



Global Forum on Migration and Development

**First Meeting
Belgium, 9-11 July 2007**

Programme and Agenda

Dear participants,

On behalf of the Government of Belgium, we would like to welcome you in Brussels for the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Since the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York last September, we have been meeting regularly with you, or your representatives, to build this new process and define the themes that will be addressed during this meeting.

We are all aware that the close relation between migration and development needs to be addressed pro-actively in order to meet the challenges this complex relationship poses and to benefit from the opportunities it offers. Bilateral and regional initiatives, political statements and research have been stressing this need during the last decade. It is now time for governments to act together at the global level and to consider how migration can contribute to development, but also to analyse what development can do to prevent people from migrating by necessity.

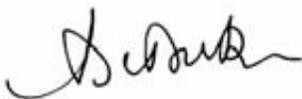
We hope that these two days will offer you the opportunity to meet with other delegates in an informal and interactive dialogue, enabling you to leave Brussels with innovative ideas, projects or partnerships related to the different issues that will be addressed during the roundtable sessions.

At each roundtable session that will be held during these two days, we invite you to work together with other government delegates, and to reflect upon proposals for action-oriented outcomes that could be pursued voluntarily through concrete follow up to enhance the mutual benefits of migration and development. The informality and interactivity of our debate should enable you to come forward with concrete suggestions and proposals, based on your respective experiences and on what you have been learning more than on what you have been doing. These sessions will also benefit from the expertise of civil society representatives and international organisations.

Keeping in mind that the GFMD process should also ensure that development is not instrumentalised for migration management purposes, and to avoid that migration is seen as an alternative to development at either individual or country levels, we hope that our discussions will convince you to act, together with others, on the implementation of some of the outcomes and recommendations of this first GFMD meeting.

The Government of Belgium has offered to prepare and host the first meeting of the GFMD, but this Forum is not a Belgian Forum; it is the Forum of all the participating governments. By initiating the first meeting of the Forum we hope we will together succeed in moving forward this new and innovative global process and that our work will ultimately result in concrete actions that will serve the well-being of our populations.

We wish you a fruitful meeting in Brussels.



Armand De Decker
Minister for Development
Cooperation of Belgium



Karel De Gucht
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Belgium



Patrick Dewael
Vice Prime Minister and Minister
of the Interior of Belgium

1. Context and objectives of the GFMD

In September 2006, the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development took place in the framework of the General Assembly of the United Nations. On this occasion, a large number of UN Member States expressed their interest in continuing the dialogue on migration and development by means of an informal, voluntary and state-led global forum. Belgium took the initiative to organise the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in July 2007.

Conceived as an informal, non binding, multilateral and state-led process, the GFMD is open to all UN Member States. It is intended to add value to the current debate on international migration and development by fostering international cooperation, enhancing inter-state dialogue and discussing and promoting practical and innovative policy ideas on the migration and development nexus. Through a participatory approach and sustained dialogue between developing and developed countries, the GFMD seeks to arrive at common and evidence-based understandings on those areas where migration policies have the greatest potential to contribute to development, where development offers opportunities for people that, otherwise, migrate by necessity and where development policies take greater account of migration and its potential benefits for development, without migration becoming a substitute for development.

This first meeting of the GFMD has the following specific objectives:

- To address issues related to migration and development in a manner that goes beyond mere analysis.
- To identify best practices and processes to ensure mutual migration and development benefits.
- To explore innovative approaches, and enhance cooperation among countries in order to produce concrete outcomes.
- To enhance knowledge and understanding of the mutual impact of migration and development policies and to build the case for a shift in its paradigm.
- To promote greater policy coherence ways and means among decision makers in order to maximise the positive impact and minimise the risks of migration for development.
- To lay the foundation for the future of the GFMD, both in terms of follow up to the outcomes and recommendations of the first meeting and the longer term evolution of the GFMD process.

2. Programme of the First Meeting of the GFMD

The Forum meeting in Brussels will comprise two interrelated parts: a meeting of civil society representatives on July 9, organised by the King Baudouin Foundation, and a discussion by government representatives on July 10-11.

In November 2006, a questionnaire was sent to all UN Member States to help the Government of Belgium define priorities for discussion at the first meeting of the GFMD and to nominate a focal point, responsible for the national coordination of the Forum. More than 120 answers were received, from which more than 90 answers were identifying a substantiated list of priorities, with a fair balance among regions and between developed and developing countries. Three themes have been identified on the basis of these priorities. They will be addressed during the meeting through three roundtables running in parallel over the two days.

Roundtable 1: Human Capital Development and Labour Mobility: Maximising Opportunities and Minimising Risks

People and their education and skills are key to any country's development and growth. But in a globalised world, workers are increasingly going international, pulled by higher income and life opportunities elsewhere, and pushed by lack of opportunity at home. These movements are occurring between developed and developing worlds, but also among developing countries, with different but linked impacts and policy challenges in each case. Alongside capital and trade flows, the mobility of high skilled and lower skilled people can bring benefits to developing and developed countries alike. But it also has its risks and costs. Smart migration and development policies and partnerships, between governments and between public and private sectors, can help maximise the opportunities and minimise the risks for migrants, their families and developing communities back home.

Roundtable 2: Remittances and other Diaspora Resources: Increasing their net Volume and Development Value

Remittances have attracted growing interest in economic and development research and policy during the last decade. Even though precise data are lacking- notably due to the existence of large informal transfers- it is today broadly acknowledged that remittances are an important source of funding for developing countries, not only in terms of some developing countries' GDPs or export ratios, but also with regard to other financial flows such as ODA or FDI. Remittances are, due to their very nature, private flows, which cannot be appropriated by governments, but whose development potential can be opened up through options incentives and tools designed and implemented by governments in partnership with other stakeholders. They do not diminish the need for ODA nor are they an alternative to the development efforts by governments. Beyond remittances, diasporas also carry out various activities- such as philanthropy, professional capacity building, etc. which have an important development potential for their country of origin.

Roundtable 3: Enhancing Institutional and Policy Coherence, and Promoting Partnerships

The idea that migration and development are intertwined and should be addressed within a coherent policy and institutional framework has gained ground in policy circles in recent years. However whilst there is growing recognition that the achievement of sustainable development objectives, including the UN Millennium Development Goals, can be supported and reinforced by better managing the positive effects of migration on development, at the level of policy-making the two fields remain too often largely unlinked and uncoordinated.

3. Follow-up

This first meeting of the GFMD should not be considered as a one-time exercise. It is intended that the practical outcomes of this meeting will be the subject of concrete follow-up action by participating governments and that such on-going action will also contribute to the continued usefulness and sustainability of the Forum process. The decision by the Government of the Philippines to organise the next meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2008 is therefore warmly welcomed.

Tuesday 10 July

AGENDA

07.30 - 08.30	Registration at meeting site – Location: Palais d’Egmont, Place du petit Sablon, 1000 Brussels (P.S: FOR SECURITY REASONS NO LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE PERMITTED)					
09.00 - 09.10	Introductory speech by H.E. Ms. Régine De Clercq, Ambassador for Migration and Asylum Policy - Belgian Executive Director of the GFMD					
09.10 - 10.30	Plenary Session in the presence of His Majesty King Albert II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Opening Speeches:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium • H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations - <u>Keynote Speech:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission - <u>Special Guests Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Sir John Kaputin, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States • H.E. Professor Alpha Oumar Konare, Former President of Mali, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union • Professor Ernesto Zedillo, Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization, former President of Mexico 					
10.30 - 13.00	Plenary Session and General Debate Chair: H.E. Ms. Régine De Clercq, Ambassador for Migration and Asylum Policy - Belgian Executive Director of the GFMD					
10.30 - 12.00	- <u>Interventions by participants</u>					
12.00 – 13.00	- <u>Report of the Civil Society Day: Findings and discussions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Professor Susan Martin, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University 					
13.00 - 15.00	Lunch offered by the Government of Belgium					
15.00 - 18.00	Roundtable 1 Human Capital Development		Roundtable 2 Remittances and Other Diaspora Resources		Roundtable 3 Enhancing Coherence and Promoting Partnerships	
	<u>Session 1.1:</u> Highly skilled migration: balancing interests and responsibilities EGMONT II conference room Chairs: Mr. Mark Lowcock, United Kingdom and Dr. Ken Sagoe, Ghana	<u>Session 1.2:</u> Temporary labour migration as a contribution to development: sharing responsibility Conference room “Palais d’Egmont” Chairs: Ms. Marta Rodríguez-Tarduchy, Spain and Mr. Youssef Amrani, Morocco	<u>Session 2.1:</u> Improving the formal transfer of remittances and reducing their cost DV01 conference room Chair: Mr. Diwa C.Guinigundo, Philippines	<u>Session 2.4:</u> Working with diasporas for development Blue conference room Chair: H.E. Mr. Manjaiiv Singh Puri, India	<u>Session 3.1:</u> Measuring migration and development impacts: latest initiatives and progress Orange conference room Chair: Ms. Marjatta Rasi, Finland	<u>Session 3.3:</u> Discussion on the future of the GFMD (Heads of governmental delegations only) Press room Chair: Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative -UN
18.30	Departure for « Walking Dinner », offered by the Government of Belgium at the Royal Museum for Central Africa and its gardens, at Tervuren					

Wednesday 11 July

09.00 - 12.00	Roundtable 1 Human Capital Development		Roundtable 2 Remittances and Other Diaspora Resources		Roundtable 3 Enhancing Coherence and Promoting Partnerships	
	<p><u>Session 1.3:</u> The role of other-than-government partners in strengthening the developmental contribution of temporary labour migration</p> <p>Conference room "Palais d'Egmont"</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Dr. Hamidur Rashid, Bangladesh</p>	<p><u>Session 1.4:</u> How can circular migration and sustainable return serve as development tools?</p> <p>EGMONT II conference room</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Mr. Jean-Louis De Brouwer, European Commission and Mr. Ali Mansoor, Mauritius</p>	<p><u>Session 2.2:</u> Increasing the micro-impact of remittances on development</p> <p>DV01 conference room</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> H.E. M. Gustavo Merino Juarez, Mexico</p>	<p><u>Session 2.3:</u> Increasing the macro-impact of remittances on development</p> <p>Blue conference room</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> H.E. Ms. Margarita Escobar, El Salvador</p>	<p><u>Session 3.2:</u> Coherent policy planning and methodology to link migration and development</p> <p>Orange conference room</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Mr. Joakim Szymne and Mr. Ola Henrikson, Sweden</p>	<p><u>Session 3.4:</u> Regional migration consultation processes and development: advancing cooperation</p> <p>Press room</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mr. Kevin O'Sullivan, Ireland</p>
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch offered by the Government of Belgium					
14.00 - 18.00	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p>14.00 - 14.45</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Reports from Roundtables</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable 1 - Ms. Patricia Sto. Tomas, Chairwoman of the Development Bank of the Philippines, former Minister of Labor, Philippines • Roundtable 2 - H.E. Professor Oumar Hammadoun Dicko, Minister for the Malians Abroad and African Integration, Mali • Roundtable 3 - Mr. Richard Manning, Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) • Horizontal Issues - Mr. Jozef De Witte, Director General of the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, Belgium <p>14.45 - 16.30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Discussion: priorities and ways forward; short and medium-to-longer term modalities to operationalise the outcomes</u> <p>16.30 - 17.30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Future of the Forum and next meeting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for international migration and development <p>17.30 - 17.45</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Final conclusions and recommendations of the Chair</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Régine De Clercq, Ambassador for Migration and Asylum Policy - Belgian Executive Director of the GFMD <p>17.45 - 18.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Closing address</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Arturo D. Brion, Secretary of Labor and Employment of the Philippines 					

The first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development is organised under the responsibility of the Government of Belgium, in consultation with Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for International Migration and Development.

The Government of Belgium expresses its appreciation for the support it received from the following countries and organisations, in the form of secondments and/or financial contributions: the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Ireland, the Republic of Mali, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), the Egmont Institute (Belgium), the International Organization for Migration, the MacArthur Foundation (USA), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Government of Belgium also warmly thanks all the partners that have supported the preparation of the roundtable sessions.

