



Recommendations to the GFMD Steering Group

Discussion Note on Cluster 1: Policy, Partnerships, Peer-Review (3P)

The discussion notes, prepared by the 2019 GFMD Chair, Ecuador, seek to engage the SG members in a constructive dialogue on the recommendations formulated in the report of the GFMD 10-year review and initiate a process towards the formulation of an action plan with a view to implementation and follow-up.

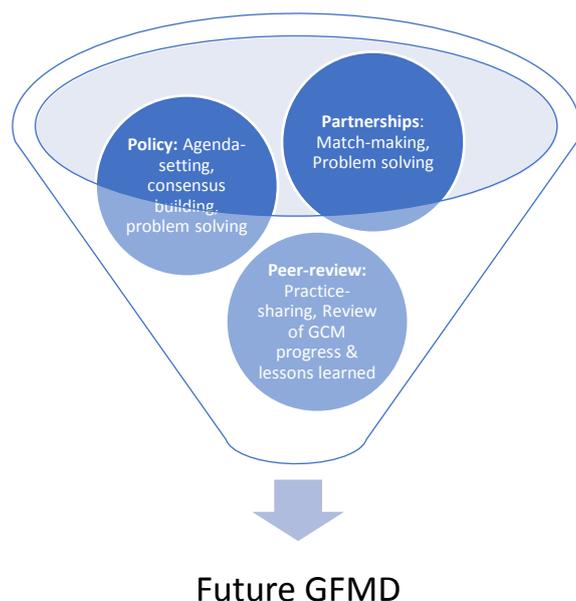
In line with the proposed cluster structure, this particular note intends to steer the first GFMD preparatory meeting in February 2019 with a view to ensuring action-oriented proposals with concrete timelines for implementation on Cluster 1 of the 10-year review report: **Policy, Partnerships and Peer-Review (3P)**.

1. Added Value of GFMD in view of the changing political environment

The report has found that GFMD stakeholders primarily value the Forum as an informal **policy** space for dialogue and networking where sensitive issues can be addressed and trust is built in the process. In addition, the GFMD is required to expand its role in facilitating the formation of multi-stakeholder **partnerships**, establish a role as a platform for **peer-reviewing** processes in the implementation of agreed commitments (including the 2030 Agenda and the GCM); and ensure a role as a central hub for exchange of data and knowledge and for supporting learning and capacity development – in short: **3Ps**.

2. Recommendations and possible actions

The GFMD is advised to move forward with three distinct spaces: Policy, Partnerships and Peer-Review. These spaces would structure GFMD activities at the Summit but also throughout the annual preparatory process.



The Policy Space:

One objective of the GFMD going forward should be to deepen policy dialogue among a wider range of stakeholders and promote coherence among the different state bodies on a national level. While setting the thematic agenda should remain a prerogative of the Chair-in-Office, the dialogue on the thematic priorities could involve a broader range of non-state stakeholders on an international level and activate line ministries on a national level. It is also desirable to include more systematically research findings into policy discussions. In doing so, the following actions could be considered:

- **Establish sector-specific networks** that would bring together key ministries and agencies (e.g. interior, labor, social affairs, and development) on a voluntary and regular basis to discuss policy. This could foster understanding among officials that are not usually involved in international cooperation, encourage inter-ministerial communication at the national level ahead of GFMD Summits, and a more holistic approach to national policy-making on migration and development. A model is the G20. The GFMD Summit could remain the purview of predominantly ministries of foreign affairs representing their countries, but its policy deliberations would be informed by the range of sectoral perspectives emerging from the consultations.
- **Establish issue-specific, multi-stakeholder working groups** that are State-led but include other relevant stakeholders (e.g., civil society, private sector, and local authorities), to give sustained attention to difficult policy questions, for example the issue of mixed migration. This would be in keeping with the spirit of the GCM process of including stakeholders upfront in identifying problems and formulating policy options, not just in down-stream discussions on policy implementation. While convened under the auspices of the GFMD, such working groups could rotate to address specific regional or sub-regional contexts and dynamics.
- **Create a dedicated window for interaction with the research community** (think tanks, academia) – online, at SG and FOF meetings, and during GFMD Summits – giving

researchers a chance to present and provide analysis of important findings and trends and allowing governments and others to ask questions and discuss policy implications. Such a format could be organized in partnership with KNOMAD and/or the IOM's Research Syndicate, for example.

- ***Differentiate the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meetings:*** The profile of the SG could be raised by cultivating it as a Group of Friends, enrolling the network of former GFMD Chairs to help curate informal meetings at the Ambassadorial/Director General level. The frequency of FOF meetings could be reduced to twice a year, featuring a more substantive agenda, for example by inviting expert presentations or facilitating a dialogue among stakeholders.
- ***Introduce state-of-the-art facilitation techniques*** at the GFMD Summit and in other meeting formats, inter alia RT preparatory meetings, by insourcing outside professional expertise to offer GFMD focal points and/or participants a chance to learn facilitation skills as a professional development opportunity embedded in the GFMD process with a view to subsequently engaging their skills in the GFMD process.

2.1 Guiding Questions/Points of Discussion on the Policy Space

- Please share your country's experience in establishing sector-specific networks to bring together key ministries and agencies in similar processes (e.g. G20)?
- Are there any issue-specific, multi-stakeholder working groups in your country in the context of migration and development, and which actors are involved and why?
- What would be the best format to allow for interaction between the GFMD and the research community: 1) throughout the year and 2) at the annual Summit?
- Would your country attend the SG and FoF meetings more frequently if the agendas were differentiated to a greater extent and if the number of FoF meetings was reduced to twice a year?
- What would be the formats (either throughout the year or at the Summit) that would most benefit from the introduction of state-of-the-art facilitation techniques? Would your country be interested in learning professional facilitation skills such as professional dialogue?

The Partnerships Space:

Based on the survey, another objective of the GFMD is to facilitate the formation of multi-stakeholder implementation partnerships. The following actions might support this objective:

- ***Establish a solutions-driven "marketplace" to match potential partners***, both online and in-person. To this end, the Platform for Partnerships should be reoriented from a passive repository of good practices into an active match-making mechanism. It would seek out governments and other stakeholders that have a specific solution or tools to share (e.g. for facilitating a bilateral labor migration agreement), and who are willing to advise others, and would link them up with governments and stakeholders that are seeking to develop their own solutions. The GFMD could support match-making among partners, as well as networking among beneficiaries who are developing similar solutions. The actual follow-up and cooperation among the partners could be accompanied by IOM and the UN

Migration Network, thus creating synergies between the GFMD Partnership space and the foreseen connection hub of the Capacity Building Mechanism.

- **Support the formation of outcome-oriented partnerships through Migration Laboratories:** Building on the [Migration Lab](#) pilot that was undertaken during the German-Moroccan GFMD Co-Chairmanship, the GFMD could seek to forge an operational partnership under its roof that would advance the replication of Migration Labs, but tailored to specific regional, national and local contexts. All GFMD stakeholders, including governments, civil society, business, and mayors could be eligible to propose or request a Lab to tackle a specific problem (e.g. lowering recruitment costs, rescue at sea, skills recognition...) in a particular context. The Lab experiences, lessons learned, and results could be documented and shared through the GFMD, including to inform its inputs to the IMRF.
- **Strengthen the system of GFMD focal points** by asking States to designate a Technical Committee on Migration and Development (TCMD) composed of relevant government agencies that would provide a broader interface for the GFMD and a motor for action on migration and development nationally, including by seeking actively to promote partnerships and cooperation with other States.

2.2 Guiding Questions/Points of Discussion on the Partnerships Space

- What is your country's experience with the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships and to what extent would your country benefit from an online and offline marketplace? Are there specific good practices and tools you would like to address with other potential stakeholders?
- If you have heard about the Migration Laboratory, would your country be interested in organizing a similar Lab? If so, what issue(s) would you like the Lab to address and what kind of stakeholders would have to be present? If not, would you like to hear more about it or would you like to take part in a demo session (similar to the Marrakech side event)?
- In how far would your country benefit from a designated Technical Committee on Migration and Development (TCMD) composed of relevant government agencies to provide a broader interface for the GFMD (strengthen Focal Point system)?

The Peer-Review Space:

In fulfillment of its reporting role to both the GCM (through IMRF) and the migration-related SDGs (through HLPF), the GFMD should offer a safe space for peer-learning and multi-stakeholder dialogue on GCM and SDG implementation. In doing so, following actions might be considered:

- **Introduce a peer-review space into the GFMD** that straddles both, the Government Days and the Common Space. The review could be organized thematically, around clusters of GCM objectives, as well as around cross-cutting implementation and review challenges, such as developing and financing national GCM implementation plans, exploring various partnership models, and the development and testing of indicators for measuring progress. The latter issues may require more in-depth and continued discussion, e.g. in the form of a working group or Lab.

- **Develop an online “Learning Hub”** that would extend the existing online Platform for Partnerships (PfP) and improve upon it by a) introducing “quality control” criteria for good practices and, potentially offering States and others who have submitted practices the opportunity to access evaluation services; and b) developing more interactive tools for online knowledge sharing, such as online communities of practice, tutorials and online learning courses. An effort to build out the online “Learning Hub” could be overseen by the SDG/GCM Working Group of the GFMD¹ and led by the Support Unit, working in close coordination with the UN Migration Network Secretariat to ensure synergies and potentially pool resources with the foreseen knowledge platform of the GCM Capacity Building Mechanism

2.3 Guiding Questions/Points of Discussion on the Peer-Review Space

- To what extent would your country benefit from a dedicated peer-review space during the Government Days and the Common Space? Would a thematic organization around the GCM clusters and/or migration-related SDGs help your country report to the IMRF and/or HLPF respectively?
- Would it be useful for your country if the Platform for Partnerships (PfP) introduces a quality control and develops more interactive tools for knowledge sharing, with the end in view of transforming the PfP into a “Learning Hub”?

3. Resource Implications

This should indicate human and financial resources that may be required. If the SG approves this vision and provides concrete suggestions/ideas during the Feb. 20 preparatory meeting, a more detailed proposal may be submitted ahead of the next SG meeting in May.

¹ Renamed as Sustainable Development and International Migration