

Friends of the Forum (FOF)

30 June 2022 - 14:00-17:00 (CET) Hybrid Format

Welcome Remarks

1. Ambassador Léonzi, French Ambassador for Migration, welcomed participants to this second meeting of the Friends of the Forum (FOF) in 2022. The meeting marked the conclusion of the interim period (February 2021-June 2022) between the end of the previous Chair, held by the UAE and the beginning of the France and Senegal Co-Chair starting on 1 July 2022. Senegal was excused for not being able to attend the meeting. Ambassador Léonzi thanked GFMD Member States, the Civil Society, Business, and Mayors Mechanism as well as the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) for participating in the Troika and Steering Group meetings held earlier in preparation for this FOF. The GFMD remains a unique, State-led, multi-stakeholder process offering a space for informal and open dialogue on migration and development, whose added value is based on its capacity to engage multiple stakeholders. Ambassador Léonzi indicated that the eighteen-month France-Senegal Co-Chair programme aims to advance the multilateral dialogue on a safe, regular and orderly migration with the support of all Friends of the Forum; he thanked IOM for its continued support to the Forum.

Adoption of the meeting provisional agenda

2. The agenda was approved.

GFMD and Related Processes:

Outcomes of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum - Remarks by the UN Migration Network Secretariat

3. Amy Muedin, Deputy Head of the UN Migration Network (UNMN) Secretariat provided an update on the outcomes of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) held on 17-20 May in New York. The IMRF was an overall success and showed strong support for the GCM. Member States' participation to the GCM Regional Reviews paved the way for the UN Secretary General report on GCM implementation, related UN activities and institutional arrangements; this in turn led to the adoption of the IMRF outcome - the Progress Declaration. The numerous pledges, in particular by the Champion countries - including Senegal – also contributed to make the IMRF a success. The Progress Declaration, also adopted by the UN General Assembly, is the first consensus document following the adoption of the GCM; it builds on the GCM resolution and introduces stronger language on the universality of migrants' rights irrespective of migrants' status.
4. 170 pledges on GCM implementation were received from 28 Member States. Topics receiving greater focus include: combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination; the role of climate change as an adverse driver of migration; lessons learnt from Covid-19, including the need to promote safe legal

pathways; the integration of migration into national development plans and UN Country Teams work; the necessity to strengthen a whole-of-society approach; a call to align the GCM with other multilateral frameworks and in particular the 2030 Agenda; the need to develop indicators to measure GCM implementation.

5. More progress could have been achieved, but skepticism around the Global Compact and around migration as a topic persists. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (MPTF) achieved only 50% of its fundraising target, set at 70 million USD.
6. The IOM Director General – the Coordinator of the UN Migration Network, will be participating in the High-Level Political Forum in July in the latter capacity, focusing on the link between the 2030 Agenda and GCM. The next UN Secretary General progress report on GCM implementation will be issued in early 2024.
7. An initial analysis of statements, pledges and voluntary reports indicates that climate change is high on the agenda of Member States.
8. As knowledge management will be the focus of attention in the coming months, the UNMN invites Member States and stakeholders to share practices with the Migration Network Hub (which includes a Knowledge Platform and a Connection Hub).
9. Ms Muedin congratulated France for joining the Steering Committee of the Migration MPTF.
10. The next round of GCM Regional Reviews will take place in 2024, with Canada and Colombia as rapporteurs for gender-responsive, child-sensitive GCM guiding principles. Increasing attention will be devoted to strengthening stakeholder engagement and complementarities between the GCM and Global Compact on Refugees.

Briefing on GFMD-GCM relations

11. Alison Larcher, coordinator of the French Co-Chair Team, thanked the Amy Muedin of the UNMN Secretariat for her briefing, stressing that information flow is crucial to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. Ms Larcher briefed the FOF on recent Steering Group discussions on the importance of relations between the GFMD and the GCM, recalling the GFMD's role as acknowledged in GCM and IMRF Modalities Resolutions and how the two processes are complementary. While not all GFMD Member States have endorsed the GCM, it is an important, structuring framework to advance the international agenda on migration; the GFMD provides a valuable, informal setting for an inclusive dialogue also on GCM matters, engaging Member States and a variety of stakeholders - including civil society, business, mayors/local/regional governments and youth groups in an open exchange of perspectives. The GFMD focuses on emerging topics and builds on the initiative of all stakeholders to create a dynamic space for public-private dialogue. It is the GFMD's inclusiveness, informality and capacity to focus on emerging topics with an innovative, forward-looking approach that provides for a strong complementarity with the GCM.
12. France thanked the Committee on GFMD-GCM relations chaired by Sweden, for the important liaison work carried out during the interim phase; it has enabled a fruitful information flow across the two processes.
13. On the GFMD contribution to the IMRF: since the 2022 IMRF took place during the interim period, a GFMD event could not be organized in the absence of a convening Chair-in-Office; yet the three Mechanisms and the MYCP promoted a broad range of events around the IMRF, including the Civil Society Days, the People's Forum, the Business Flagship Event and many others, bringing the diversity of the GFMD perspectives to the IMRF. France thanked all Member States who mentioned the GFMD in their statements at the IMRF, given that an official GFMD delegation to the IMRF had not been

foreseen. In future, the GFMD Steering Group would like to see the GFMD fully represented at the IMRF and able to contribute to the proceedings through its work and to continue nurturing relations between the two fora, given its added value to GCM implementation. In line with this overall aim, the Troika has engaged with the UNMN on indicators and other areas where the GFMD can contribute with a synergic approach to GCM implementation and review.

GFMD 2022-2023 Co-Chairmanship

Presentation of the GFMD 2022-2023 Concept Note

14. Ambassador Léonzi presented the GFMD 2022-2023 program and its six thematic areas; some initial consultations had been conducted with the three GFMD mechanisms and MYCP and the concept note would be circulated to Member States as soon as the draft was consolidated. The six thematic areas are: 1. The impact of climate change on human mobility as a transversal theme across all other topics; 2. The human rights of migrants, including the right to health and safety; 3. The role of diasporas as development actors and facilitators of socio-economic inclusion; 4. Labour migration, with a focus on the economic inclusion of migrants, labour market needs and improving the legal framework for migration; 5. Culture and public discourse, focusing on ways to promote a more balanced narrative on migration. 6. The multilevel governance of migration.
15. Six roundtables will be organized around these thematic areas. Member States are invited to express their interest in taking a lead role in the GFMD 2022-2023 roundtables. Preparatory meetings will be held in Geneva, in addition to GFMD main events (see below). GFMD Member States' and stakeholders' contributions and suggestions would be welcome throughout the program in a spirit of open and collaborative dialogue and to make space for innovative ideas.

Overview of Main Events of the GFMD 2022-2023 Program¹

16. Main events on the program include a launch event, focusing on the Impact of Climate Change on Human Mobility and co-organized by the GFMD with the Platform on Disaster and Displacement (PDD) provisionally planned for October 2022; a cultural event with a focus on the socio-cultural contributions of migration in Autumn 2023; and the 14th GFMD Summit in December 2023 in Paris.

Interventions from participants

17. Switzerland thanked the Co-Chairs for taking the leadership of the GFMD and expressed appreciation for the programme, as it includes a mix of long-term focus areas of the GFMD and new thematic areas. A common thread linking the six topics can allow stocktaking on progress already made in certain topics and building on existing research to advance the agenda. Switzerland expressed its enthusiasm at the GFMD being active again and at receiving the Co-Chairs program to identify concrete engagements in the roundtables.
18. Canada expressed support for the Co-Chairs program and enquired on organizational aspects and dates so as to prepare its delegations, book calendars and ensure presence to GFMD events.
19. John Bingham, from the NGO Committee, a member of the Civil Society Mechanism, expressed appreciation for the six thematic areas chosen and for connecting the issue of climate change to all other topics. Mr Bingham concurred that the GFMD brings significant added value to the multilateral dialogue on migration and development for its unique capacity to convene and engage actively a

¹ The calendar of activities has been updated since the meeting and will be circulated separately.

multiplicity of stakeholders and on the synergetic relations between the GFMD and the GCM. On the topic of climate change and migration, Mr Bingham noted that the framing of ‘preventive action’ should not be interpreted as ‘preventing human mobility’, but rather addressing climate change as a driver of forced displacement.

20. Dilip Rata - World Bank/KNOMAD, recalled the proposal to establish a concessional financing facility for migration similar to the one for refugees, which he had proposed during the UAE Chair. The World Bank/KNOMAD offered its technical support to France and Senegal on their GFMD program.
21. Paul Tacon, ILO, reiterated its support to the GFMD, in full respect of the independence, informality and inclusivity of the Forum. ILO offered support in particular on the topics of climate change, just transitions to green jobs and the core theme of labour migration.
22. David Khoudour, UNDP, expressed the interest of UNDP, as the lead UN development agency, to support the GFMD process, especially on issues related to climate change and human mobility, labour migration and economic inclusion, diasporas, and multi-level governance. Mr Khoudour also asked for more specific information on dates of the planned GFMD events, in particular the one on climate change in Dakar, to guarantee high-level representation of delegations.
23. The Philippines expressed appreciation to the GFMD Co-Chairs for bringing concerns on the impacts of climate change on human mobility to the centre of the agenda, as well as topics of long-term relevance such as labour migration, legal pathways, access to services, health, and narratives on migration. In addition to the whole-of-government approach, a whole-of-society and a whole of planet approach are important. The Philippines concurred on the added value of the informality and inclusivity of the GFMD.
24. Jason Gagnon of OECD, thanked France and Senegal for their leadership and comprehensive programme during their co-chairmanship of the GFMD, and offered his organization’s support on issues related to climate change and displacement; diaspora and development; multi-level governance; migration and skills; culture and narratives.
25. Wen Li, IOM Director of External Relations, congratulated France and Senegal for their Co-Chair and for the rich programme: its priorities are in line with many IOM’s priorities as identified in the wake of the IMRF, including climate change, diaspora and migrants’ contributions to development; IOM and Ireland had co-hosted a diaspora Summit in April 2022 that yielded important outcomes. IOM expressed support to the GFMD Co-Chairs’ programme and reiterated its availability to hosting the GFMD Secretariat.
26. Mauro Martini of IFAD, offered technical support to the GFMD Co-Chairs on the topic of remittances and diaspora investment, recalling the International Day of Remittances celebrated on 16 June. IFAD plans to organize the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development in Africa in 2023 and invited the GFMD to consider synergies between two fora.
27. Ambassador Léonzi addressed the questions raised by participants and thanked the Friends of the Forum for the technical contributions offered to support the program.

Presentation of the provisional budget²

28. The provisional estimated budget for the GFMD 2022-2023 Co-Chairs program (see Table 1 below) had been discussed during the Steering Group preceding the FOF. It covers the 18 months of the program of France and Senegal for a total of about 2,243,000 Euro. The effective overall budget for

² The provisional financial estimate for the 18-month GFMD Chairmanship has been updated since the meeting and will be circulated separately.

the 2022-2023 Co-Chairmanship may be much higher than the amount projected in table 1, as France will cover some of the Summit hosting costs directly. The GFMD estimated budget is open to changes according to further developments of the program.

29. The administrative costs for the GFMD Secretariat amount to about 900,000 Euro over 18 months, or 600,000 Euros per year. In order to ensure a permanent and sustainable future GFMD Secretariat, in line with the Steering Group requests, IOM was asked to host the Secretariat while observing the independence and autonomy of the GFMD. In terms of staffing, the Secretariat will comprise a Head of Secretariat and two staff members dedicated to administrative/financial matters and logistics. France informed that it will contribute a dedicated expert in support of the Secretariat. The Secretariat overall estimated costs are about 40% of the total GFMD projected budget in line with a good management approach. The exact costs of staffing are not indicated in table 1 as these vary depending on the candidates' seniority, family situation, relocation expenses if any, etc.
30. GFMD programmed events costs including the launch event in 2022, a cultural event in 2023, and the traditional preparatory meetings to be held in Geneva, as well as research, communication and translation costs and are estimated at about 595,270 Euro.
31. The Summit costs charged to the GFMD general budget are only related to the travel of subsidized participants and interpretation costs, as France will host the Summit and directly absorb such costs.
32. Member States were invited to support the GFMD multilateral process by voluntary contributions: the target funding set at about 2,200,000 Euros to finance the general budget. Ambassador Léonzi emphasized that following two years of on-line or hybrid events, the aim of the GFMD 2022-2023 is to re-launch the GFMD by in person participation to the final Summit, thereby enabling face to face networking and conviviality.

GFMD Mechanisms and Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)'s Priorities and Roadmap for the GFMD 2022-2023

33. Clara Keller-Skupien, co-Coordinator, **GFMD Civil Society Mechanism**, expressed the civil society community enthusiasm and expectations of the GFMD civil society community in welcoming the Co-Chairs France and Senegal. The Chairmanship represents an 18-month journey, with its key activities providing benchmarks to collectively advance knowledge and commitments; and to jointly identify concrete solutions. Civil society applauded France and Senegal's choice of the six priority themes and committed to bringing forward the best expertise from the global civil society community, with cutting-edge knowledge on each of the issues at the global, regional, national and local levels. The civil society mechanism plans to set up **six civil society working groups dedicated to each of the priority themes** and **pledged its own contributions** towards the co-chairmanship by activating civil society thematic working groups to feed directly into the roundtable teams. The aim is to make significant progress on shared agendas, ensuring that the GFMD becomes a truly unique opportunity for multilateral and multi-stakeholder action on migration and development. Regarding preparatory activities, West African civil society as well as African diaspora in Europe are **preparing support for the launch event in October 2022, with civil society holding preparatory consultations in Abuja and Dakar**; while climate colleagues, working closely with the Platform on Disaster Displacement are pursuing discussions on inputs and expertise towards the launch event and the dialogue on climate and migration. Ms Keller-Skupien stressed that civil society stands ready, at the request of the Co-Chairs or Member States, to co-organise and contribute to any of the GFMD events and discussions. As was the case with previous chair programmes, financial resources and support, including from governments, will be needed to sustain civil society engagement.
34. Sophie Van Haasen, Coordinator of the **GFMD Mayors Mechanism (MM)**, expressed appreciation to France and Senegal on behalf of the MM Steering Committee members: United Cities and Local

Governments (UCLG), the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) and IOM. The MM seeks to engage and bring the voice and expertise of local governments to the GFMD as well as to the Migration and Refugee Compacts. Established in 2018 by the GFMD Steering Group, the MM reflects the international community's increased recognition that local governments are critical actors in global migration governance. The MM launched a **Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees** in May, in partnership with UNHCR. 70 local actions and pledges were collected, which will be simultaneously uploaded to the GCM and GCR repositories and pledging platforms, as well as to the GFMD Platform for Partnerships. Each of these actions signifies a political commitment by mayors to take action at local level and an example of local action, showing the real potential of working with cities as well as need to partner with them. This is an ongoing effort, which the MM will actively connect to the GFMD 2022-23 Co-Chairmanship. The MM enthusiasm for the joint France – Senegal Co-Chairing as it brings important energy to the Forum, provides longer-term vision, and places global south and north cooperation and international partnership at the heart of the GFMD. The 6 priorities are all timely and relevant in the current global context. The MM Call to Local Action will help feed the discussions with actual concrete solutions local governments spearhead at local level. There is also significant advocacy work and partnership building that the MM will bring to the discussions, for instance on **climate change and migration** – through the global mayoral taskforce on climate and migration, co-led by the mayors of Dhaka North, Bangladesh and Freetown, Sierra Leone, and including the Mayor of Dakar, Senegal; on **narratives and culture** - the MM co-chairs the GFMD working group on narratives, together with Canada and Ecuador, thereby including 5 cities alongside States and the other GFMD mechanisms. The working group brings together expertise and existing research and will launch a second phase of the *It Takes A Community Campaign* this autumn. The MM proposed that the working group takes an active advisory role in the preparation of this roundtable; on **multi-level governance**, the MM was enthusiastic and hopes that discussions contribute to a collective understanding of what it means to work across different levels of government, and with civil society, the private sector and migrants themselves. At the global level, the GFMD itself is the example of what multi-level governance may look like and is well placed to inspire other national, regional and global spaces. The MM committed to work on a roadmap connected to the key milestones of the Co-Chairs, and an indicative budget for MM activities. From its participation to the IMRF in May, the MM realizes that added value of the GFMD is clearer than ever: the GFMD provides much needed oxygen to the debate, can connect dots between other spaces and fora and – while very much state led – it is truly unique on how it engages with its stakeholders.

35. Stéphanie Winet, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at the IOE, thanked the Co-Chairs on behalf of the **GFMD Business Mechanism** for the invitation to share priorities and the private sector roadmap, which will be aligned with the Co-Chairs program; a budget was being developed based on the information available and would be shared in due course. In terms of priorities: employers' main focus is access to the skills needed to run businesses. Globally 69% of employers report difficulty filling vacancies, hence the priorities of the Business community include advocating for **legal pathways for migration** that ensure access to and retention of skills coming from abroad; a regulatory framework conducive to **responsible recruitment; alignment of skills and migration policies; and leveraging technology** (AI, Blockchain and other technological tools can enhance migration management). Ms Winet recalled that the GFMD Business Mechanism had been showcasing innovative solutions through tech start-ups since the GFMD Summit in Quito in 2020. The business community offered its expertise in support of the France-Senegal Co-Chairs' priorities, with a particular attention to labour migration (priority 4), public narratives (priority 5) and governance (priority 6). **On Labour migration**, a long-term focus of GFMD priorities, challenges and opportunities for workers, local authorities and employers have been highlighted over the years; a conversation on legal pathways to facilitate employment would be needed. The GFMD Business Mechanism would encourage the dialogue on

labour migration to focus on these aspects in partnership with the private sector. **On public narratives**, the business community has been active in the *It Takes A Community* campaign, led by the GFMD working Group on Public Narratives on Migration. 20 short videos of business leaders have been produced highlighting the positive impact that well-managed migration has on economies and on sustainable development. The D of GFMD – Development – should not be overlooked: jobs support development and migrant workers are not only “essential workers” in times of crises, but also an essential part of the solutions needed to recover from the crises. Looking beyond remittances and focusing on the skills that migrant workers gain from working abroad and can bring home to ensure continued development is a shift of narrative that is needed. **On governance**, the GFMD has embraced multi-level governance. The GFMD Business Mechanism pleads with Member States to use the GFMD Mechanisms structures – well organized and efficient - to help build such institutional mechanisms at national level. Congratulating France and Senegal for taking the leadership in driving the GFMD forward, Ms Winet trusted that the Co-Chairs will be driving forces in the coming 18 months, stressing that the support of the whole GFMD community will be key: governments first and foremost, as it is crucial that the process remains State-led, but also GFMD Mechanisms and all Friends of the Forum. The GFMD Business Mechanism expressed commitment to remain engaged: there is much the GFMD community can do, as it is unique in its inclusivity. Ms Winet supported the idea put forward by civil society to support the preparation and potentially co-chair the roundtables.

36. Elana Wong, Coordinator of the **Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)** echoed the mechanisms in its enthusiasm for the beginning of the Co-Chairing by France and Senegal. MYCP facilitates the meaningful engagement of young people to GFMD discussions, reflecting the mandate received from the Steering Group in 2021. The GFMD offers a model for youth empowerment and stakeholder engagement across multilateral migration fora and this co-chairmanship brings renewed energy and welcome emphasis on strengthening global North-South partnerships. On climate change and mobility, an urgent concern of youth all around the world, MYCP has partnered with YOUNGO, a sister constituency focused on climate to prioritise climate mobility response and sustainable action. MYCP’s overall priorities for the Co-Chairs include **meaningful youth participation at all GFMD events; preparatory youth spaces for the GFMD** (national youth fora and the Youth Forum at global level for all youth attending the GFMD Summit; MYCP also hoped that the Youth Migration Innovation Award hosted at the UAE Summit could be brought to the current chairmanship as well); and **elevating multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaboration with youth and children inclusivity on all priorities**. MYCP is working on the proposal for a Climate Mobility Youth Innovation Award (in collaboration with ACMI, UNICEF, YOUNGO and the Bosch Foundation in the lead to COP27; it plans to engage with youth across the region and specifically in Ghana and Morocco). MYCP proposed to link this to the Dakar launch or to other climate-focused GFMD activities, highlighting African regional leadership on climate adaptation. A complete plan of proposed activities would be shared in the coming weeks. MYCP appealed to all friends of the Forum to ensure that meaningful youth participation continues to be a reality at the GFMD and thanked the Co-Chairs for engaging youth offering its full commitment to the process.
37. **Canada** warmly welcomed the contributions of the mechanisms as a really valuable part of the GFMD. As co-chair of GFMD the Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration, it confirmed its interest in the culture and narratives theme; and volunteered to co-host the roundtable on culture and discourse. Canada also indicated interest in exploring ways to collaborate with the GFMD Business Mechanism on labour migration. It indicated its intention to make a contribution to the GFMD general budget and called on other Member States to also contribute to support the GFMD program.

Presentation and discussion on the future GFMD Secretariat

38. Discussions on the future of the permanent GFMD Secretariat are ongoing, hence an extension of the interim arrangement up to the end of August 2022 had been agreed by the Steering Group.

Closing Remarks by the Troika

39. The UAE closed the meeting on behalf of the Troika thanking all Member States and stakeholders for participation and expressing its full support to France and Senegal for their program. The UAE, as prospective host of COP 28, welcomes the Co-Chairs focus on climate change and mobility and intends to work with the GFMD community to explore synergies on this important thematic area.

A total of 117 delegates from 55 GFMD Member States, three GFMD Mechanisms, Youth and 18 organizations attended the meeting either in-person or online.

Prepared by the IOM GFMD Team

ANNEX

Table 1 – GFMD 2022-2023 Preliminary Estimated Budget

Details	
1. Preparatory costs	
Chairmanship Launch Summit	235 720,00 €
Event on culture in museums	118 000,00 €
Five preparatory meetings for the closing Summit in Geneva	141 550,00 €
Research	50 000,00 €
Communication and translation	50 000,00 €
Subtotal	595 270,00 €
2. Closing Summit / 14th GFMD Summit	
Travel of subsidized delegates	500 000,00 €
Meals and catering	
Conference centre and technical facility	
Interpretation	101 000,00 €
Translation of working documents	
Hybrid format	
Other costs	
Subtotal	601 000,00 €
3. Secrétariat du FMMD	
Staff	
Office costs	
Overheads (7%)	
Subtotal	900 000,00 €
Contingencies (7%)	146 738,90 €
TOTAL	2 243 008,90 €