



“Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”

First Meeting of the Friends of the Forum La Salle IX, ILO Building, Geneva 13 February 2013

Chair: Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, GFMD 2013-2014 Chair

GFMD 2013-2014 Secretariat: Mr Kristof Tamas, Mr Justin MacDermott, Marielle Sander-Lindström, Ms Sofia Ostmark

GFMD Support Unit: Ms. Estrella Lajom, Ms. Rachel Brown, Ms. Danitza Fils-Aime

Report of the Proceedings

1. Welcoming Remarks

On behalf of the Government Offices of Sweden, Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje warmly welcomed all participants to the first meeting of the Friends of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) under the Swedish Chairmanship. The Chair was joined at the podium by Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Migration and Development (SRSG), the GFMD Troika -- represented by Amb. Israhyananda Dhalladoo, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (UNOG) and Amb. Oguz Demiralp, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UNOG -- and Mr. Kristof Tamas, member of the Swedish GFMD Secretariat, responsible for leading discussions on the basis of a presentation on the GFMD Concept Paper.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted in toto, with the addition of a presentation on the Platform for Partnerships under agenda item, “Any Other Business”.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, the Chair thanked the ILO for providing the venues of the SG and FOF meetings. She then invited Mr. Sutherland and Co-Troika representatives to offer some welcoming remarks.

Mr. Sutherland praised Sweden for being the staunchest supporter of the GFMD since its inception. He said no other country has emulated Sweden in its activity, support and involvement in the Global Forum; thus, it was entirely fitting for Sweden to have the Chairmanship. He underscored the fact that the High Level Dialogue (HLD) will happen in New York this year, before the Summit Meeting in Stockholm in 2014. For this reason, it is important that the GFMD ensures a seamless connection and communication to colleagues in New York about how the GFMD has contributed to the progress of the debate on migration and development, and what it has achieved through the years as a process.

The Global Forum has been adjudged by the objective and thorough assessment exercise as a remarkable success. It has achieved real progress for migrants, especially in the context of development. But the development end of the Migration and Development equation needs to be enhanced, hopefully as well in the context of the HLD and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Amb Oguz Demiralp, representing Co-Chair Turkey, expressed confidence in the Swedish Chairmanship, given the Swedish tolerant tradition toward migration and humanitarian policies which have been successfully implemented throughout the world. As next GFMD Chair, Turkey will continue its excellent bilateral relationship with Sweden and help the latter in efficiently carrying out its important chairing tasks.

He emphasized the importance of the migration issue and regarded the history of migration as history of mankind itself. However, in the last few decades, migration has been on the agenda of many countries as a negative issue. Thus, the challenge for the GFMD is to turn this perception around and clarify the role of migration as a positive factor in shaping modern society and the world. He believed that the GFMD is ready for this huge challenge.

He underlined that migration is also a development issue; hence, its positive impacts must be explored as well. Both developing and developed countries have benefitted from migrants in their development processes. This is especially true in today's globalized world. As globalization means free movement of capital, trade and goods, it should also promote the free movement of service providers, at the very least, if not peoples in general.

He held the view that the HLD needs to benefit from the contribution of the GFMD. Migration should be placed on the agenda as a development-related issue, not necessarily an objective itself. As a cross-cutting issue, migration needs to be discussed thoroughly in the framework of what has been accomplished by the GFMD to date and will be done under the Swedish Chairmanship.

3. Report on GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting

Ambassador Israhyananda Dhalladoo began his report to the GFMD Friends of the Forum by commending the Swedish Government and Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje for assuming the GFMD Chairmanship. He presented the Report of Proceedings of the sixth GFMD 2012 Summit held in Port Louis on 19 to 22 November 2012 on behalf of the Mauritian Government and the former GFMD Chair, Mr. Ali Mansoor.

The theme chosen for GFMD 2012 was "Enhancing the human development of migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and states." The Mauritian Chairmanship's key objective was realizing concrete programs and practices towards improved conditions for migrants, their families and communities with increased development outcomes. For that reason, focus was placed on the development dimension, a consolidated consultation process with civil society and GFMD observers, and further engagement of the private sector and diaspora. Other key objectives included bringing the Forum to Africa for the first time and reinforcing its perspectives on migration's development dimensions, as well as completing the two-year GMFD assessment with a more clearly-defined common vision for its future.

The GFMD 2012 Chair employed a transparent, inclusive preparatory process, assisted by a national Inter-agency Taskforce and an international advisory team on the substantive work and supported administratively by the GFMD Support Unit in Geneva. The Chair engaged ICMC's continued services as coordinator of the Civil Society Days. The 2012 Taskforce worked closely with GMG agencies to follow up on GFMD outcomes and new initiatives that could backstop future GFMD discussions. In particular, the IOM provided extensive assistance in both Mauritius and Geneva.

Broad ownership was accomplished by surveying the FOF on proposed themes, conducting wide consultations on the concept paper, and working with a range of actors on roundtable preparatory workshops. The Chair adopted an honest accounting approach by showing adjusted, real budget costs throughout the year and ensured that funds facilitated developing country participation in the Summit.

GFMD 2012 was a great success on all accounts. Over 500 delegates from 129 states participated in the Summit Meeting, with 65 out of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and 51 out of 54 African Union (AU) countries in attendance --- the highest GFMD turn out from Africa since 2007. Roundtables and Common Space engaged public and private sector in concrete, dynamic discussions focused on practical

outcomes. New themes were introduced while on-going GFMD topics were taken to new levels of debate. In terms of financial support, GFMD 2012 also registered the largest number of voluntary donors in its history.

Some of the concrete outcomes of GFMD 2012 are expected to have long-term effects on migrants, their families and communities. Many states, like Mauritius and Jamaica, approved migration policy advances during the Mauritius Chairmanship. If applied by governments, good practices proposed by the GFMD 2012 may improve migrant workers' protection and empower them to reinvest their resources in development. The multi-year African Labour Mobility Initiative launched by the Mauritian Chair with other African governments, GFMD Observers and private sector also gives practical application to GFMD 2012 themes, with the goal of facilitating trans-border mobility, skills development and stimulating job-based growth.

Indeed, the objectives set by the GFMD 2012 Chair were achieved. The development dimension was strengthened by having the first GFMD Chair from a development Ministry and by having two roundtables on migrant protection which underlined the linkages between human development and migrant rights. New partnerships were forged with the World Economic Forum, and the innovative addition of Common Space panels broadened the participation of civil society, private sector and diaspora. The use of Twitter in a Common Space panel and Roundtable 3.1 globalized access to the GFMD.

Having now completed a transparent, inclusive two-year process, the Mauritian Government submitted the final GFMD Assessment Report to the UN Secretary General. It included the Consolidated Assessment Paper drafted under the Mauritian Chair, the 2011 Assessment Survey and the outcome of the 2012 Special Session on the Future of the Forum. Mauritius is now helping the GFMD Swedish Chair and the group of past, present and future GFMD Chairs in preparing a Thematic Recollection of GFMD Achievements from 2007 to 2012.

Ambassador Dhalladoo concluded by reiterating the appreciation of the Mauritian Government for the strong support and affirmation received from all Friends of the Forum during its Chairmanship. He expressed the wish that the same will be extended to the Swedish Chair.

4. Concept Paper for the Swedish Chair 2013-2014, including formation of Government Teams

Mr. Kristof Tamas, Senior Policy Advisor from the Swedish GFMD Secretariat, presented¹ the 2013-2014 Draft Concept Paper and priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship. He explained that the paper builds on the innovative ideas and methods of the six previous chairmanships, the GFMD knowledge and practice sharing, and the Consolidated Assessment Report approved in Mauritius in November 2012. One key guiding element was the assessment's 3-point common vision of consolidating the forum, enhancing its impact on global migration and development debate and ensuring its sustainability.

Mr. Tamas clarified that the title "Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development" was based on the notion that policies make a difference and that governments can provide the key to help unlock the potential that each migrant holds to contribute to social, economic and human development, through an adequate policy mix, legal framework, comprehensive policies and cooperation. This title encapsulates the three overarching priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship which are interlinked and interdependent: 1) A more development-focused Forum, 2) a more dynamic Forum, and 3) a more durable Forum.

The first priority aims at strengthening the development dimension within the GFMD dialogue while also engaging more development practitioners in the process. A broader framework is the ongoing preparation of the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda that will follow the completion of the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a starting point, the Swedish Chair looked at the UN System Task Team Report, "Realizing the Future We Want for All",² which suggests four broad dimensions that might be relevant to formulating new development goals and targets, i.e., *inclusive economic development; inclusive social development; peace and security; and environmental sustainability*. In this context, the GFMD could

¹ See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/sweden-2013-2014> for the PowerPoint presentation.

² "Realizing the future we want for all". The report was based on 3 fundamental principles of human rights, equality and sustainability. It can be downloaded at http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

explore how migration can be integrated in the Post-2015 Agenda as an enabler for human development, encompassing both its inclusive economic and social dimensions.

To support the GFMD 2013-2014 substantive priorities and prepare the ground for more evidence-based Roundtable discussions, the Chair would like to take two steps – 1) conduct a survey in May/June among focal points of Governments and Observers to determine their interest in roundtable participation, assess their policies, practices and experiences in the Chair’s thematic priorities, and identify capital-based experts; 2) organize thematic meetings around the three roundtable themes, ie., mainstreaming and Post-2015; labour matching tools, migration and circular mobility; and diaspora engagement.

The second priority concerns the dynamics of the Forum. The Swedish Chair intends to seek progress towards a more evidence-based Global Forum, more engaged governments, and more geographically-balanced participation. To achieve this objective, the Chair has proposed a number of initiatives –

- Promote more clearly differentiated but complementary roles for the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum by focusing the former on strategic issues and follow up to assessment recommendations, and the latter on substantive issues;
- Government Teams to present background papers based on GFMD 2012’s modified format consisting of a 4-5 page short policy-focused, scene-setting paper and an annex of sample practices, policies and programs;
- Create a network of experts from the capitals who can provide additional evidence base;
- Utilize the GFMD website for holding online discussions;
- Constant updating of the GFMD Focal Points list, which should include development practitioners;
- Strengthen and update the Platform for Partnerships (PfP) by organizing not only a PfP Session at the Summit Meeting in Stockholm, but also having a PfP agenda item in future FOF meetings to discuss pilot projects, programs and practices;
- Develop a Policy Practice Database to serve as an online repository of GFMD-generated knowledge.

To help carry out the above proposals and implement the Assessment Report recommendations, the Chair would rely on a strengthened Support Unit.

To achieve the third priority – a more durable and sustainable Forum – The Chair is determined to work closely with the incoming Chair Turkey and the past Chair Mauritius on developing a multi-annual work plan aimed at promoting thematic coherence and consistency, and addressing the Assessment Report recommendations. The plan would include a detailed standard budget geared towards achieving early financial pledges and a broader donor base and increased state ownership, based on the 2011 proposal of the Special Representative to the UN Secretary General and the Government of Switzerland. Furthermore, the Chair would continue the good collaboration with civil society, seek to further improve the Common Space, and try a new modality for engaging the private sector, through an innovative Business Roundtable in 2014. The Chair also committed to continue working with the GFMD Observers, including the Global Migration Group (GMG).

On the GFMD 2013-2014 Roundtables and thematic priorities, the Chair intends to follow the traditional format of three roundtable themes with six sessions, to be organized by government teams. In this regard, the Chair invited governments to indicate their interest in specific roundtables. A snapshot of each Roundtable is provided below:

- Roundtable 1, “Integrating migration in global, regional and national development agendas,” will include a session on operationalizing, mainstreaming and promoting coherence in migration and development policies. The second session will discuss migration vis-a-vis the current MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- Roundtable 2, “Migration as an enabler for inclusive economic development,” will have one session looking at how to enhance the development impacts of labour migration and circular mobility through more systematic labour market and skills matching. The other session would focus on development through the lens of diasporas and how they contribute with skills transfer, investments and trade to development in countries of origin.

- Roundtable 3, “Migration as an enabler for inclusive social development,” will feature a session on the empowerment of migrants for improved social development outcomes. It will look at rights, implementation of legal frameworks, and ways to address vulnerability of migrants including those in irregular and human trafficking situations. The final session will look at migrant social and financial asset transfers and their effects on health and education for migrants and families left behind. This session links back to the broader agenda about the MDGs and the Post-2015, inasmuch as health and education are two of the current MDGs.

To conclude his remarks, Mr. Kristof Tamas provided an overview of timelines for the finalization of the draft concept paper:

- **27 February** 2nd comments to be sent for the draft Concept Paper
- **20 March** 2nd version of the draft Concept Paper to be distributed
- **10 April** 3rd comments to be sent for the draft Concept Paper
- **30 April** 3rd and final version of the draft Concept Paper to be distributed
- **21 May** Endorsement at GFMD SG and FoF (Geneva)

9 Governments and 3 GFMD Observers asked for the floor³.

All interveners congratulated Sweden for the GFMD 2013-2014 chairmanship and for the excellent preparatory work so far done. They affirmed their support, commitment and active participation under the leadership of the Swedish Chair.

Many delegates appreciated the innovative and ambitious ideas presented in the draft concept paper, which directly relate to the Assessment Paper recommendations endorsed in Mauritius in November 2012. Some agreed with the proposal to upgrade the operational activities of GFMD and held the view that the ideas outlined in the paper could, if implemented, facilitate the attainment of the goals and objectives of GFMD.

While a few speakers observed that the concept paper was ambitious, others countered that the GFMD was ready for the challenge to leap to an upgraded phase.

4 Governments expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Mauritius for its sterling role as previous host and Chair of the 2012 GFMD Chairmanship. Two delegates commended also the role of the Support Unit and the Mauritian GFMD Taskforce in organizing last year’s 2012 Summit in Mauritius.

3 African governments offered their support for the Swedish GFMD Chair. One affirmed the added value of continued exchange of expertise among states and partners involved in migration issues at both national and regional levels, as well as for the African continent. 2 of these African governments indicated their interest to share country experiences and assist in the elaboration of GFMD 2013-2014 Roundtables.

Below is a summary of the specific comments made by the Government delegates –

- a) On the **draft concept paper**, the following views were expressed:
 - Many delegates supported efforts to strengthen the development dimension of the GFMD, particularly in the context of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.
 - One delegate believed that the concept was moving in the right direction towards development and building on past GFMD outcomes in order to promote the inclusion of migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. However, some concepts are still under discussion in the framework of the UN system, in particular concerning the term of “inclusive development.” Instead of using new terms, the Chair was urged to use concepts that are already broadly accepted, such as human development and/or sustainable development, to

³ Three Steering Group Members repeated their interventions during the meeting earlier in the day. However, there were 13 other SG members who expressed a resounding support for the draft concept paper and work plan, but did not take the floor during the FOF meeting.

help establish methodologies with which to measure concrete outcomes for migration and development. This second point was echoed by two other delegates.

- Another delegate expressed reservation about discussing the Post-2015 Development Agenda if it meant developing a completely new set of Post-2015 Development goals. This delegate held the view that there is an existing UN development agenda, shaped by major UN conferences, summits on the issues of economic, social, environmental and related fields -- including the outcomes of past GFMD Summits -- where the issue of migration could be incorporated, strengthened and refined.

b) In terms of **Roundtable themes**, some delegates offered these remarks --

- Two delegates would like to explicitly include the human rights issue in the paper.
- One delegate saw the opportunity in RT 3.2 to see how best to follow up on the adoption and implementation of WHO General Assembly Resolution in 2008 concerning the health of migrants, which until now is not operational.
- Another delegate suggested linking RT 2.2 and the inclusion of human rights dimension in the paper with the upcoming Ministerial Conference on diaspora that the IOM is organizing this year.

c) Regarding **engagement with the civil society**, one delegate welcomed the Chair's intention to continue the fruitful cooperation with ICMC as the international civil society coordinator of the Civil Society Days (CS Days). This delegate also encouraged the government members of the FOF to consider the funding of the CS Days, in order to achieve an effective and inclusive participation of the civil society. Another delegate fully supported the proposal for continued engagement of the civil society and the private sector through the Common Space.

d) One delegate believed that **thematic meetings** could contribute to building knowledge and the global dialogue taking place in the course of the next year, particularly in New York, whether it is the HLD, or the reexamination of the MDGs and the potential place of migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Additionally, thematic meetings can inform the Roundtable preparations and help focus the deliberations during the Summit Meeting.

In this regard, the UAE is organizing a "Labor mobility as an enabler for sustainable development" conference to be held in Abu Dhabi on 14-15 May 2013. The event is supported by a number of partners, including the Executive Bureau of the Council of GCC Ministers of Labor, the Government of Sweden as Chair of GFMD, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank, particularly the KNOMAD group. The conference sessions will be structured around five key themes which are very much aligned with the thematic priorities of Sweden, namely -- 1. Labor mobility as an enabler for human, economic, and social development; 2. Measuring the impacts of labor mobility in terms of development; 3. Financial and non-financial contributions of overseas workers to their countries of origin and host countries; 4. Building a case for an active engagement of the Gulf region in the global dialogue on Migration and Development; and 5. Specific major case studies that point to the role of diaspora in contributing to the development in their countries of origin.

e) Other speakers underlined and affirmed some of the ideas that were outlined in the draft concept paper, but asked for more information about implementing these plans, which include --

- i. Establishment of a network of experts that could support and promote the Forum's work.
- ii. More active state engagement both in Roundtables and thematic discussions, as well as online consultations. GFMD's program should be strengthened and its programs harmonized through increased involvement and ownership by member states.
- iii. Strengthening of the Support Unit to ensure continuity and support for the Chair-in-Office.
- iv. More stable and predictable means of funding to enhance planning and implementation of the Forum's programs.
- v. Active engagement of the SG and FOF in two separate but parallel tracks, to avoid duplication of their work. One delegate believed that the SG should continue to act as a powerhouse composed of regionally-balanced representative member states. The group

- should work in liaison with the Support Unit to facilitate the work of the Forum. However, group membership should be constantly reviewed, while the mode of selection should be transparent to reflect the wish of the region that they represent.
- vi. Chair's determination to work with the previous GFMD Chairs to draw on their past contribution and achievement on migration and development for consolidation and ultimate contribution to the 2013 High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.
 - vii. Proposal for a multi-annual work plan, with the objective of improving the management and programs of GFMD.
- f) Some exchanges were made about the Post-2015 Development Agenda –
- i. A delegate welcomed the Government of Sweden's intention to bring together experts at a one-day Global Meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda in Stockholm on 26 February 2013. The Swedish Chair later clarified that this meeting is not part of the GFMD process, but rather an initiative of the Swedish Minister for International Development and Cooperation, Ms Gunilla Carlsson, who is a member of the High Level Panel that is now looking at how to integrate various issues, including migration, into the future development agenda.
 - ii. It was also announced that the Governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland will co-lead the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics slated for 12-13 March in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This is one of the eleven thematic consultations identified to be of particular importance to the Post-2015 Development Agenda; it will touch on a complex range of sub-themes, including the four mega trends of populations, namely population growth, migration, aging and urbanization. A government briefing is scheduled to be held on 22 of February at Palais des Nations, Geneva.
- g) A number of governments readily expressed their interest to join the Roundtable teams:

RT 1: Integrating migration in global, regional and national development agendas

- RT 1.1. Operationalizing mainstreaming and coherence in migration and development policies
 - Netherlands
 - Madagascar
 - Honduras⁴
- RT 1.2. Framing migration for the MDGs and the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda
 - Madagascar
 - Mexico

RT 2: Migration as an enabler for inclusive economic development

- RT 2.1. Enhancing the development impacts of labour migration and circular mobility through more systematic labour market and skills matching
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Angola
 - Honduras
- RT 2.2. Facilitating positive development impacts of diaspora engagement in skills transfers, investments and trade between countries of residence and origin
 - Netherlands
 - Ethiopia
 - Angola

RT 3: Migration as an enabler for inclusive social development

- RT 3.1. Empowering migrants, their households and communities for improved social development outcomes
 - Madagascar

⁴ After the FOF meeting, the Swedish Chair received a letter from the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the UNOG, indicating their interest to participate in various Roundtables.

- RT 3.2. Migrant asset transfers and their effects on health and education
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Angola
 - Honduras

h) 3 GFMD Observers also offered their comments on the draft concept paper:

- i. The EU congratulated Sweden and Ambassador Åkerman Borje for assuming the GFMD Chairmanship, and confirmed its full support in providing expertise on a broad range of migration and development issues at national, regional, multilateral levels. The EU attaches a lot of importance to the GFMD as a venue for discussing migration and development issues in a constructive and systematic way, thereby contributing to the evolving international policy framework in migration and development. The EU likewise recognized the importance of reaching out to relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, academia, civil society and diaspora. As in the past, the EU will also participate in the government teams and help elaborate the thematic background papers. Furthermore, the EU considered specific financial support measures to the GFMD, but reminded that some issues still needs to be addressed with regard to the EU's relation to the GFMD.
- ii. UNITAR acknowledged the critical role of the GFMD focal points (FPs) in mobilizing cross-sectoral representation and inputs from governments. To this end, they offered to work with the Chair in giving the Focal Points proper orientation and promote networking opportunities for their empowerment.
- iii. UNCTAD was pleased with the development focus of the thematic agenda, given its mandate to promote human development and its membership in the GMG, but suggested using the term sustainable development in lieu of inclusive development. UNCTAD has organized expert meetings, commissioned studies, background documents and listed practices which could serve as inputs for background documentation and resource, including the "UNCTAD Least Developed Country (LDC) Report 2012" which focused completely on migration and diaspora contribution and remittances for development in the LDCs. Currently, UNCTAD is working on how to reduce transaction costs and improving financial inclusion for sustainable development.

Mr. Tamas, on behalf of the Chair, appreciated the comments, questions and expressions of support and interest in Roundtable preparations and looked forward to a fruitful cooperation with the concerned delegates. He noted two major issues that had been raised. One was the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the use of certain terminologies, such as 'inclusive development.' He clarified that the UN was already rolling on its own pace to prepare for the post-MDG period, using the concept of inclusive development which has long been adopted in the UN system. He cited that the UNDP website offers a definition of this term, which means having a process of development that does not exclude anyone from the benefits of economic and social development. Migrants are often marginalized in societies and risk a situation where they are left behind. In this way, inclusive development, focusing both on social and economic aspects, is very much in line with the human development concept.

For the other questions about the proposed initiatives such as the Expert Network, the new working methods for the Platform for Partnerships, the Database on Policies and Practices, the Chair promised to prepare some terms of reference to be shared later with the Friends of the Forum.

5. Provisional Calendar of Activities 2013-2014

The Chair pointed to the Provisional Calendar of Key GFMD Activities for 2013-2014 which appears on page 20 of the draft concept note. The usual preparatory meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum will be held in May, September and November 2013 and March 2014. Subject to available resources and funding, each round will be organized back-to-back with a thematic meeting; hence, will cover between two to three days. Preparatory meetings of the government Roundtable teams will also begin in May. The final event will be the GFMD Summit Meeting to be held in Stockholm on 14-16 May 2014.

Comments in writing on the provisional calendar would be welcomed by the Chair.

6. Thematic Recollection of GFMD 2007-2012: Input to the High Level Dialogue (HLD) as a Follow up to the GFMD Assessment Report

The Chair reminded the meeting that following the Assessment exercise and the discussions at the Summit Meeting in Mauritius, the GFMD will submit two reports to the High Level Dialogue (HLD). First is the Consolidated Assessment Report, which includes the report on Phase 1 of the Assessment carried out during the Swiss Chair, the report on Phase 2 carried out under the Mauritian Chair, as well as the Report from the special session on the Future of the Forum in Mauritius. The second report is a Thematic Recollection of what the GFMD has discussed from 2007 to 2012. To prepare this Thematic Recollection, the group of past, present and future chairs have met to discuss this draft and how it should be formatted. An agreement has been reached to share with the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum an outline of its elements.

The Chair then called on Mr Justin MacDermott, Swedish GFMD Secretariat member, to introduce the one-page outline⁵ of the proposed Thematic Recollection of GFMD 2007 to 2012. Guided by PowerPoint, Mr MacDermott explained that the draft will have an introduction to the GFMD process, a summary of previous chairmanships, an overview of thematic subjects that have taken place over the years, concluding remarks, and then two annexes with hyperlinks – Annex I on subject matters that have been addressed and Annex II on the recommendations and reports of proceedings of each GFMD.

The introductory part will briefly describe the process of the GFMD, the stakeholders involved and the substance at hand, exploring the linkages between migration and human development. This would be followed by the brief summary (no more than a paragraph) for each year, explaining the overall theme and some key points that were addressed during the Chairmanship. This part would be referenced to Annex II, the index of the recommendations and Reports of Proceedings of each meeting.

For the Thematic Overview part, a review process has already begun, looking at past Roundtable proceedings to try to capture the key issues that had been discussed. Such issues have been categorized according to common key words, and the main points of discussion and recommendations under each of these issues were then summarized. Annex I provides a summary of these key issues, including *strategies for minimizing the costs of migration and maximizing the benefits of migration for human development, labor migration and mobility, diasporas, remittances, strategies for addressing irregular migration and enabling regular migration, the rights of migrants, policy coherence and mainstreaming, data and research, governance and coordination and dialogue, engagement of civil society and private sector.*

In line with the instructions received by the Swedish GFMD Secretariat from the United Nations Secretariat, the Thematic Recollection will have to be submitted by end of March or early April, for it to be considered as an input to the HLD. Given this tight timeline, the Chair would like to circulate a draft by March 1 to the FOF who are invited to submit written comments by March 13. A revised draft is envisaged to be sent again to the FOF around March 22, for their final comments on or before March 31.

No comments were made from the floor when the Chair opened the discussion.

7. GFMD Budget 2013-2014

The Chair made reference to the Provisional Budget for GFMD 2013-2014 which was circulated to all Friends of the Forum on February 7. This budget proposal supports the Swedish Chair's concept paper and work plan. 2013 marks a very important year for the GFMD, with the challenge of addressing and implementing some of the outcomes and recommendations of the two-year Assessment process. For the Swedish Chair, embracing this challenge would entail costs that may seem to be larger than in previous years. Secondly, the Swedish Chairmanship will run for 18 months, compared to the average 12 months duration of previous GFMD Chairs. Consequently, some of the fixed costs of the GFMD process, especially the Support Unit operational costs, have to be extended also for 18 months, thus, increasing the overall funding requirement.

The Chair affirmed her intention to lead efforts to try to work out a more predictable funding structure for the process. The Swedish GFMD budget proposal reflects a mix of the cost elements of previous GFMD budgets.

⁵ Copies of the outline were made available in the room during the meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum.

At the outset, this poses some difficulty in comparing annual GFMD budgets. The total estimated budget amounts to USD 3,300,000, with three major components. First is the cost of preparatory meetings amounting to USD 622,000. The considerable increase is largely due to the cost of organizing thematic meetings, which have proved to bring substantive added value to preparatory work and the actual summit meeting. The next component is the organizational cost of the seventh Global Forum Summit Meeting to be held in Stockholm in May 2014, estimated at approximately USD 1,570,000. This budget item covers the usual conference-related expenses, such as the venue, simultaneous interpretation, translation, technical set up, catering, and others. Additionally, this cost includes the projected cost of subsidizing the participation of delegates and panelists from developing countries, in keeping with the GFMD tradition.

The third component is the operational costs of the GFMD Support Unit. This office will not only have to run for a longer period of time (18 months) under the Swedish Chairmanship, but it will also have to support the ambition of the Swedish GFMD Chair to implement some of the recommendations of the Assessment Report. In this regard, there is need to strengthen the Support Unit in terms of personnel resources in order to carry out the improvements on gathering the evidence base, reforming the Platform for Partnerships (PfP) and the communication systems in general, among other things.

The Chair would welcome early announcements for financial contributions. All kinds of financial contributions, even token small amounts, would be appreciated in the interest of broadening the donor base and the engagement and ownership by all GFMD member states.

Recognizing the high importance of the civil society (CS) process for the work of the Global Forum as a whole, the Chair also urged governments to contribute to the CS budget, to be introduced later by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).

At this juncture, the incoming Chair Turkey underlined the importance of promoting the sustainability of the Forum through financial contributions. After pledging a contribution towards the Swedish GFMD budget, Turkey enjoined the FOF to strengthen and help cover the budget of the Support Unit, which has been doing a very good job and is now being assigned more tasks. There being no other comment or question, the Chair invited the meeting to address any clarification or suggestion to the Swedish team or the Support Unit.

8. Civil Society Process

Amb Åkerman Börje acknowledged that interaction with the CS stakeholders has enriched the whole Global Forum process over the years. The Swedish Chair will continue to work with the recommendations that emanated from the Assessment report to foster an even more interactive and constructive dialogue between governments and the CS in the GFMD process. The GFMD has attained an important progress in building trust between governments and the civil society in this state-led process. All governments were encouraged to engage with CS actors at the national level between GFMD meetings to prepare and follow up the work that has been done at the global level and provide feedback from the national level to the global process.

The Chair thanked the ICMC for its continued role as coordinator of the CS process before requesting Mr John Bingham to address the meeting.

On behalf of NGOs, trade unions, diaspora and migrant associations, academia and private sector actors who have engaged in the GFMD process since 2007, Mr. Bingham expressed appreciation to the Swedish Chair for recognizing the role of the CS in this states-led but not states-only GFMD process, and for renewing the trust placed in ICMC to coordinate civil society's engagement in GFMD 2013-2014. ICMC accepted this partnership with the Swedish Chair together with a large and increasingly close circle of civil society actors and networks worldwide.

Mr Bingham's intervention⁶ focused on three areas dealing with both substance and process.

1. Principal outcomes of civil society's work in the recent GFMD⁷

⁶ See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/sweden-2013-2014> for the complete Report of Civil Society Activities.

GFMD 2012 CS participants offered a number of helpful suggestions with regard to improving the civil society component of the Forum. There were 7 top recommendations, namely:

- a) To better license, regulate and monitor recruitment, placement and employment practices;
- b) To improve the matching of jobs, skills and education;
- c) To better engage migrants and diaspora as entrepreneurs, social investors and policy advocates in development;
- d) To include migration into national and global development frameworks;
- e) To ensure laws and mechanisms that protect vulnerable migrant workers, including domestic workers and migrants in irregular status;
- f) To create a protection framework for migrants trapped in dire humanitarian situations; and
- g) To ensure a central and integral role for civil society in the HLD.

2. On substance and process –

a) GFMD: Chair’s draft concept paper, first feedback

Upon invitation by the Chair, ICMC circulated the draft concept paper to civil society partners for inputs. So far, comments received are broadly positive and suggest a strong convergence with the Chair’s thematic agenda.

- Many welcomed the emphasis on human development, encompassing economic, social and cultural aspects. But some expressed concern that the Roundtable themes do not sufficiently address the negative aspects, namely the social and human costs of migration. In addition, the Forum could also examine how development can affect migration—such as offering decent work and other choices as an alternative to forced migration and brain drain.
- Civil society urged for a stronger protection and human-rights focus throughout the Roundtable themes and/or to devote a (sub) roundtable on protection issues, in particular migrants in distress—including migrant victims of violence or trauma in transit as well as “Libya-type” situations.
- Some expressed the concern of bringing in the private sector through multi-stakeholder dialogue, together with governments and the broader civil society, and cautioned against having entirely separate and compartmentalized processes.
- The encouragement of national consultations between civil society and their governments was well-received. Civil society has found the small but growing number of such consultations to be key in “before and after” work and partnerships “on the ground” for achieving results from Global Forum activities.

b) Intersections and orientations towards the HLD and Post-2015 Development Agenda

Within last year’s GFMD activities, civil society created a global Working Group on the HLD and Global Governance of Migration. This Working Group achieved broad agreement during the Civil Society programme in Mauritius (and also at the World Social Forum on Migration in Manila a week later) on an approach to the HLD that centers upon developing a 5 year commitment to action that the HLD could endorse for collaboration on seven important issues of migration and development. First circulated to the Second Committee in early December, the proposal is being submitted as an input to the UN Coordination meeting on migration and development in New York on 21-22 February.

3. The “mechanical parts” of ICMC, the CS Coordinating Office

- ICMC is an international NGO working with refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons around the world regardless of faith, race, ethnicity and nationality. It has been active in migration and

⁷ ICMC came out with a booklet containing seven civil society recommendations from GFMD 2012, with corresponding benchmarks. Copies of the booklet were made available in the meeting room, together with copies of the Evaluation survey results that ICMC conducted during the CS Days last year.

development processes since the first HLD in 2006. In 2011, Switzerland asked ICMC to set up a small Coordinating office to organize the 2011 CS programme, with Mauritius and Sweden renewing that invitation for 2012 and 2013-2014. ICMC works with the International Advisory Committee (IAC)⁸ and a wider “Consultation circle.”⁹

- ICMC coordinates communications with civil society actors worldwide, with a dedicated website and a database of 3000 civil society individuals and organizations active in migration and development. It coordinates outreach and feedback on the concept papers for both the state and civil society work plans, manage the open application process and selection of civil society participants, fundraising and other activities.
- There is no formal mechanism for multi-year funding of the civil society component of the GFMD. When ICMC was appointed Coordinator in 2011, ICMC sought and gave assurances that first, the costs would be reduced significantly; second, the Chair would commit to funding a portion of the civil society programme from the Chair’s budget for the GFMD; and third, ICMC would actively seek to increase and broaden donor support for the programme. The CS budget had been cut in half from the earlier period—to USD \$850,000 for the 12 months last year; and the number of donors tripled, with civil society on average raising about half of the budgets these past two years from government and private donors apart from the Chair. For GFMD 2014, civil society costs are projected at the level of last year and extrapolated to 18 months, amounting to around US \$1 million dollars.

On the last point, Mr. Bingham claimed that on average, about half of the funding for the civil society component of the GFMD these past two years had come from and through the Chair’s budget. ICMC welcomed the initial conversations with the Chair on prudent possibilities to take this security forward. Among several options, ICMC suggested setting a flat funding level within the Chair’s GFMD budget for the CS programme, i.e., 15% of the total, would be reasonable and demonstrates the commitment that states and civil society share in the work of the GFMD.

Amb Åkerman Börje thanked Mr Bingham for his comprehensive presentation and looked forward to working together in setting the government and CS agendas. Although these two processes are independent from each other, the Swedish Chair would like to have a very close cooperation on defining and agreeing to discuss common issues, not only in the Common Space, but in all the Roundtable sessions being planned.

9. Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Chair invited Mr. MacDermott to join her again at the podium to share with the FOF the initial Swedish perspectives about the link between migration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Swedish Chair has proposed to dedicate a GFMD Roundtable on this topic, and would also like to promote an understanding of the parallel processes that are treating this issue.

Mr. MacDermott articulated that the Swedish perspective was structured along the lines of already existing broad, development objectives, and not necessarily exclusively the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Migration has a clear link to core aspects of economic development, as seen through the contribution of diaspora to trade and investment, remittances and labour migration, all of which serve as means of increasing income levels and relate to MDG 1. Similarly, migration's contributions to social development can be measured in terms of investments and outcomes in health, gender equality, education, housing, social remittances and social protection issues, which are dealt with by MDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, respectively.

Meanwhile, MDG 8 focused on global partnerships covering trade, technology transfers, debt relief, development financing, etc. While it did offer concrete actions, the targets were imprecise and there were no

⁸ The IAC is comprised of civil society leaders representing all geographic regions and civil society sectors, to guide and propel the organization of the civil society programme. There are currently 28 IAC members that meet monthly, mainly by telephone.

⁹ This consists of some 130 civil society actors around the world that offer input and advice for the civil society programme and thematic foci of the states’ and civil society.

indicators for the operation of those partnerships¹⁰. It also lacked explicit language describing how the partnerships would contribute in achieving the other 7 MDGs.

In the review of the current MDG framework, the importance of mobilizing a “Compact of Nations” for future development framework was noted. The High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda have already begun devising the new agenda, but the exact format it will take remains unclear.

Against this backdrop, migration has been proposed as one of the enablers or means of achieving development goals. However, the “enabler” concept remains unclear, and many questions remain about the new development framework. Migration stakeholders must thus remain adaptable to decisions yet-to-be-made about its inclusion and position within the Post-2015 Development Agenda. One possibility is to treat migration as a partnership goal within the ambit of MDG 8 -- as a concrete, linear issue with targets and indicators for the partnership, as well as a cross-cutting issue that contributes to the other MDGs.

The GFMD has discussed through the years certain migration issues that could be considered as development targets, such as lowering the costs of migration (e.g., recruitment, documentation and travel), lowering remittance transfer costs (a goal recently adopted by G20), and portability of migrant assets, pensions, qualifications and work experience.

Mr MacDermott ended his presentation by informing the meeting that the High Level Panel meeting scheduled in Stockholm on February 26 will explore these same issues on how migration may feature in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He requested delegates from countries that had been invited to this meeting to encourage the participation of their high level officials.

The Chair then repeated the plan to hold a thematic meeting on engaging development actors in the migration and development dialogue and migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda in May in Geneva. She also stated that this topic will be discussed in one of the Roundtables of the upcoming High Level Dialogue in October 2013.

10. Any Other Business

There being no questions or comments, the Chair moved to the last agenda item.

Ms Estrella Lajom, Head of the GFMD Support Unit, made two brief announcements. First, the Support Unit distributed an information flier about the Platform for Partnerships (PfP) for the sake of new colleagues in Geneva who might not have heard about the PfP, or those who did not attend the Summit Meeting in Mauritius. The flier gives an overview of the rich information that can be found in the online PFP, at www.gfmd.org/pfp. She thus invited governments to share their initiatives, programs and policies on migration and development which could be featured in future PfP fliers.

Second, the informal survey questionnaire drafted jointly by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)¹¹ was circulated during the meeting in 4 languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian). As was presented last November at the Summit Meeting, the objective of the survey is to learn more about the extent to which these MPs have developed into a sustainable, helpful tool, contributing to greater policy coherence and the mainstreaming of migration into development plans. All governments that have developed MPs/EMPs were invited to complete the survey questionnaire. The Support Unit will send the electronic versions of the questionnaire to all Friends

¹⁰ 189 states signed off on the Millennium Declaration and agreed to its clear, limited development goals that easily garnered political support but lacked the means of achieving these goals.

¹¹Both IOM and ICMPD have worked with different governments to develop Migration Profiles (MPs) or Extended Migration Profiles (EMPs), copies of which are currently hosted on the PfP Migration Profiles Repository (<http://www.gfmd.org/en/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles>).

of the Forum after the meeting. Ms Lajom sought assistance in endorsing this informal survey to the capitals – to the policy makers who took part during the drafting of the MPs/EMPs and those who are actually using them for policy making. Hopefully, the outcomes of this PfP initiative could feed into RT 1.1 of GFMD 2014.

In closing, Amb Åkerman Börje appealed to all delegates to update the GFMD focal points (FP) list to help in the implementation of the Swedish GFMD work plan. She thanked the delegates for their time and active participation, as well as the ILO and the interpreters for their support. She then closed the meeting at 18.00 hrs.

Prepared by:

GFMD Support Unit
25 February 2013