start-up competition to be held during the 14th GFMD Summit. It will focus on innovation, tech solutions to tackle the labor migration and climate challenges. The Business Advisory Group on Migration will support the GFMD chair by providing input to background paper for roundtable 4 on labor migration as well as co-chairing the roundtable with the UAE and Zimbabwe.
 25. The Mayors Mechanism outlined its engagements in GFMD activities, especially in roundtable 6 (multi-level governance) and 1 (climate change). A dedicated Peer-learning activity is scheduled for June; the Mayors Mechanism will continue contributing financially and substantially to the discussions related to culture and narratives. Its involvement aligns with the strategy to promote the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, encouraging cities to pledge contributions. The Mechanism expressed its wish to establish a learning platform for local governments to connect local action to global agendas with three specific peer-learning sessions on climate change and migration, narratives and communication and refugee and migrant inclusion in local policy making. The outcomes of those discussions will feed into the GFMD's discussion. Finally, the Mayor Mechanism will mobilize an local government delegation to join the GFMD Summit and advocated for Member States to bring local governments in their national delegation.
 26. Civil Society welcomed potential commitments from Member States to support their activities. Civil Society GFMD activities started in January 2023 with the Abuja Forum, co-organized by African civil society and African diaspora networks ([see here the Abuja](#)

[Statement](#)). The Civil Society Forum in Dakar focused on the engagement from Africa and Europe towards the GFMD. Ongoing consultations are also taking place in the MENA region and Asia. French civil society has initiated a network in preparation of the GFMD Summit. Additionally, the first Global Civil Society Consultation, held on 12 April 2023, gathered civil society inputs in response to the 0-draft of the RT background papers. Civil society remains committed to actively contributing to the June workshops and announced that Civil Society preparatory meeting of the GFMD Summit will take place on 22 January, with an anticipated participation of 200 to 250 civil society delegates.

27. The representative of Algeria offered its assistance and fresh ideas for the Summit, specifically highlighting the issue of brain drain, which is often overlooked. France reassured Algeria that the brain drain is an issue of concern to the roundtable teams.
28. The representative of El Salvador conveyed their deep condolences to the families of migrant workers who lost their lives, highlighting the country's painful bereavement. El Salvador emphasized the importance of granting status to migrants to guarantee individual rights and called for safe and regulated migration while combating human trafficking.
29. France thanked El Salvador for its testimony and reiterated the worrying and tragic situation of the deaths in the Mediterranean.

Any Other Business

30. No specific elements were discussed under this agenda item.

Closing Remarks by the Troika

31. The United Arab Emirates thanked all the participants and emphasized that GFMD is an essential platform for exchange and knowledge.
32. France thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.