

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

**First Meeting of the GFMD Steering Group**

**La Salle XI, 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, Ms. 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**

Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, GFMD 2013-2014 Chair convened the first meeting of the GFMD Steering Group which was attended by 29 Member States<sup>1</sup>, Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Migration and Development (SRSG) and representatives of the GFMD Troika -- Amb. Israhyananda Dhalladoo, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (UNOG) and Mr. Berlan Pars Alan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UNOG. Also joining the Chair at the podium were Mr. Kristof Tamas, member of the Swedish GFMD Secretariat and Ms. Estrella Lajom, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

In her brief remarks to the Steering Group Members, Amb. Åkerman Börje shared the enthusiasm and pride of the Government Offices of Sweden, particularly the members of the Swedish GFMD Secretariat, in chairing the GFMD process. She reiterated Sweden's long engagement in the GFMD since its inception, as well as in other relevant processes before and after the GFMD. She gave assurance of Sweden's full commitment to the process and looked forward to working with the Steering Group in taking the GFMD a step further.

Sir Peter Sutherland, SRSG, seconded the Chair's warm welcome to the Steering Group Members and congratulated Team Sweden for its energy and advanced work, as evidenced by the draft concept paper. He considered the national launch held in Stockholm on 31 January as a strong sign of Sweden's commitment to ensuring the success of GFMD 2013-2014. Emphasizing the need to link the GFMD with the upcoming High Level Dialogue (HLD) in October, he challenged all delegations to ensure that the GFMD achievements are appreciated and fed into the HLD preparations both in New York and in Geneva.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The provisional agenda was adopted without any changes.

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<sup>1</sup> Participating countries included: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

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

Mr. Kristof Tamas, Senior Policy Advisor from the Swedish GFMD Secretariat, presented<sup>2</sup> 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 by the Friends of the Forum 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. Other recommendations for immediate and mid-term follow up also influenced the paper's proposals, which the Chair hopes will be endorsed by the FOF for a consensual, forward looking, and outcome-oriented agenda resulting from broad consultation and transparent dialogue.

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, coherence 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. This work is connected to ongoing preparation for the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda and the debate over new content upon completion 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",<sup>3</sup> which suggests four dimensions, broader than the eight current MDGs, 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 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, i.e., 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 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 –

- Further engage the Troika on the multiannual work plan, Thematic Reflection and other long-term planning issues
- 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 and monitoring of GFMD outputs;
- 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 and increasing interaction between civil society and governments;

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<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/sweden-2013-2014> for the PowerPoint presentation.

<sup>3</sup> "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\\_UNTReport.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTReport.pdf)

- Constant updating of the GFMD Focal Points list,;
- 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 as part of the PFP 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 encouraging the addition of smaller contributions toward 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 its 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 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> comments to be sent for the draft Concept Paper
- **20 March** 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the draft Concept Paper to be distributed
- **10 April** 3<sup>rd</sup> comments to be sent for the draft Concept Paper
- **30 April** 3<sup>rd</sup> and final version of the draft Concept Paper to be distributed
- **21 May** Endorsement at GFMD SG and FoF (Geneva)

## 15 Governments asked for the floor<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Some speakers who attended the SG meeting repeated their interventions at the FOF meeting held in the afternoon.

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

Many delegates commended the excellent quality, ambitious nature, and innovative ideas included in the draft concept paper. They appreciated that the clear, comprehensive document builds directly on previous GFMD experience and outcomes of the Assessment Report. Many expressed overall support for the paper's key three objectives. One delegate believed that it serves as a qualitative leap for the GFMD, while a few others noted the challenges it sets for both the Global Forum, as well as states at the national level.

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.

Four Governments expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Mauritius for its sterling role as previous host and Chair of the 2012 GFMD Chairmanship.

Below is a summary of the specific comments made by the 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 GFMD's achievements well-place it to integrate migration issues into the new agenda. Another cautioned against focusing the GFMD's development agenda too closely with the MDGs, given their potential to be changed after 2015.
  - Various opinions were expressed regarding the use of the term "inclusive development." One delegate urged that the Chair use concepts that are already broadly accepted, such as human development, to help establish methodologies with which to measure concrete outcomes for migration and development. This point was echoed by another delegate. However, others quickly adopted the inclusive development framework in their interventions. One delegate believed that the language choice reflects the Chair's knowledge and sensitivity to development issues, while another held the view that it bestows great responsibility on governments to accelerate migration's impact and benefit for the greater majority.
  - One delegate acknowledged the value of discussing both economic and social development, and encouraged highlighting the latter given a well-developed economic agenda achieved in previous GFMD Summit meetings. This delegate further suggested considering measures or policies targeted at mitigating the negative consequences of migration on development.
  - Some delegates supported Peter Sutherland's comments, urging close coordination and complementarity – and avoid duplication -- of work between Geneva and New York in advance of the UN High Level Dialogue.
- b) Five delegates expressed support for the **thematic meetings** in preparation for the Roundtables. One delegate believed that the meetings would add value, contribute to the global discussions and make the Roundtables more productive. Another felt that they might help garner support from capital-based ministries whom the concept paper suggests the GFMD should now engage. Additional clarification on the meeting organization and Government Team roles was requested.

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.

- c) In terms of **Roundtable themes**, some delegates offered these remarks -
- Three delegates would like to explicitly include the human rights issue in the roundtable sessions. One of the delegates believed that human rights should be mainstreamed into the core of GFMD's work.
  - Two delegates identified migrant protection as a topic they believed should be discussed. One was of the view that RT 3.1 does touch on these issues, but believed that aspects of human rights, migrant protection and irregular migration could be incorporated into other Roundtables as well. This delegate also suggested examining the relationship between irregular migration and development to better include all countries in the discussion.
  - Another delegate was of the opinion that migrant health could be factored into either RT 2 or RT 3 as a human right or development issue.
- d) On the paper's proposal for a **more dynamic forum**, the following was said:
- Six delegates expressed support for further delineation of tasks between the **Steering Group** and **Friends of Forum**, with distinct agenda items for each group toward increased efficiency. One delegate preferred having a smaller, more strategic and focused Steering Group similar to the interactive debate format of the GFMD Assessment Team.
  - Four governments expressed support for broadening GFMD **communication strategies**. The use of online discussion and social media were highlighted by two different delegates, while another affirmed the added-value of including relevant non-state actors in GFMD deliberations online.
  - One government requested clarification over the absence of the **ad hoc Working Groups** in the Swedish Chair's concept paper.
  - Four delegates supported the Chair's proposal to strengthen the **Support Unit**. Some delegates highlighted the value of the Platform for Partnerships (PFP) as one of the SU's responsibilities and an important GFMD output.
  - Five delegates supported the creation of a **Network of Experts** and increased engagement of development practitioners. One delegate requested that terms of reference be compiled, outlining the network's implementation and functioning; three other delegates echoed this idea. Another two governments raised concerns regarding certain capitals' capacity to provide the network with support, while another delegate suggested approaching development ministries with explicit requests for expertise to bypass fears that migration will drain financial resources.
  - Three delegates articulated their state interest in increased engagement of the private sector and in relation to the innovative **Business Roundtable**.
- e) Remarks related to the **multiannual work plan** included:
- Five governments expressed support for the proposed work plan as a means of achieving a more durable Forum. One delegate believed that it will create a smoother transition between annual Chairs based on a shared vision and outlook for the Forum's future. But three delegates requested further clarification of plan details.
  - Two delegates affirmed the need for more stable and predictable means of funding to enhance planning and implementation of the Forum's programs using a standard annual budget, predetermined financial contributions and a wider donor pool. Another delegate believed that all member states should contribute voluntarily to facilitate Forum operations.
- f) 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 suggested that governments engage with local civil society organizations in advance of the Summit to learn about national concerns and priorities.
- g) 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. 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.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Strengthen and more clearly define the Platform for Partnership's role to share GFMD knowledge in a more systematic and accessible manner.
  - iv. Initiate the creation of a Policy Practice Database within the PFP framework to showcase more of the policies and practices discussed during Roundtable preparations and share with the broader international community.
- h) 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
  - Honduras<sup>5</sup>
- 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
- RT 3.2. Migrant asset transfers and their effects on health and education
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Angola
  - Honduras

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 acknowledged the concept paper's ambitious nature and stated that many of its proposals were based on the Assessment Report recommendations.

He individually addressed each of the various issues that had been raised during state interventions. He promised further explanation of the term 'inclusive development,' and clarified its relevance within the development field. This played a major role in the Chair's strategic word choice which is meant to further

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

engage development practitioners in migration-dominated GFMD discussions. This engagement and terminology is also a means of ensuring that migration's contribution to development is visible within the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He agreed with delegates that human rights could fit into various roundtable topics as a more visible, cross-cutting issue.

While expressing support for GFMD-related external events, such as UAE's labor mobility conference, Mr. Tamas underlined that the PfP could be utilized to a larger extent to promote events, showcase relevant programs and practices, and build the evidence base, for example by initiating the proposed Policy and Practice Database. He believed that the involvement of capital-based experts would decrease the focal points' burden. These experts would also play a key role in thematic meetings, potentially overlapping with the position previously assumed by the ad hoc Working Groups. Finally, he gave assurance that GFMD contributions to the HLD would not duplicate work done in New York, but would provide necessary background information ahead of the HLD, in accordance with the Assessment Report recommendations.

In regards to the multiannual work plan, he clarified that a single document would incorporate all strategic issues and substantive themes for Steering Group endorsement. He also underlined the importance of maintaining the Forum's informal, non-binding nature with voluntary contributions in the new budget structure.

The Chair promised to prepare some terms of reference to be shared with the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum about the proposed initiatives, including the Expert Network, new working methods for the Platform for Partnerships, and Policy Practice Database.

#### **4. 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.

The past Chair Mauritius informed the meeting about the Bali Ministerial Conference scheduled in November, which may conflict with the proposed meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. It was suggested that these GFMD meetings be moved to December instead.

#### **5. 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 outline<sup>6</sup> 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.

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<sup>6</sup> Copies of the outline were made available in the room during the meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum.

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.*

The fourth section will offer concluding remarks that reflect on the GFMD process without duplicating the detailed Consolidated Assessment Report.

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 SG and FOF who are invited to submit written comments by March 13. A revised draft is envisaged to be sent again to both groups 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.

## **6. 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. 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.

One Government urged the Chair to further break down the cost elements to give more clarity about the budget proposal. Also, it was suggested that the contribution from the Swedish Chair be reflected early on, to give donor countries an idea about the minimum budgetary requirements. It was stressed that the proposed amount seems to be 30% higher than in 2011. Hypothesizing that the substantial increase could be due to the planned thematic meetings in 2013-2014, this delegate encouraged the Chair to take advantage of thematic meetings organized at the initiative and cost of other Governments, such as the Abu Dhabi meeting in May.

In response, Amb Åkerman Börje clarified the mixed approach of the Swedish Chair in preparing for the substantive agenda. Aside from the regular consultation meetings with the Steering Group, Friends of the Forum and government teams in Geneva, the thematic meetings are intended to focus on the same agenda of the Summit Meeting, in order to deepen the substance of the final dialogue. The Chair also emphasized that the proposed budget is in the same range of budgets of previous years. She invited the Steering Group members to send more comments in writing or ask any questions they may have on the budget during the donors' luncheon meeting scheduled on the same day.

## **7. Any Other Business**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 13.00 hrs.

Prepared by:

GFMD Support Unit  
28 February 2013