

Special Session on the Future of the Forum

Thursday, 29 June 2017, 8h30-10h30

Agenda

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2017-2018, Germany

Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs, GFMD Co-Chair 2017-18

Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration

I. From Dhaka to Berlin

- *Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2017-2018, Germany*
- *Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs, GFMD Co-Chair 2017-18*

Presentation on GFMD's major steps during the German-Moroccan Co-Chairmanship until the Berlin Summit Meeting, including a contribution to the High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (HLPF), Dialogue Events and Thematic Workshops related to the Global Compact on Migration, efforts to further strengthen GFMD's communication activities, and the collaboration with civil society and the private sector.

II. The Lay of the Land – People, Agreements and Institutions on the Move

- *Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration*

The High Level Dialogue 2006 gave birth to GFMD as a voluntary, informal and government-led platform for dialogue on international migration and development. Ten years later, migration is reflected in the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Most recently, the New York Declaration called for a Global Compact on Migration, constituting a framework for agreements on the ever burning issues: mixed flows of people are increasingly leaving their homes in search of safety or a better future, while states, institutions and multi-partner initiatives are strengthening their efforts to best facilitate safe, regular and orderly migration.

- What are the major trends that GFMD needs to prepare for?
- What are others doing, and what support can GFMD count on?
- Where and how can GFMD make a difference in this context?

III. Keynote: Milestones and Footprints – GFMD’s Path in the Migration Landscape

- *Ms. Kathleen Newland, Senior Fellow and Co-Founder, Migration Policy Institute*

GFMD connects a vast network of stakeholders and facilitates a truly multi-stakeholder engagement in its consultation process. The forum is commonly recognized as an informal space outside of the UN system, where member states and other stakeholders can openly discuss all dimensions of migration and development, including controversial aspects, without confrontation. Thus, GFMD has been paramount in building trust and shared understanding over the past ten years on a wide range of migration issues, and helped pave the way for the September Summit of 2016 and its call to develop a Global Compact on Migration.

- What are GFMD’s main achievements and impacts?
- How has GFMD’s unique character evolved over the last decade?
- Is GFMD still focused on the relationship between migration and development? Should it be?
- What assets of GFMD should be strengthened, and what can possibly complement these in the future?

IV. Common Ground and New Horizons – A Vision for GFMD’s Continued Purpose

Open Discussion

The Sutherland Report comments on GFMD’s continued purpose in the following way:

“As migration is becoming more firmly anchored in the UN, the GFMD’s membership will face inevitable questions regarding the Forum’s continued purpose and added value. I propose that, in the immediate future, the GFMD serve to support consensus-building on an ambitious global compact on migration and to advance the implementation of the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda. The Forum could be a place where governments and other stakeholders report on their efforts to fulfill their SDG commitments and also serve as a platform to facilitate partnerships to deliver on these commitments, the results of which should feed into the UN’s High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the body designated to review progress towards SDG achievement. To this end, the GFMD should consider adopting a multi-year programme of work equipping itself with a more robust secretariat and strengthening its role as a policy review body that helps States more systematically assess and evaluate the effectiveness of their policy choices. It may also want to consider governance reforms to encourage genuine joint ownership by States, civil society and the private sector.” (Recommendation 15)

- What would we like to see GFMD achieve in the future? What impacts should we expect?
- Which possible future roles for GFMD are consistent with these?
- How do we prepare ourselves to bring about these outcomes?

V. From Berlin to Marrakech

- *Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2017-2018, Germany*
- *Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs, GFMD Co-Chair 2017-18*

Presentation on GFMD’s contribution to the GCM, and upcoming meetings.

VI. Conclusions

- *Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration*