

## CONSOLIDATED ASSESSMENT PAPER – PHASE 2 OF THE GFMD ASSESSMENT PROCESS (2012)

Paper presented by the Mauritian Chair and the Assessment Team<sup>1</sup>, and endorsed at the Special Session on the Future of the Forum held at the GFMD Summit Meeting in Port Louis on 22 November 2012

### CONTEXT

At the November 2010 GFMD summit meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, GFMD participating States agreed to conduct an overall assessment of the GFMD process. The initial proposal to carry out such an assessment emanated from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration and Development. It was taken further through various preparatory meetings in 2010 under the Mexican Chair-in-Office, resulting in a two-year assessment scenario adopted in Puerto Vallarta, i.e. an **overall survey** with the GFMD participating States in 2011 (Phase 1), and a **strategic and political analysis**, in 2012, of possible options for the future of the Forum (Phase 2).

At the December 2011 summit meeting governments unanimously endorsed the **2011 Survey Report under Phase 1 of the Assessment**. This comprehensive 73-page report, prepared by the Assessment Team under the Swiss GFMD 2011 Chair-in-Office<sup>2</sup>, examined in detail the way the GFMD operates as a process, including its structures; the impact and relevance of its outcomes; and its relationship with other stakeholders.<sup>3</sup> The 2011 summit meeting also agreed that the 2012 strategic and political analysis under Phase 2 would take account of the principal findings of the Survey Report, but would not necessarily be limited to these findings. Furthermore, the analysis should also be made in light of the 2007 Operating Modalities and their continued validity<sup>4</sup>.

This **Consolidated Assessment Paper – Phase 2 of the GFMD Assessment Process (2012)** reflects the results of the Assessment Team’s analysis of the future of the Forum. Under the guidance of the 2012 Mauritian Chair-in-Office, it was elaborated by the Team during its meetings of 6 February, 14 March, 26 April, 25 May and 3 September 2012 respectively. It reflects the intensive deliberations among Assessment Team Members at these meetings and through regular electronic consultations and written input. On 29 June 2012, the Mauritian Chair presented a first draft version to the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum, for comments, followed by a second draft sent on 1 August for further comments.<sup>5</sup> The second draft included text proposed by the Chair-in-Office and took account of the written input by the Friends of the Forum. A third draft was discussed by the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meetings on 10 September 2012, and received provisional endorsement.

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<sup>1</sup>The Assessment Team is comprised of Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, France, India, Kenya, Mexico, Mauritius (Chair), Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Turkey, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates. It was established at the 2010 summit meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to spearhead the 2-year assessment process in ongoing consultation with the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum.

<sup>2</sup> The technical part of the 2011 Assessment Report and related Survey had been prepared by an independent expert in conjunction with the Swiss Task Force.

<sup>3</sup> In the 2011 survey, some 80% of responding governments expressed great or general satisfaction with the GFMD process.

<sup>4</sup> The second paragraph of the preamble states: “*These Operating Modalities are of a preliminary nature and aim at ensuring sufficient continuity and practical support for the incoming chair(s), to be assessed and revised, as appropriate, in 2008*”.

<sup>5</sup> The following governments presented comments: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, UK and US.

A subsequent draft, dated 30 September 2012, was discussed again and approved at the Special Session on the Future of the Forum held at the 2012 GFMD summit meeting in Mauritius on 21-22 November 2012.

The overall GFMD Assessment Report, as adopted, includes the final version of the 2012 Phase 2 Consolidated Assessment Paper (this paper), the 2011 Phase 1 Assessment Survey Report, and a summary of the Special Session on the future of the Forum at the November summit meeting in Mauritius.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Section A. of this document sets out a **'Common Vision of the Future of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)'**, drawn from a Mexican/United Arab Emirates document entitled *"The future of the GFMD: Elements for a political and strategic discussion"*.

Section B, entitled **'Action areas in support of the Future of the Forum'**, is based on the principal findings of the 2011 Assessment Survey Report. It provides a detailed description of the technical and other action areas which aim to support the future functioning and activities of the Forum in the global context of the current and future debate on migration and development. These action areas were analyzed in line with **three framing pillars**, or commonly agreed core objectives, that directly underpin the Forum's common vision and should guide its activities in the future, namely: **1) Consolidation of the Forum, 2) Enhancement of the Forum's Impact on the Global Migration and Development Agenda, and 3) Ensuring the Forum's Sustainability**. Each action area in section B. is followed by a short recommendation for action.

Section C., entitled **'The way forward'**, proposes a follow-up process on implementing the recommendations of the two-year GFMD assessment process.

Section D. offers a few comments on the GFMD's possible contribution to the Second UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) in 2013.

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### **A. A Common Vision of the Future of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

1. Since its inception in 2007, the GFMD has helped shape the global debate on migration and development, by offering a space where governments can discuss the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to migration and its inter-linkages with development. It has proven to be an innovative process for a holistic, frank and constructive dialogue among governments, and between governments and other relevant stakeholders, including international organizations, NGOs, migrants, the private sector and academia.

2. As a state-led, informal and non-binding process, the Forum has generated significant results in terms of policy development and action at the national, regional and international levels, and its accumulated knowledge and practice and policy-oriented outcomes now serve as key reference points for both government policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders.

3. Building on the level of trust its members have achieved to date, the Forum has also evolved into a process that allows governments to openly analyze and discuss sensitive and sometimes controversial issues, to listen to different positions and explore synergies and joint solutions through partnerships.

The active involvement of governments in the thematic preparation of its discussions, the exchange of good practices and the Forum's consultative and inclusive approach, including informal consultations with civil society and input from the Global Migration Group (GMG), other international organisations and academia, etc., have contributed to deepening the understanding of the complex relationship between migration and development, and infused the global debate on this critical issue with more clarity, objectivity and coherence.

4. Building on these achievements, the GFMD participating States agree that the future of the Forum should be shaped and guided by three commonly agreed objectives:

- *Consolidation of the Forum*
- *Enhancing the Forum's impact on the global Migration and Development agenda; and*
- *Ensuring the Forum's sustainability.*

5. As commonly agreed objectives, these underpin the Common Vision of a Forum process that is consolidated, coherent and cohesive; impacts positively on migrants' lives and on policies of countries of origin, transit and destination; and sustains itself into the future as an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process.

6. The Forum's *consolidation* will be achieved by learning from the past and continually reviewing and improving the structures, format and operating modalities that allow it to function as an ongoing and coherent process from one summit meeting to the next.

7. It will *enhance its impact* on, and add value to the global migration and development agenda by focusing on globally relevant issues, ensuring quality debate and concrete outcomes, including relevant feedback, and strengthening its capacity to share its accumulated knowledge with the broader international community.

8. Finally, the Forum will ensure its own *sustainability* by maintaining an inclusive approach to the selection of pertinent thematic priorities, preserving its identity as state-led, independent and informal, while improving its financial, procedural and structural base to assure continuity and predictability.

9. By pursuing these common objectives, the GFMD participating States will secure the Forum's future as a global platform which fosters practice and policy-oriented dialogue, builds trust and partnerships among states, and reaches out to the broader international community in identifying joint, coherent and cooperative responses to current and future challenges in the field of migration and development.

## ***B. Action areas in support of the Future of the Forum***

### ***1. Consolidation of the Forum***

#### **1.1 Strengthening the development focus of the GFMD's discussions**

Governments are encouraged to ensure the engagement of officials and entities responsible for development and related issues in GFMD discussions, including through appropriate consultations with such officials and entities at the national level. GFMD National Focal Points should help facilitate this, also for the purpose of ensuring greater coherence between national migration and development policies, where appropriate.

**Recommendation: Governments strengthen the engagement of national development ministries/departments/agencies in the GFMD. National focal points can help facilitate this (see also 1.7).**

### **1.2 GFMD outcomes**

The substantive outcomes of GFMD discussions are the result of collaborative efforts by governments to validate and highlight the link between migration and development and help inform national policy initiatives and multilateral cooperation. The outcomes are informal and are taken forward by governments as considered necessary, at the national level and/or through partnerships and joint approaches among governments and other actors. While the GFMD does not monitor whether or how governments follow up on outcomes, governments are encouraged to acknowledge concrete initiatives they are taking as a result of the GFMD dialogue and share practices and lessons learned from GFMD discussions. Constant voluntary updating and feedback by governments to the Friends of the Forum on lessons learned in the implementation of GFMD outcomes at national, bilateral and regional levels would contribute to improved policy development and furthering the work of the GFMD.

GFMD outcomes should also be made accessible to a wide range of stakeholders. The government-led GFMD ad-hoc Working Groups can play an important role in prioritizing and following up on outcomes of interest to the Working Groups or a group of countries. The web-based support tool, the Platform for Partnerships, also serves to record and showcase GFMD outcomes.

**Recommendation: Governments and ad-hoc Working Groups provide regular updates and feedback to the Friends of the Forum on lessons learned in the implementation of GFMD outcomes for improved policy development (see also 1.5 and 3.3). The Pfp could record and showcase GFMD outcomes and lessons learned.**

### **1.3 Sequence of GFMD summit meetings and Chairing arrangements**

The GFMD meets each year for a summit meeting. However, to offer more time for governments to follow up on previous outcomes and avoid thematic repetition, summit meetings could be organized in a more flexible manner, and their preparation supported through focused thematic workshops held between the summit meetings. In practice, even if summit meetings were spaced out beyond the 12-month time-frame, the Forum would always be chaired by a government for an agreed period, and incumbent Chairs will continue to exercise flexibility in preparing and organising summit meetings. The rotating chairing arrangements between developing and developed countries should be maintained.

**Recommendation: The Friends of the Forum may agree that the frequency of GFMD Summit meetings could be flexible.**

### **1.4 GFMD Roundtables**

Thematic roundtables led by governments –and drawing primarily on government ideas, practices and policies- are key components of the GFMD summit meetings. Government teams formed around specific roundtable themes are fundamental in preparing for these summit meetings as they ensure ownership of the process and foster consultation and cooperation on specific issues throughout the year. Further engagement by governments in these teams should be actively promoted. However, GFMD roundtable sessions have tended to become too large or too broad in their scope to allow for focused and interactive dialogue. To facilitate such inter-action, the format, conduct and number of roundtables may need to be reviewed. Using lessons learned from previous

GFGMD summits, GFMD 2012 may serve as an example as it will for the first time include breakout sessions in the roundtables.

***Recommendation: Review the format, conduct and number of roundtable sessions.***

### **1.5 Ad-hoc GFMD Working Groups**

According to the 2007 GFMD Operating Modalities, the Steering Group may create thematic follow-up Working Groups.<sup>6</sup> These *ad-hoc* Working Groups are led by governments and are financially independent from the GFMD Chair's budget. Without prejudice to the prerogatives of governments in implementing policy, and on a voluntary basis, they either conduct follow-up or pursue further work on GFMD outcomes of common interest to the Working Group members. In doing so, they help sustain core, cross-cutting issues as an integral part of the GFMD's thematic priorities, develop further insight into these issues, contribute to prioritizing and help maintain thematic continuity between GFMD summit meetings.

In order to increase the relevance and visibility of the Working Groups, the results of their activities should be more consistently conveyed to the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, for discussion on issues of substance. The Working Groups should also interact with the Platform for Partnerships (PFP) to share information on good practices and encourage effective follow-up of outcomes. The Co-chairs and members of the Working Groups should present annual work plans to the Steering Group, as well as to the GFMD Chair who could also be proactively engaged in Working Group discussions.

There should be no proliferation of Working Groups. However, given the evolving nature of thematic priorities, the Steering Group may decide to create, merge or dissolve such groups as appropriate. The thematic focus and constellation of existing groups may also shift according to new emerging priorities. The Working Groups' efficiency and focus should be reviewed through periodic self-evaluation and assessment by the Steering Group. Synergies between the Working Groups should be fostered. The Steering Group should look in greater detail into the purpose and scope of the activities of the Working Groups.

***Recommendation: Working Groups present annual work plans to the Steering Group and the GFMD Chair, consistently share their results with the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum, and interact with the Platform for Partnerships. They conduct periodic self-evaluations and the Steering Group continuously assesses their purpose and scope.***

### **1.6 Civil Society (NGOs, migrants and academia) and the Private Sector**

Appropriate arrangements shall be made for the participation of civil society. Interaction with civil society stakeholders has greatly enriched the GFMD process. Such interaction recognizes the need to involve civil society in the debate on migration and development, and should be improved further to foster a more interactive dialogue. This may be achieved, *inter alia*, through better organized Civil Society/Government 'interface' arrangements at GFMD summit meetings and improved scenarios and proceedings for the 'Common Space' discussions.

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<sup>6</sup> Emanating from the 2008 Manila GFMD Summit, two Working Groups were created in June 2009, under the Greek Chairmanship and upon agreement by the Steering Group i.e. a WG on 'Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development', and a WG on 'Policy Coherence, Data and Research'. The broad parameters of the Working Groups, as discussed by the GFMD members in 2009 and reflected in the original summing-up of the 2009 Chair, would be: task-oriented; *ad-hoc* and, as such, limited in time; open-ended and with membership on a voluntary basis; and based on separate funding from the GFMD budget. In conjunction with the Steering Group, each incoming Chair would also assess and evaluate their usefulness and decide on whether to renew their mandates, and their scope would not be limited to follow-up and voluntary implementation of GFMD outcomes, but also include the development of ideas, projects and elements which may feed into GFMD roundtable themes.

To maximize inputs from the Civil Society Days to the GFMD summit meetings, appropriate time shall be made available for Common Space discussions, and the GFMD Chair, in consultations with civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders, should ensure arrangements that allow for more inter-active dialogue. Since 2010, GFMD Chairs have innovated by adopting different formats.<sup>7</sup>

Governments are also encouraged to interact with civil society actors at the national level between GFMD meetings.

The civil society organization responsible for coordinating the Civil Society Days<sup>8</sup> should interact with the GFMD Chair to ensure trust, clearly defined mandates and appropriate synergies between the two processes.

Civil society representatives may also be invited to participate in the GFMD Working Groups, as determined by the Co-chairs of these groups.

The private sector, including employers and recruitment agencies, should be considered a separate stakeholder group, and cooperation with this group should be strengthened by means of a dedicated consultative system.

***Recommendation: Improve interaction with civil society, including arrangements for more interactive Common Space scenarios and discussions. New modalities for engagement of the private sector should be explored to strengthen cooperation with this distinct stakeholder group.***

### **1.7 GFMD National Focal Points System**

Established in the context of the 2007 Brussels GFMD, the number of national Focal Points designated by GFMD participating states has increased over the years as the system now includes both capital-based and Geneva-based officials. The Focal Point network has significantly facilitated internal GFMD communications as well as communication and collaboration between States. In many instances, national Focal Points have also contributed to intra-governmental coordination and policy and institutional coherence on migration and development policies. However, the system has not always functioned efficiently in reaching the appropriate experts in government who could contribute to a whole-of-government approach. The National Focal Points system should be reinvigorated by GFMD participating governments in consonance with their national systems, and be constantly updated by the Support Unit. General guidelines on the role of National Focal Points could also be developed. Furthermore, contact details of National Focal Points should be shared with one another in order to facilitate further cooperation and coordination through the GFMD website.

***Recommendation: Governments upgrade their focal point system to further enhance national coordination, policy coherence and the involvement of development ministries/departments/agencies. General guidelines on the national focal points' role could be developed. The SU constantly updates the focal point list.***

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<sup>7</sup> For instance, under the 2012 Mauritian Chair, to enable smooth and productive interaction with civil society, three Common Space break-out sessions, structured along three related or complementary themes, have been suggested. This format should contribute to more manageable Common Space discussions in terms of participation, while achieving a more interactive dialogue between practitioners, politicians and civil society representatives.

<sup>8</sup> ICMC acted as Civil Society coordinator in 2011 and 2012. Other Civil Society organizers may also be involved in future arrangements.

### **1.8 Review of 2007 Operating Modalities**

The Operating Modalities are broad enough and thus still valid and applicable. However, minor adjustments to the current text may be required in the future.<sup>9</sup>

***Recommendation: To clarify certain issues and strengthen the GFMD in terms of process and structures, the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum may in the future consider minor amendments to improve the Operating Modalities.***

## **2. *Enhancing the Forum's Impact on the Global Migration and Development Agenda***

### **2.1. Sharing GFMD's knowledge with the international community**

The accumulated knowledge of the GFMD should be shared with all stakeholders in a more systematic and accessible manner, to ensure the GFMD's continued relevance in the setting of the global migration and development agenda and debate. Through the concrete experiences of its membership and the substantive outcomes of its discussions, the GFMD should be considered a central repository where such knowledge can be shared and solutions can be identified. The online Platform for Partnerships (PfP), as well as the PfP special working sessions organized at the margins or during GFMD summit meetings, can help in this regard.

**Recommendation: See 2.2 below.**

### **2.2 Capacity to deliver**

Linking to action area 2.1 above, the more consolidated the Forum is, the greater is its capacity to reach out to the broader international community, which in turn can reinforce the Forum's relevance in the setting of the global migration and development agenda. This requires agreement through greater understanding among its members about what knowledge the Forum should deliver and disseminate, and by which means, bearing in mind the vehicles for knowledge dissemination that already exist, for example in expert international organizations and relevant civil society organizations.

***Recommendations (2.1 and 2.2): Share GFMD knowledge in a more systematic and accessible manner. GFMD Member States to agree on what knowledge the Forum should deliver and disseminate, and by which means, taking account of already existing vehicles for knowledge dissemination. The PfP can be a vehicle for such information dissemination.***

### **2.3 Thematic continuity and multi-year thematic planning**

Thematic continuity has been an important feature since the GFMD's inception, in particular for such crosscutting issues as policy coherence on migration and development. However, themes have also tended to become too broad and sometimes repetitive. GFMD thematic agendas should aim at more focused discussions, avoid repetitiveness and at the same time allow for the inclusion of new emerging themes. The development of a multi-year thematic agenda could contribute to avoiding repetition, foster more focused debate and follow-up on outcomes, and also provide a longer-term thematic vision. However, flexibility should be maintained to adapt such agendas to emerging issues and/or critical concerns of governments, notably those of developing countries.

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<sup>9</sup> The second preambular paragraph of the 2007 Operating Modalities states that the Modalities "are of a preliminary nature, ... "to be assessed and revised, as appropriate...". Concerning Article 6, Relationship with the United Nations, in current GFMD practice the relationship with the United Nations is understood to also include other international organizations; and Article 7, Participation of Civil Society, should be understood to cover all non-State stakeholders.

In defining a multi-year agenda, the Chair and the Troika should consult on possible themes and prepare suggestions for discussions with the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, thus ensuring full participation and ownership by the incoming Chair(s) and the GFMD Membership. The final choice of each summit's overarching theme remains the prerogative of the respective Chair-in-Office.

***Recommendation: The Chair and the Troika consult on possible themes for a multi-year agenda that ensures full participation and ownership by incoming Chairs and GFMD Membership; and prepare suggestions for discussion in the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum.***

#### **2.4 Interaction between GFMD and international organizations**

Cooperation and consultations with global international organizations and regional entities, including the agencies forming part of the GMG, has greatly benefitted the state-led GFMD process, in particular through the provision of thematic expertise to the preparation of Roundtables and related discussions. This cooperation should be pursued further, recognizing that such inter-action between GFMD participating governments and relevant international bodies will also enhance the Forum's impact on the global debate on migration and development. The Forum may also explore closer cooperation with regional consultative processes, *fora* and dialogues in order to share experiences and enrich each other's discussions on migration and development.

The GMG, other international organizations and regional entities should not interfere with GFMD structures and processes. Also, the roundtable discussions should remain platforms for States to informally exchange lessons learned and good practices. Interventions by international organizations should therefore be limited and should contribute to policy dialogue.

GFMD governments may also choose to rely on international organizations to organize and provide expertise and substantive support to certain thematic workshops, take forward and implement specific GFMD outcomes, and coordinate such action closely with relevant organizations. Furthermore, while GFMD agendas are set by governments, ongoing interaction with regional and global entities, including the GMG, can contribute to better synergies between GFMD and these entities' activities, and also facilitate the process of multi-annual migration and development agenda setting. For instance, states can use their membership status in international organizations to take forward issues that have been brought up in the GFMD process. The specific role of regional entities, *fora* and processes to foster and implement migration and development policies should also be appropriately acknowledged in the GFMD process. Finally, to ensure that the GFMD remains a State-led process, it is important that the agenda for GFMD-meetings are set by States and not international organizations or experts.

***Recommendation: Pursue cooperation with international agencies, in particular for provision of thematic expertise. States can use their membership status with international agencies to take forward issues raised in the GFMD process. Explore closer cooperation with regional consultative processes, fora and dialogues in order to share experiences.***

### **3. Ensuring the Forum's Sustainability**

#### **3.1 More predictable GFMD Funding**<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> The need for more predictable funding concerns both the consolidation and the sustainability of the Forum process. Looking to the future, however, this action area is placed under pillar 3, i.e. Ensuring the Forum's Sustainability.

To ensure the Forum's longer-term sustainability, and to consolidate its current functioning, governments need to agree on a more predictable funding structure. The 2011 proposal by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Migration and Development and by Switzerland for such more predictable funding, including appropriate funding for the Support Unit, should be taken forward with the Friends of the Forum, and an appropriate decision needs to be taken. While maintaining the current voluntary funding mechanism, this proposal, based on a detailed annual GFMD standard budget, stresses the need for early financial pledges and the broadening of the donor base (even by means of small contributions) to increase ownership of the process. Its implementation would also contribute to a better understanding of the Forum's ongoing funding requirements and related financial management. The financial contributions will continue to be administered by the GFMD Support Unit.

**Recommendation:** *While maintaining GFMD's voluntary funding mechanism, adopt the Swiss/SRSG's 2011 proposal for more predictable funding (cf. Annex ..), by means of a) an annual standard budget, b) early funding pledges and c) a broader donor base.*

### **3.2 GFMD Supporting Structure<sup>11</sup>**

To sustain its future, the GFMD requires appropriate and efficient supporting structures, including the Chair's Task Force and the GFMD Support Unit (SU).

At present, the **Chair's Task Force**, set up annually and comprised of national staff and international advisers selected at the discretion of the Chair-in-Office, deals with all matters pertaining to the GFMD process during its presidency, including issues of substance, organization, policy and strategy. Each incoming Chair to date has exercised its authority and independence to select the national/international expert Task Force it deemed necessary to carry out the substantive and strategic preparations of the Forum. In line with past practice, future Chairs should strongly consider retaining that authority and independence.

The **Support Unit**, acting on the Chair's authority, manages administrative, financial and organizational matters in support of the Chair and runs the website and the PfP. Based on the agreement of all GFMD participating states, the SU is currently hosted by IOM (which backstops the financial and IT work of the SU and provides the SU's legal status). The SU is independent from IOM.

The *administrative role* of the SU, including its support to the organization and logistical arrangements of GFMD preparatory meetings (such as Steering Group, Friends of the Forum, Working Group and thematic meetings), as well as summit meetings, is recognized as highly valuable by the respective Chairs and the wider group of GFMD participating states. The SU helps assure continuity from one Summit Meeting to the next, acts as a repository of GFMD data and serves any new incoming Chair through appropriate administrative, financial and record-keeping mechanisms. Depending on the needs of the Chair-in-Office, however, the extent and costs of this service can vary, and the SU staff resources could be strengthened, inter alia through the funded secondment of staff by governments, and by international organizations as feasible, to consolidate and sustain its *administrative role*. Since the SU is a "common good" of the GFMD process, its functions, structure, performance and resource needs should be regularly assessed by past, present and future Chairs and related reports should be submitted to the Friends of the Forum as and when necessary.

A possible change or extension of the present administrative mandate of the SU to also deal with issues of substance would need careful analysis by the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum,

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<sup>11</sup> The GFMD Supporting Structure relates to both the consolidation and the sustainability of the Forum process. Looking to the future, however, this action area is placed under pillar 3, i.e. Ensuring the Forum's Sustainability.

since this would also impact on the current role of the Chair's Task Force. Under a scenario of this kind, for example, some international experts –working on substantive issues and funded by sponsoring governments and/or international organizations- could be attached to the SU, but remain accountable to the Chair. To ensure a smooth transition between Chairs, the Chair-in-Office would also need to hold discussions with the incoming Chair to determine whether any secondments offered would be needed the following year. The SU as an administrative set-up would also remain independent from any international organization and government and shall serve and report to the Chair only.

***Recommendation: Chairs-in-Office strongly consider retaining the authority to set up their own national Task Force, with national staff and international expert advisers supporting the Chair on substance, policy and strategy.***

***In recognition of the important administrative role of the Support Unit (SU), acting under the authority of the Chair-in-Office, SU staff resources could be strengthened, depending on the needs of the Chair, inter alia through secondment of staff by governments and international agencies. The SU's functions, structure, performance and resources should be regularly assessed by past, current and future Chairs, and reports submitted to the Friends of the Forum as necessary. Any possible expansion of the SU's administrative mandate to also deal with issues of substance would need careful analysis as this would also impact on the role of the Chair's Task Force.***

### **3.3 Role and functioning of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum**

While the mandates of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum are appropriately defined in the Operating Modalities, they tend to overlap in practice. The agendas of the two bodies must better reflect their different roles, and the respective Chairs should seek to ensure such a distinction. The agenda setting needs to be done in a transparent and inclusive manner, involving both the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum.

The *role of the Friends of the Forum* should be revitalized as a sounding board that advises on thematic GFMD agendas, structure and format. This body -which is also open to observers from international organizations- should in addition discuss other issues of substance, such as those being dealt with by the Working Groups or by preparatory meetings in support of summit meetings. Governments should also share practices and results related to GFMD discussions.

***The Steering Group*** should comprise Governments that actively support the GFMD process, including through the provision of policy, conceptual advice and, if possible, financial support. There should be an appropriate regional balance, and consideration should be given to having a manageable size of the Steering Group. The Steering Group should also maintain its flexibility and light structure.

***Recommendation: Clarify and differentiate the practical role and respective agendas of the two bodies to avoid undue overlaps. Ensure an appropriate regional balance and manageable size of the Steering Group. Consider enhancing the role of the Friends of the Forum through more discussion on substance, inter alia through regular updates and feedback on lessons learned in the implementation of GFMD outcomes by governments and the ad-hoc Working Groups (see also 1.2 and 1.5).***

### **3.4 GFMD relationship with the United Nations**

The Forum was created upon the proposal of the UN Secretary-General at the 2006 General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.<sup>12</sup> While open to all

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<sup>12</sup> Cf. reference in preamble of 2007 Operating Modalities.

States Members and Observers of the United Nations<sup>13</sup>, the GFMD is an independent body that does not form part of the United Nations. This notwithstanding, and to ensure the Forum's future sustainability in the global context, inter-action with the United Nations should be maintained through regular consultations by the GFMD Chairs with the UN Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration and Development, and other relevant UN bodies. In accordance with the Operating Modalities, annual GFMD outcome reports should systematically be made available by the GFMD Chairs to the United Nations.

***Recommendation: Maintain regular consultations with the UN Secretary-General, the SRSG and other relevant UN bodies. Systematically convey annual GFMD outcome reports to the United Nations by the GFMD Chairs-in-Office.***

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***General Recommendation: As required, the GFMD may consider conducting periodic assessments of specific aspects of the Forum's activities. The modalities of such assessments will be determined by the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum.***

### ***C. The way forward***

Following the adoption of the Consolidated Assessment Paper at the Special Session on the Future of the Forum on 22 November 2012, and the conclusion of the 2-year assessment process by end 2012, the action areas and recommendations reflected in section B. of this paper will need appropriate follow-up. Many recommendations may require longer-term implementation by the GFMD governing bodies. Others need to be realized in time for the Second UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013 (cf. Section D. of this paper). Yet others are directly addressed to GFMD participating governments for possible implementation.

Subject to approval at the Special Session on the Future of the Forum at the GFMD November 2012 summit meeting in Mauritius, **a group comprised of all past, present and future GFMD Chairs** would be entrusted to spearhead appropriate follow-up action. As required, this group would conduct further in-depth analysis of certain action areas, and it would report its findings and proposals to the Chair-in-Office, the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, for discussion and adoption. The group would be established upon conclusion of the GFMD assessment process.

### ***D. GFMD contribution to the Second UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013***

The first meeting of the Forum was announced at the 2006 General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The current and future functioning of the GFMD is thus of interest to the UN and its stock-taking on migration and development issues at the second HLD to be held in New York in 2013. UN Member and Observers States participate both in the GFMD and the UN HLD, which are two separate, but complementary, processes. While recognizing the distinct status and purpose of the 2013 HLD, the experiences and thematic outcomes reached by governments in the context of the GFMD can usefully contribute to the HLD discussions in 2013, including relevant input to the 2013 HLD agenda. Appropriate consultations among GFMD participating governments should be held for this purpose.

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<sup>13</sup> Cf. reference in preamble of 2007 Operating Modalities.

Following its endorsement at the Special Session on the Future of the Forum at the GFMD November 2012 summit meeting in Mauritius, the final GFMD Assessment Report<sup>14</sup> will be presented to the 2013 HLD, *for information*.

In addition, a comprehensive thematic recollection reflecting GFMD achievements, practices and thematic outcomes from *2007 to end 2012* would be prepared, for presentation to the September 2013 HLD.

***Recommendations:***

***a) The 2012 Chair-in-Office prepares the final GFMD Assessment Report (i.e. the final version of the 2012 Phase 2 Consolidated Assessment Paper (the present paper), the 2011 Phase 1 Assessment Survey Report, and a summary of the Special Session on the Future of the Forum at the November summit meeting in Mauritius). This document will be presented to the September 2013 HLD, for information.***

***b) The group comprised of all past, present and future GFMD Chairs, under the guidance of the 2013 Chair-in-Office, prepares a comprehensive thematic recollection of GFMD achievements, practices and thematic outcomes covering the period 2007 to end 2012. This document will be presented to the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum for approval, and be finalized in time for the 2013 HLD. It will then be presented to the 2013 HLD in support of the HLD discussions.***

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<sup>14</sup> The final Assessment Report will include the final version of the 2012 Phase 2 Assessment Paper (the present paper), the 2011 Phase 1 Assessment Survey Report, and a summary of the Special Session on the future of the Forum at the November summit meeting in Mauritius.