

GFMD Steering Group Meeting

17 November 2021, hybrid (IOM 1st floor conference room and MS Team)

Summary Report

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Senegal's Membership Requests
- France & Senegal Remarks on Co-Chairmanship
- Remarks and Follow-Up on the GMFD 2021-2022 Agenda
- Progress Reports from Committee Chairs
- Update on GFMD Finances
- Adoption of FoF Agenda
- Any Other Business

Summary of Proceedings

Opening Remarks

1. H.E. Mr Abdulla Alnuaimi, Assistant Undersecretary, Communication & International Relations, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (UAE) chaired the meeting and provided opening remarks.

France thanked the UAE for its Chairmanship and continuing leadership of the GFMD in the past months. France also thanked the Committee of GFMD-GCM Relations chaired by Sweden for the organization of the 18 November Friends of the Forum (FoF) meeting.

The agenda was adopted without comment.

Senegal's Membership Requests & France & Senegal Remarks on Co-Chairmanship

2. France announced that Senegal would assume the GFMD co-Chairmanship with France from July 2022 until December 2023. It was highly appreciative of this co-Chairmanship which would enable addressing topics of common interest, such as the overarching theme of climate change and human mobility as well as the topic of diaspora's contribution to development. It would continue the work initiated by the previous Chairs. France and Senegal will present their GFMD Chair's vision in the coming months.
3. Senegal was delighted to take on the co-Chairmanship with France; it recalled the importance of the migration and development nexus. It looked forward to establishing fruitful partnerships among different stakeholders and addressing the concerns of both north and south countries in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation.
4. Ecuador thanked the UAE for its GFMD Chairmanship and Troika leadership. It welcomed Senegal as co-Chair and stressed its continuing engagement in the process as a committed member.
5. The UAE welcomed Senegal to the Troika and the Steering Group. It wished the best of luck to the upcoming co-Chairs. It thanked Ecuador for its long support to the Troika as it had been a

member since 2018. It reiterated its commitment to the GFMD and support to the upcoming co-Chairs.

Remarks and Follow-Up on the GMFD 2021-2022 Agenda

6. France has two priorities in the GFMD 2021-2022 transition period: 1) the GFMD contribution to the IMRF, and 2) the establishment of a permanent GFMD secretariat at IOM. A French secondment to the IOM support function is under consideration and is expected to be in place as of May 2022. Due to the incoming elections in the first semester of 2022, France will not be able to represent the GFMD at the IMRF in New York. France will review the issue within the Troika to identify a solution.

Progress Reports from Committee Chairs

7. **Committee on Long-Term Financial Sustainability**: Egypt welcomed the joint France-Senegal Chairmanship. Three Committee meetings had taken place so far to review the long-term financial framework, including a) the feasibility of introducing a multi-annual funding mechanism and b) streamlining the GFMD financial system through the adoption of a standardized budget template for each Chair-in-Office. To overcome the difficulties inherent in a one-year Chair programme vis-à-vis the need for a multi-annual work plan and matching multi-annual funding, the Committee has been examining the possibility of dividing the GFMD budget into core and non-core items which would enable donors to provide multi-annual contributions to the GFMD core budget. The non-core budget would include all other activities related to the programmes of the Chair-in-Office, such as thematic meetings conducted throughout the year, research costs related to the Chair's chosen themes etc., while the core budget would include a range of items, such as preparatory meetings, staff salaries, carryover from previous years, the long-term thematic agenda including the working groups. The Committee plans to convene further meetings including with the incoming Chairs and the IOM GFMD Team to discuss the feasibility of the recommendations.
8. Another proposal by the Committee is the introduction of a minimal fee structure for Steering Group members. The Committee is reviewing the Graham Pelton report recommendations and working to divide these into two categories – either short-term or long-term implementation. A detailed report by the Committee will be shared in due course.
9. France's offer to co-Chair the Committee on Long-Term Financial Sustainability was welcomed by Egypt.
10. **Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations**: Sweden welcomed the France-Senegal co-Chairmanship and expressed its readiness to assist. Committee members include Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Mexico, the UAE, three GFMD Mechanisms and Youth. It had conducted five meetings thus far. The Concept Note was presented to the SG in June. On its basis, the Committee had prepared 1) a draft Strategy Paper and 2) a draft background paper for the 18 November FoF meeting. FoF participants would be invited to provide written comments to the Troika before the draft Strategy Paper is discussed at the SG meeting later this year and endorsed. The draft background paper aims to 1) inspire the FoF discussion and 2) serve as the draft GFMD input to the IMRF. The paper will be finalized based on the FoF discussion and adopted by the SG by 31 January 2022 at the latest.
11. Regarding GFMD inputs to the UN Secretary General's report to the IMRF scheduled to be published in February 2022, the Troika would have the opportunity to convey messages to the

UN Network on Migration (UNNM) Secretariat in the next two weeks.

12. Switzerland congratulated Senegal for assuming co-Chairmanship with France. Regarding the work of the Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations, Switzerland will not be able to contribute to the UNSG report nor to the GFMD inputs to the IMRF, given that the Swiss Government has not yet taken a final decision on the GCM. Meanwhile Switzerland welcomes the Committee's work as it showcases the complementarity and value added of the GFMD vis-à-vis other platforms, in particular the UNNM.
13. **Committee on Reforms to the Terms of Reference of Governing Documents of the GFMD:** Canada updated the SG with the membership of the Committee namely Canada, Mexico, Switzerland and the UAE. The Committee adopted the proposed language of introducing in the SG ToRs an observer status for the Mechanisms.

Update on Revisions to the GFMD Steering Group Terms of Reference (TORs)

- **During the last Steering Group meeting on June 25 2021**, the Committee on TOR Revisions introduced **five proposed decision-making categories** for the GFMD's main governance bodies (Steering Group, Chair and Troika):
 - Governance reform
 - Thematic priorities
 - Planning and managing GFMD finances and third-party contracting
 - Relations with external partners
 - Stakeholder management
- **A mapping document was then created** to guide the next round of revisions, with a focus on the Steering Group's TORs. The four main categories of proposed changes include:

Minor Amendments to SG Mandate	Responsibilities & Expectations of Members	New Section: Scope of Work	Clarification of Key Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting financial and administrative sustainability • Guiding GFMD relations with stakeholders • Leading governance review processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include new ways members will be encouraged to contribute to the GFMD annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad picture of the SG's work based on the five decision-making categories • Provides clarity on SG's role on key issues like fundraising and identifying priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for requesting SG membership • Use of consensus based decision-making

Presented to the GFMD Steering Group on November 17, 2021

14. The Committee will share a written copy of the above mapping document and the latest draft ToRs. The co-Chairs Canada and the UAE look forward to SG members' feedback and comments in the coming weeks. The Committee plans to have a final version of the new SG ToRs, drafted and approved in the first half of 2022 to ensure the new guidelines are in place by the time France and Senegal assume the co-Chairmanship.

Update on GFMD Finances

15. France announced that it had raised its contribution for the GFMD 2021 to mid-2022 budget to a total of EUR 170,000, having added an additional EUR 115,000 to its initial contribution of EUR 55,000.
16. The UAE presented an update of the estimated GFMD finances for 2021-22 with a caveat that it had not fully cross-referenced the financial report with IOM yet. It was pleased to note that the financial situation was getting healthier with unearmarked pledges totaling approximately USD 614,690. Out of nine member states' pledges, three have been received, i.e. from France (with the additional contribution on the way), the Philippines and the UAE, amounting to

approximately USD 140,632. Sweden's grant is also in the pipeline. The committed GFMD expenditures amount to approximately USD 246,225 and include the support to the meetings of the Troika, SG, FoF and related admin, the support to the Working Groups and Stakeholders and the organization of the 18 November FoF hybrid meeting.

17. IOM informed that the USD 50,000 earmarked contribution by Canada to the Working Group on Public Narratives had been received in April 2021; and it is managed by a separate project and is reported to the donor independently. The expenses of the organization of the 18 November hybrid FoF meeting are expected to be less than USD 25,000 and shall be accounted once all payments are completed.

Adoption of FoF Agenda

18. The UAE, on behalf of the Troika, stated that it was important to hold a FoF meeting in the course of 2021 in order to engage member states and observers whose last interaction with the GFMD was in the Summit in January 2021. A FoF meeting also coincided with the proposal by the Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations to take stock of GFMD's inputs in advance of the IMRF 2022. The FoF Agenda was adopted as follows:

- 1) Opening, Updates and Overview of Stocktaking Process
 - Opening Remarks by the GFMD Troika
 - Update by the Troika on the GFMD Reform Process February-November 2021
 - Overview of the Work of the Committee on GFMD-GCM Relations and Presentation of Key Issues
 - Overview from the Migration Network on the Road to the IMRF
- 2) Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 1: GCM Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18
- 3) Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 2: GCM Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21
- 4) Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 3: GCM Objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22
- 5) Stocktaking on IMRF Roundtable 4: GCM Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23
- 6) Troika Closing Remarks

Prepared by the IOM GFMD Team