



GFMD 2022- 2023 Second Meeting of the Steering Group

Centre International Conferences Genève (CICG), Geneva

Tuesday, April 18, 11:30-13:00 CET

Hybrid

Summary of the Proceedings

- **Opening remarks by the Troika**

1. Mr. François Vandeville, Deputy Ambassador in charge of migrations, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, introduced the meeting thanking representatives of Member States, the GFMD mechanisms and youth for their engagement since the beginning of the French Chair, and IOM for its organizational support.
2. Ms. Alia Ibrahim, Director of International Organizations at the UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization welcomed the progress made so far under the French chair, particularly within roundtable 4, co-chaired by the UAE. Ms. Ibrahim reiterated the UAE commitment to support the progress of the GFMD towards financial sustainability. The former GFMD Chair also renewed its support to the Chair-in-office and welcomed the establishment of a permanent Secretariat. The UAE concluded by encouraging members of the Steering Group to play an active role and ensure the continuity of GFMD activities.

- **Adoption of meeting agenda**

3. The meeting agenda was adopted without any changes.

- **Update on the Chair Calendar**

- ❖ Workshops of the French Chair

4. France successfully launched a series of GFMD thematic workshops by organizing a discussion dedicated to "[*Labour migration in the context of climate change*](#)"¹ held at the

¹ The recordings are available on the GFMD Youtube channel at this [link](#).

ILO headquarters in Geneva on 29 March 2023. The workshop, organized in partnership with GFMD Member States and Observers,² brought together over 180 participants: Over 45 Member States were represented, as well as civil society, the private sector, local authorities, youth, academics and international organizations.

5. Mr. Vandeville invited the audience to participate in the next two thematic workshops of the Chair to be held in Paris on 27-28 June. The first event entitled "[Culture, Narratives and Human mobility](#)" will take place at the French National Immigration History Museum (Musée national de l'Histoire de l'Immigration). The following day, the event will focus on the central and cross-cutting priority of the French program "[Climate change and human mobility](#)", at the headquarters of the French Development Agency (Agence française de développement). Mr. Vandeville emphasized the multi-actor nature of the GFMD and thanked the Member States, mechanisms and partner International Organizations for their contribution to the workshop conception and in particular civil society groups, such as the FORIM³, for their efforts to actively engage diasporas. Mr. Vandeville invited all Steering Group members to contribute and suggest contacts of experts to compose the panels.

❖ Summit and preparatory meetings

6. France expressed appreciation for the progress achieved through the Government-led Roundtable Teams (GRTs) and extended gratitude to the parties involved for their active engagement during the preparatory works leading up to the Summit.
7. **France announced that the 14th Summit of the GFMD will take place from 22 to 26 January 2024 at the International Conference Center (CICG) in Geneva.** The Summit is expected to be held at a high-level and involve all Forum contributors and stakeholders. The decision to hold the Summit in Geneva was preferred due to the congested 2024 agenda in Paris, which includes the 2024 Olympic Games and the Summit of the Francophonie. Despite the change in location, the Chair is committed to organizing an event on the same scale as previous editions. Holding the Summit in Geneva will also be

² The [concept note and program](#) for this workshop were developed in partnership with the governments of Argentina, Sweden, Vanuatu, the International Organization of Employers (IOE) hosting the GFMD Business Mechanism, the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism, the GFMD Mayors Mechanism, the Migration Youth and Children Platform, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF and World Bank.

³ FORIM: [Réseau des diasporas solidaires](#).

an opportunity to maximize the participation of delegations and foster relations with UN institutions. France also confirmed the possibility to sponsor the travel of delegates from low and middle-income countries. An updated version of the calendar of upcoming events will be provided by the Secretariat. The next (and last) preparatory meetings on 24-25 October remain unchanged.

8. Mr. Vandeville introduced the French team leading the Chair and Summit organization: Olivier Lacroix, the future Secretary General in charge of the coordination for the Summit organization; Romain Régulaire, Head of Governance, Transparency and Accountability Unit at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, heading the Summit from Paris; Alison Larcher and Oscar Faulconnier, as GFMD focal points in Paris.
9. Responding to SG questions, France indicated that the CIGC has been securely reserved for the scheduled period and to have selected the dates avoiding overlaps with other international events.

- **GFMD Governance**

- ❖ Financial outlook: pledges by member states to contribute to 2022-2023

10. The Chair provided an overview of the GFMD financial outlook. As of 31 March 2023, the Chair had secured USD 770,000, one third of the targeted budget. France expressed gratitude to Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Philippines, Mexico and the UAE for their recent voluntary contributions. The current fundraising target is approximately USD 1,150,000. The mid-term financial review is promising and additional contributions in the coming months will be welcome. Objectives include covering the USD 600,000 for Secretariat operating costs and allocating USD 500,000 to sponsor delegates from eligible countries for travel support to attend the Summit. The Chair emphasized that the GFMD's functioning, largely supported by France, relies solely on international financial mobilization.

- ❖ Update on the establishment of the GFMD Secretariat

11. France thanked the Steering Group for its continuous support in establishing the GFMD Secretariat. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Chair on behalf of the GFMD and the Director General of IOM on 18 January 2023. The Secretariat was officially established on the 1st of February. The team is currently composed by Ms.

- Barbara Sidoti, Head of the Secretariat, Ms. Anqi Zhang, Administration and Finance, and Mr. Claude-Henry Dinand, Technical Expert deployed by France. A fourth member is currently being recruited and should join the team in May.
12. The Philippines thanked the Chair for revitalizing the GFMD process through substantive and concrete outcomes and stressed the importance to steer forward the GFMD, confirming the renewal and increase of the Philippines' voluntary contribution and encouraging Member States to offer support and match the Chair's level of ambition.
 13. Germany expressed appreciation for the establishment of the permanent Secretariat and the signature of the MoU, as well as the close partnership between GFMD and IOM, indicating that Germany's financial contribution primarily supports the Secretariat.
 14. The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it has planned to make a financial contribution of approximately 50,000 euros. This contribution would be mainly to support the financing of the Secretariat.
 15. The UAE welcomed the re-establishment of the Secretariat and indicated that a voluntary contribution for 2023 had already been included in the national budget; the specific amount is to be confirmed. A contribution will also be foreseen for 2024 for the incoming Chair. The UAE highlighted the need to ensure financial security for the next Chair.
 16. France confirmed its commitment to leave a positive balance at the end of the Chair to support the next Chair in office.
- ❖ Update on SG sub-committees (Revisions to the Terms of Reference of Governing Bodies, Financial Sustainability)
17. France reported that two of the sub-committees initiated under the UAE Chair are still active and open for contributions. The Committee on Financial Sustainability recently convened and will present recommendations at the next preparatory meetings in October. The Chair acknowledged the committee's input and committed to improving communication regarding fundraising targets.
 18. Egypt thanked the other Co-Chairs of the sub-committee on financial sustainability (Canada, Switzerland, the UAE and France) and the Secretariat for the productive discussions. The sub-committee meetings aim to develop proposals and alternatives for a better sustainability of the Forum and to increase predictability of core functions.
 19. Canada, as a member of the Governance Sub-Committee, provided an update on the revision of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Steering Group initiated with the UAE in

2020, to ensure a more active and engaged Steering Group. The revised ToRs include significant changes, such as the development of a multi-year agenda aligned with SDGs - in addition to the Chair's own program - and a three-year cycle for SG States membership to foster active engagement and efficient decision-making. Canada clarified that these engagements are not contingent on financial contributions, but also include the chairing or co-chairing of GFMD working groups.

20. The UAE recalled that the process of Governance reforms and revision of the TORs is linked to the work of the Sub-Committee on the Financial Sustainability of the GFMD and that all processes need to be aligned.
21. France indicated that with the Secretariat now established and funding progress made, the priority will shift to finalize the work of the sub-committees. France also recalled the importance of a proactive Steering Group and expressed interest in hearing proposals from SG members on how to ensure active engagement within the SG.

- **Reports of activities by the Mechanisms and Working Groups**

- ❖ Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration

22. France summarised the activities of the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration co-chaired by the UAE, France and the Civil Society Mechanism. After one year of vacant Chair, the timely submission of the [GFMD Focused input to the 2023 HLPF](#) report has been made possible by France taking the vacant seat. The report focuses on SDGs n°6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 and on responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Co-Chairs thanked all contributors and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the compilation of contributions to the Platform of Partnerships, which could be included as an annex to the report.

- ❖ Working group on Public Narratives on Migration

23. The GFMD Mayors Mechanism, as Co-Chair of the Working Group with Canada and Ecuador, welcomed the extension of the WG mandate for two more years and shared an update on WG activities. In addition to the [It Takes A Community \(ITAC\)](#) initiative, the WG held a meeting in March featuring two initiatives: The Citizen Perception Laboratory on Migration of the Interamerican Development Bank and the OECD upcoming Netcom meeting focusing on migration narratives. These initiatives will be captured in the ITAC repository and contribute to the preparation of roundtable 5. Canada presented an

update on the ITAC campaign, highlighting the [Expert Dialogue on Narrative](#) held in February, with a focus on the South American region, and announced that the Working group will organize a meeting at the Canadian Embassy on 26 June, at the margins of the June GFMD workshops to be held in Paris (in-person and online).

- **Any Other Business**

24. The Business Mechanism informed the SG that several position papers are being developed on the following topics: The impact of remote work on mobility; the impact of climate change on migration from employers' perspective; the business case for migration and the importance of legal pathways for migrants; skills recognition. The GFMD business mechanism reiterated their eagerness to work with MS and the other mechanisms to contribute to the dialogue process, bringing the experience, data and enterprise of the private sector into the GFMD dialogue.
25. Civil Society representatives thanked the Chair for supporting financially the mechanisms and welcomed other States' potential commitments to support their activities. The GFMD activities of civil society started in January 2023 with the Abuja Forum, co-organized by African civil society and diaspora networks. The Abuja statement is available on the [Civil Society website](#). The Civil Society Forum in Dakar discussed engagement from Africa and Europe towards the GFMD. Further consultations are underway in the MENA region and Asia. French civil society has formed a network in preparation for the GFMD Summit. Finally, the first Global Civil Society Consultation, held on April 12, gathered civil society inputs in response to the outlines for the Summit roundtables background papers. Civil Society reiterated it will contribute actively to the June workshops and announced the Civil Society Preparatory meeting of the GFMD Summit will take place on the 22 January. About 200-250 civil society delegates are expected to participate.
26. The Youth representatives thanked the Chair and participants for the presentation of their activities and reaffirmed youth engagement to making the GFMD 2022-2023 edition innovative and engaging. MYCP expressed its intention to host the Youth Forum directly before the Summit and confirmed the holding of the Youth Leadership and Innovation Awards. They invited Member States to support the participation of young delegates and expressed gratitude for the Chair's financial contribution and willingness to engage youth in their program.

27. The Mayors Mechanism is preparing to actively engage in GFMD activities, especially in roundtable 6 co-chaired with Kenya and Azerbaijan. The Mayors Mechanism will also focus on climate change and human mobility by organizing a peer-learning activity and contributing to discussions related to culture and narratives. The Mayors Mechanism aims to continue the Call to Local Action for migrants and refugees to bring concrete actions from cities to the discussions.
28. The Chair recalled that culture had never been put on the international migration agenda before France made it one of the priorities of its tenure of the GFMD and concluded the meeting thanking all Member States, the GFMD mechanisms and youth for supporting the preparations of a successful GFMD Summit.