

CHAIR'S CONCLUSIONS

by **Ambassador Mehmet Samsar**
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Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the closing session of the 8th GFMD Summit Meeting.

Please allow me to deliver some conclusions from the Turkish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development for 2014-2015.

Turkey assumed the GFMD Chairmanship in July 2014, following in the excellent footsteps of the past Chair Sweden, in the aftermath of the 2nd High Level Dialogue that affirmed the importance of migration as an issue inter-linked with development, protection and other policy fields. The High Level dialogue also highlighted the contribution of the Global Forum process to promoting the dialogue and cooperation on migration and development at national, regional and international levels.

The inter-governmental process on the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the Financing for Development process, also provided a backdrop to the Turkish GFMD Chairmanship.

In addition, the GFMD Chairmanship coincided with the Turkish Chairmanship of the G-20 process, and the World Humanitarian Summit.

Seizing these opportunities to link migration with relevant processes, the Turkish GFMD Chair organized its thematic agenda and work plan under three key objectives:

- Firstly, we aimed to **enhance the focus of migration management** on the rights, dignity and well-being of the migrant, incorporating a variety of perspectives, including civil society and migrants themselves.
- Secondly, we wanted to promote the universal **recognition of the development impact of migration in public policies.**
- Thirdly, we strived to **engage relevant stakeholders in strengthening the linkages between migration and development.**

It was an ambitious agenda, but we take satisfaction that progress was made as a result of our collective efforts.

As you know, the GFMD is much more than a single Summit meeting. Intensive preparations have taken place through the last 16 months. We convened five rounds of preparatory meetings in Geneva and four thematic meetings. The preparatory meetings allowed us to develop a broad consensus on the topics of the three roundtables that are the substantive core of the GFMD, and on the overarching concept paper in which we laid out our vision for the 2015 GFMD. The first thematic meeting addressed the place of migration in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and the challenges of monitoring and implementing the migration-related targets within the SDGs. This meeting contributed to the momentum that finally secured a place for migration in the 2030 Development Agenda, and helped us to realize the second objective I just mentioned.

The second thematic meeting dealt with the communications challenges of portraying migrants and migration in an accurate and positive light. Misperceptions feed anti-migrant sentiment – false information about who migrants are, why they leave their countries, and what role they play in countries of destination needs to be countered with evidence, exposure and public advocacy.

The third thematic meeting was devoted to the role of migrant women, with their particular contributions to development and the stability of migrant families and communities, but also with specific vulnerabilities as they travel and arrive in unfamiliar destinations. Empowering migrant women is a key to realizing our objective of focusing migration policy on the rights and dignity and well-being of migrants.

We convened a fourth, ad hoc thematic meeting on the crisis in the Mediterranean last July. This meeting showed the GFMD's ability to go beyond its set program when urgent issues arise, and respond to the preoccupations of states as unanticipated issues arise. The meeting was a rare occasion in which countries of origin, transit and destination all participated on an equal basis in a discussion of the migrants and refugees moving across the Mediterranean. It emphasized the critical importance of sharing information and responsibility among all the states involved in the Mediterranean crisis.

- In trying to meet our objectives, the Turkish Chair was guided by the constant need to ensure that all activities are underpinned by wide consultations and broad consensus. We wanted a Forum that aimed at strengthening partnership to promote human mobility for sustainable development, our key theme. In addition to the thematic meetings that I just mentioned, five rounds of preparatory meetings were held in Geneva, as well as a GFMD-GMG-G-20 joint event in Izmir in June 2015, a GFMD business meeting in Istanbul in May 2015.

To pursue our ambitious and bold agenda, six Roundtable sessions were organized by some 52 governments, and were finally held yesterday. We heard the key outcomes of these RT discussions from the General Rapporteurs today. We also heard the highlights of the special sessions on the Future of the Forum and the Platform for Partnerships. We heard the endorsement of the new GFMD private sector interaction mechanism that will be implemented under the 2016 Chairmanship.

A comprehensive report will be prepared by the GFMD Support Unit and will be disseminated to all in due course.

We hope that we leave Istanbul with a conviction that we have all been enriched by this week's discussions and side events, and that the Turkish Chair has managed to continue the good work of the preceding Chairs-in-Office to make the Global Forum a more effective and efficient process.

Follow up action

During this week-long GFMD discussions that began with the Civil Society Days, we heard 2 recurring themes. One is the need to take *action*. Even though the GFMD is not a body that makes binding decisions, it cannot be just about talk. The discussions that take place here, in the formal sessions and in the margins have already led to some cooperative actions. Many of the policies and programs have been uploaded on the GFMD Platform for Partnerships for everyone to use in their policy making initiatives.

The second recurring theme that we heard across Roundtable discussions is the imperative need for *partnerships* among countries, between civil society and governments, and partnerships with the private sector. This partnership theme as you know lies at the center of the Turkish GFMD Chair's priorities.

These two themes—action and partnership—need to be anchored in specific programs and lead to real outcomes that make a difference in the lives of migrants.

The GFMD has pushed forward several issues that governments and all concerned stakeholders can continue to help translate into action, such as protecting and assisting *migrants in countries in crisis* to *migrants in transit*, *lowering the human and the financial costs of migration*.

We also heard echoes across Roundtable sessions, side events, and other activities for the Global Forum to take an active role in the implementation and follow up of the migration-relevant 2030 Development goals and targets.

I wish that the GFMD in the future will succeed in further consolidating the links between migration and development and helping to improve the conditions of migrants and their families through smarter, joined-up policies and programs. This is all the more important in the face of emerging challenges and the recent crisis in the Mediterranean and those involving other forcibly displaced persons.

The Mediterranean crisis and other similar challenges signal a call to action for the Global Forum community to exercise collective political leadership to address the attendant negative consequences of human mobility, while trying to maximize its potentials for sustainable development.

Acknowledgements

Let me stress that the preparatory activities and the 2015 GFMD Summit were only made possible thanks to the efforts of all fellow member states and observers of the GFMD, our civil society partners and all other stakeholders, who in one way or another contributed to its success.

I am very grateful to the financial contributions made by 17 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

I wish to acknowledge the Global Migration Group under the successive leadership by the International Labour Organization in 2014 and the World Bank in 2015, and in particular to GMG member agencies and working groups that have lent technical and substantive support for the organization of thematic meetings, development of background papers and identification of national experts.

In this regard, special thanks go to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and to IOM Director General, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, for the invaluable assistance that IOM has provided throughout the Turkish Chairmanship of the Global Forum.

The Turkish Chair is also thankful for the work of the International Catholic Migration Commission, coordinating office of the Civil Society process.

I am very grateful to the Troika members, Sweden and Bangladesh, the Steering Group, the Friends of the Forum and Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, for their active engagement and constant guidance throughout the year.

I wish to also express my deepest appreciation to the Migration Policy Institute, particularly Miss Kathleen Newland, and to the GFMD Support Unit, under the leadership of Ms Estrella Lajom. Their hard work and dedication supported all activities of the Turkish Chairmanship in 2014-2015.

Finally, I wish to conclude by thanking you all for your dynamic participation and excellent cooperation throughout the Turkish Chairmanship of the Global Forum.

Turkey will remain in the Troika and will support the aspirations of the incoming GFMD Chair Bangladesh for a stronger and more relevant Global Forum process.

Thank you and I wish you a safe journey back to your countries, and an enjoyable time for the rest of your stay in Istanbul.