

*“Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”*

**GFMD 2013-2014 Third Meeting of the Friends of the Forum**

Tuesday, 10 September 2013  
14.30 to 18.00 hrs  
La Salle V, ILO Building, Geneva

**Summary Report**

**Welcoming Remarks**

1. The third meeting of the GFMD Friends of the Forum was chaired by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, GFMD 2013-2014 Chair. Joining the Chair at the podium was the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Migration and Development (SRSG), Mr. Peter Sutherland and the incoming GFMD 2015 Chair Turkey, represented by Ms. Esen Altug, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa. Representatives of the GFMD 2013-2014 Secretariat and the GFMD Support Unit were seated at separate tables on both sides of the panel.
2. Before moving on to the agenda of the meeting, the Chair provided a brief summary of the issues discussed at the third meeting of the GFMD Steering Group held in the morning of same day. The meeting focused on two issues – enhancing the working methods of the GFMD Steering Group and the long-term financing framework for the GFMD.
3. On the size and composition of the GFMD Steering Group, reflecting the results of the discussions in May and comments received by the Chair from all Friends of the Forum, the Chair’s proposal included developing new ToRs for the Steering Group, limiting its size, looking at some sort of rotational membership, remodelling the composition of the group, clarifying the expectations of the members, having a clearer process on how new interests for membership in the Steering Group would be handled, and differentiating the roles and responsibilities of the various GFMD structures, including the Troika, the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. There was a common agreement that commitment -- demonstrated through financial and/or intellectual contributions -- is a basic criterion to remain in the Steering Group. The Chair noted down some reservations expressed by some delegations concerning some elements in the proposal and promised to develop with the Troika a firmer proposal that will be submitted to the Steering Group at its next meeting in November, with the end in view of presenting a proposal to the Friends of the Forum in March 2014.
4. Similarly, there was a discussion on long-term financing of the GFMD. Based on previous discussions, the Chair presented some basic elements for a new funding framework for the GFMD, as well as a tentative timeline for next steps. The Chair proposed the creation of a multi-annual funding mechanism based on a standardized budget with a clear governance and accountability framework. A pledging meeting at the outset of each Chairmanship would also be a regular feature.
5. The GFMD pledging meeting could also make room for the civil society to present their budget as an integral part of that meeting. The Chair will likewise explore further the possibility to have GFMD contributions considered as DAC contributions, to enable more countries to offer financial support to the process.
6. The Chair’s proposal for a multi-annual financing framework was unanimously supported by several delegations. But some questions and comments were made from the floor, requiring further review. The Chair intends to work with the Troika and other interested Steering Group members to develop the

TORs/guidelines for such a multi-annual funding framework for the GFMD. The aim is to present a proposal at the next Steering Group meeting to be held on 20 November.

### **Provisional Agenda**

7. The Provisional Agenda was adopted, with some additional announcements from the Chair under Any Other Business.

### **The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

8. Mr Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary General Special Representative for Migration and Development, addressed the Friends of the Forum to share his hopes for the High Level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development to be held on 3-4 October in New York. He saw the HLD as a rare opportunity for Member States to make a real difference, as migration increasingly becomes one of the greatest global issues of our time.
9. The SRSG reminded the Friends of the Forum that the GFMD is a concrete outcome of the first HLD in 2006, which has built trust and promoted knowledge and understanding of complex migration issues, as well as cooperation and partnerships between and among governments, civil society, international organization, the private sector, and other stakeholders. But he posed a challenge for Member States to translate the rhetoric about cooperation into real, determined and sustained action. He urged Member States to make a commitment to an intellectual engagement in how to share knowledge in solving real problems at the national, regional and global levels. To this end, he rallied them to support on-going initiatives on protecting migrants in acute crises, the ratification of the Domestic Workers' convention and the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 agenda.
10. Mr Sutherland also reported that migration has now been favourably mentioned in the Secretary General's report to the General Assembly. While it is a modest reference, it is an important foothold as we move to the next stage. He expressed the hope that the HLD will allow the global community to move much closer to a broad global consensus on how to include migration in the post-2015 agenda.
11. In view of foregoing, Mr Sutherland urged the Friends of the Forum to help ensure that their capitals will send high-level representatives who implement policies on the ground and can engage in vigorous debate on migration-related problems. A robust debate will be the first step in helping define the priorities for the next decade by mapping where the political will and knowledge rest, in order to better understand needed changes in the global governance of migration and the institutions that oversee the movement of people across borders. He urged countries to focus their statements on concrete actions.
12. Finally, the SRSG encouraged the Friends of the Forum to ensure that an acknowledgement of the critically valuable work that the GFMD has done is highlighted in their national statements.. He closed his presentation with the words of Winston Churchill, "I never worry about action, only about inaction."

### **The presentation of the GFMD Thematic Recollection to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

13. Following the submission of the GFMD Thematic Recollection to the UN Secretary General earlier this year, the GFMD Chair held discussions with UNDESA and the office of the President of the General Assembly to secure a slot for the GFMD to present the Thematic Recollection. It has now been confirmed that the Chair will be given a slot during the plenary session on Friday 4 October, between 9 to 10 am.
14. A draft statement based on the Thematic Recollection has been prepared and discussed at the Troika meeting held earlier in the day, which was attended by all past, present and future GFMD Chairs. The draft statement asserts that the GFMD is a major deliverable of the first High-level Dialogue in 2006 and that the Forum has

been successful in enabling dialogue, building trust and sharing experiences. It closes by encouraging governments to maintain their ownership of the Forum, to support it, to engage actively through a broad range of ministries throughout the year and to continue strengthening the development focus of the Forum. The statement will be finalized on the basis of some minor editorial comments offered by the past and future GFMD Chairs.

15. The draft statement mentions the same thematic foci as those that appear in the Thematic Recollection: *strategies for minimizing costs/maximizing human development; labour 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; and governance of migration and coordination of dialogue* as well as *ways of involving civil society and the private sector*.
16. Ahead of the HLD, the Chair encourages all states and observers to include in their statements at the HLD an acknowledgement of the positive contribution that the GFMD has made and continues to do in the area of migration in development.
17. The Chair also announced that a side event will be held on Wednesday, 2 Oct 2013<sup>1</sup>, from 3.00 to 4.30pm at Room 3 of the Conference Building, UN New York. It will feature a panel comprised of the SRSB and high level representatives from the past, present and future GFMD Chairs.
18. The Chair shared the feedback received earlier from the Steering Group members. Delegates supported the Chair's efforts to draw attention to the GFMD achievements at the HLD in October, underlining the fact that the GFMD is a concrete deliverable of the first HLD in 2006. Delegates also praised the commitment and initiatives of the SRSB in moving forward the debate on migration and development, particularly in advancing the issue of migrants' protection and human rights.

### **GFMD Thematic Survey**

19. The Chair explained that the GFMD survey was launched in June 2013 in order to implement one of the Swedish Chair's priorities, which is to make the Forum more evidence-based, more participatory, more durable, and improve the outreach and impact on global agendas. By systematically making available the national experiences and practice, better use of the accumulated evidence in the Forum process can be collected. This will also promote a more in-depth approach on different thematic issues, avoid overlaps and use up-to-date information directly from governments. The survey results will also help the work of the Government Teams and in developing the Policy and Practice Database.
20. Mr Kristof Tamas, Senior Policy Adviser of the GFMD 2013-2014 Secretariat, gave an interim report on the GFMD survey. In his [PowerPoint presentation](#), Mr Tamas showed that 39 countries have so far completed the survey. To give even more governments the opportunity to supply information and respond to the survey, the deadline for submission has been **extended until October 15**.
21. The GFMD thematic survey partial results have generated information about many policies and programs that responding governments have done and/or are implementing in the areas covered by the GFMD 2013-2014 Roundtable themes – operationalizing mainstreaming of migration into development, labour mobility and diaspora and empowering migrants for a more inclusive development. These practices could serve as learning tools for other governments that may also be facing similar challenges on their own fronts.
22. The Chair invited all Friends of the Forum to participate in the survey until October 15.

### **Update of the work in GFMD Government Teams**

23. Mr Tamas also provided an update on the compositions of the GFMD 2013-2014 Government Teams. In his [PowerPoint presentation](#), he recognized the 37 Governments and 17 observers that have offered to co-Chair each RT session or join as team members or serve as a rapporteur. He clarified that the membership in the Government Teams is still open.

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<sup>1</sup> More details about the side event became known after the SG and FOF meetings on 10 September 2013.

24. The second round of Government Teams preparatory meetings was scheduled for September 12. Ahead of the meeting, the respective RT Coordinators and co-Chairs prepared and circulated to team members draft background elements as background for the main focus of the scheduled preparatory meeting.
25. Mr Tamas also announced that the identification of capital-based government experts<sup>2</sup> who will form part of the GFMD expert network would commence. On the basis of the discussions of the RT Government Teams on September 12, each Team Coordinator and co-Chairs will invite participants in the Government Teams to identify their experts. Along with the GFMD survey, this aims to get access to the experts in the relevant departments, ministries or agencies in the capitals.
26. The Chair expressed appreciation to the 37 Governments and 17 Observers that are supporting the work of the Roundtables to date. She invited interested governments to step forward to co-chair RT session 2.1 and the GFMD Platform for Partnerships session. Additionally, she would like to see more governments joining the RT 3.2 session and the Business Roundtable session.

## Civil Society Days

27. Mr John Bingham of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), convenor of the civil society process, made a [presentation](#) touching on both process and substance. He first announced that the comprehensive report of the GFMD 2012 Civil Society Days has been published and is available on [www.gfmdcivilsociety.org](http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org), as well as the [www.hldcivilsociety.org](http://www.hldcivilsociety.org) websites. Moreover, he gave information that the European Commission will soon provide an important, multi-year funding to civil society, in part for GFMD activity and also for migration and development work in the civil society network worldwide.
28. On substance, Mr Bingham shared that the civil society see the GFMD and HLD processes not as events but as a movement, with the HLD providing significant additional drivers and gears. Civil society organizations and networks worldwide have focused on a core set of 8 issues<sup>3</sup> and proposal for 5-year collaboration on those issues with states. The two key elements of this 5-year plan include multi-year planning and action and improving civil society's engagement with governments within the GFMD, and in follow-up to GFMD recommendations.
29. Mr Bingham echoed civil society's plea to endorse this 5-year approach to collaboration as a distinct output of the HLD. Civil society's 5-year plan does not call for a new UN institution or a new process. It looks for collaboration and convergence for action and in real time. To this end, he posed three questions to the Friends of the Forum as he concluded his statement: a) Is your government participating at ministerial and implementing levels at the High-level Dialogue? b) Even if, like many in civil society, your government has certain concerns about the GFMD process, will you also express value—and perhaps suggestions for improvement—in the GFMD process? c) May we count on your government for commitment at the HLD to collaboration with civil society over the next 5 years?
30. The Chair replied in the affirmative to all three questions and enjoined all the Friends of the Forum to look at the 8-point proposal for 5-year collaboration with states. She then opened the discussion for any comments, but there was no intervention from the floor.

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<sup>2</sup> The Terms of Reference (TORs) for the expert network was discussed at the second Friends of the Forum meeting held on 20 May 2013.

<sup>3</sup> As elaborated in his presentation, the 8 issues are familiar to all engaged in the GFMD. Many have already been the subject of concrete – and frequently quite similar – recommendations by States and civil society in those processes. All of them link directly to the formal programme of the HLD.

## **The GFMD Platform for Partnerships**

31. Mr Tamas provided background information on the Chair's continuing initiatives to strengthen the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP). This will include promoting more interactive FOF meetings that can focus on more substantive issues and voluntary follow up of GFMD outcomes or recommendations. To make this possible, the Chair has proposed to integrate the PfP in the agenda of the FOF and to encourage governments to use the PfP to exchange views, do networking and identify possible partnerships. Furthermore, the PfP could help improve the evidence base and collective knowledge of the GFMD.
32. The Chair added that through the PfP, the GFMD could strengthen its interaction with the Global Migration Group (GMG) agencies and benefit from their expertise in following-up or implementing GFMD outcomes on a voluntary basis, nationally or in cooperation with various partners. In this regard, the Chair invited UNITAR to make a [presentation](#) on training and capacity building in relation to GFMD outcomes and recommendations.
33. Ms Collen Thouez, Senior Research and Training Advisor of UNITAR, pointed out that the world of learning is changing and it is bearing on capacity development in the field of migration. These innovations include the use of online learning, structured social learning with much higher levels of interaction through collaborative learning, and competency based instruction and its recognition through professional certification.
34. To respond to changing needs, UNITAR and partner agencies, particularly within the GMG, are trying to broach capacity development in a more comprehensive and effective way. They see the possibilities of working with the PfP in the actualization of GFMD recommendations pertaining to capacity development. In the immediate, UNITAR and IOM propose to engage with the GFMD Focal Point Network on training activity and needs, taking into account the GFMD (?) survey results and the GFMD recommendations. The medium term proposals would include packaging of existing GMG publications and future training tools, offering more online course materials, developing standing GMG training curricula and certification.
35. During the question and answer segment, it was clarified that the development of the training curricula will not be donor driven or GMG driven, but rather demand-driven. Ms Thouez also explained that the training will depend on the requirements of Member States, i.e., there will be online learning courses, hybrid courses with online and face-to-face components, and on-site training, which may or may not require the UN Country Team's support. Asked about data-sharing, Ms Thouez remarked that data and research is within the purview of other GMG agencies. UNITAR will consult and discuss with these concerned agencies on data and research issues, as may be needed.
36. Looking to the next FOF meetings in November and March, the Chair invited Governments to share their experiences on policy and project development relating to GFMD outcomes or recommendations, which can be showcased during the next PfP segments. Requests will be entertained on a first-come-first-served basis.

## **Any Other Business**

### **a) 2<sup>nd</sup> GFMD Thematic Meeting on Labour Migration and Diaspora**

37. The Chair reiterated the invitation to the second GFMD 2013-2014 thematic meeting on "*Recruitment, Labour migration and Diaspora - Improving labour market complementarities and economic development outcomes*" to be held the following day (September 11). Co-chaired by Netherlands and Morocco, this second thematic meeting will support the Roundtable 2 work stream. 22 capital-based experts from developing countries who received financial assistance from the Chair will participate in the meeting. Also, a KNOMAD Europe launch lunch event will be held, open to all Friends of the Forum and other thematic meeting participants.

**b) 3rd GFMD Thematic Meeting on Empowerment and Assets**

38. The next thematic meeting on Empowerment and Assets will be held on November 20, as earlier announced. The invitation to this meeting will be circulated in early October. To give a chance to other capital-based experts on this policy area to also participate in the meeting, the Chair encouraged interested developing countries to send a request as early as possible to the GFMD Support Unit.

**c) Attendance of the GFMD 2013-2014 Chair in International Meetings**

39. Since the last Friends of the Forum assembly in May, the Chair has participated in various meetings as Chair of the GFMD process. These included the HLD preparatory meeting in New York on 25 June, OHCHR's High-Level Meeting on Migration and Human Rights in Geneva in August, the Regional Consultative Meeting in Cairo for the HLD preparations, and the IOM Diaspora Ministerial Conference in Geneva in June. The Chair also took part in the preparations of the Caricom Dialogue on migration and development by delivering a statement to participants through a video link. All presentations/statements on these varied occasions are posted on the GFMD web portal.

**Closing Remarks**

40. The Chair thanked all the delegates for their active participation and for a very constructive meeting. In closing, she announced that there will be two more Friends of the Forum meetings scheduled under the Swedish Chairmanship, i.e., on 19 November 2013 and 11 March 2014.
41. The meeting was adjourned at 18.00 hrs.

*This summary report was prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.*