

## GFMD Closing remarks on 16 May 2014 by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Dear Colleagues,

As we close this year's Forum Meeting, and thereby the Swedish GFMD Chairmanship, I would like to mention in brief some of the advances made, but I would also like to spend some time on outstanding issues. Areas where there is still room for improvement and continued efforts.

For ease of reference, let me stick to the three "D:s" of our Chairmanship. A more development oriented, dynamic and durable forum.

### *[Development focussed]*

With regards to the **development focus of the Forum**. Great progress has been made in shifting the dialogue from a migration-centred approach, to an approach that has taken development objectives as a point of departure – How migration can contribute to inclusive economic and social development, for the migrants themselves, their families as well as countries of origin and destination.

The inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda lies at the heart of this endeavour. On this issue, important progress has been made, and a summary of our deliberations in this regard will be communicated to relevant stakeholders. But looking ahead, much more needs to be done, as we move beyond the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Sweden is truly grateful that Turkey has expressed its commitment to furthering this effort.

### *[More Dynamic]*

With regards to making the **forum more dynamic**, we have agreed, in the Future of the Forum Session, on new terms of references for the Troika, Steering Group and Friends of the Forum. The need to strengthen the capacity of the Support Unit for the future has been addressed.

We have found a **new format for the engagement with the substantive discussions**. Through agreeing to form Government Teams for each roundtable session at an early stage in the process, and holding thematic meetings directly linked to the topics discussed

in these roundtables greater government ownership and expertise from capitals can be injected into the dialogue.

This is encouraging progress, but it is not enough. Since the forum remains voluntary and informal, **states need to step up to the challenge of truly leading the forum.** The Swedish Chair experimented with forming expert networks for each roundtable session. The results have been mixed.

As the Forum evolves, the Swedish Chair would therefore suggest to heed the call from the High-level Dialogue for **closer coordination and collaboration with the Global Migration Group.** The five areas highlighted by the Special Representative of the Secretary General would go a long way in this regard – ranging from the identification of shared priorities to collaboration in voluntary follow-up and implantation.

**If the GMG could assist the Chair of the GFMD, Government Teams and individual countries** as suggested, discussions could be enriched and participating governments could be empowered to engage more constructively. The last point, on assisting countries in the voluntary follow-up and implementation could mean to include migration in the development analysis, plans and programmes. This would be a big step in moving from words to action.

Looking at other stakeholders, the GFMD has explored and developed a format for **engaging with the private sector.** This seems to have been appreciated by most stakeholders and it is encouraging to see that Turkey is taking this issue forward during their Chairmanship.

One area that needs further **improvement is the communication.** The Swedish Chair has operated a Twitter account and through the Support Unit, more importantly, we have managed to get the Policy and Practice Database in place, but through a communication plan we could reach much further.

### *[Durable]*

Finally, I should touch on the durability of the Forum. At the Future of the Forum earlier today, we agreed on a new **long-term financing mechanism** as well as the format for a **multi-annual work plan.** Together these tools will increase transparency, predictability and facilitate the work of incoming chairs. Nonetheless, funders of the process remain limited in number. There is an urgent need for more governments to

prove their commitment to the process through making financial contributions, regardless of how small these may be.

*[Acknowledgements]*

Ladies and gentlemen,

Now I would like to **thank those who have made the Swedish Chairmanship and this meeting a success.**

I would like start with all the governments that have **contributed with active participation and financial support** to the process. Many of you have had a continuous, stable support which is very important to the GFMD. Without this support and these efforts, none of us would be sitting here today. I am also deeply grateful to **all who have participated**, and in particular to all of the **Ministers and vice ministers** who took the time to come to Stockholm – it was through all of your contributions that the meeting was filled with substance and meaning.

A person who deserves particular recognition is **Peter Sutherland**. His accurate guidance and relentless support has been, and continues to be, instrumental for making the Forum the success that it is. He has been invaluable to the Swedish chairmanship and to me personally. The fact that he does all this work pro-bono is truly amazing and proves a very strong commitment.

As a GFMD Chairmanship, we have had invaluable support from the **Support Unit**. They have shown a 24/7-commitment, as has the staff in the Swedish GFMD secretariat (my colleagues!), which equally deserve to be commended for driving the process and the substantive discussions forward.

Now, let me turn more specifically to this meeting. I would like to thank the conference center **Münchenbryggeriet**, the **interpreters** and all the **volunteers** who have made great contributions to the success of the forum meeting.

Finally, recalling that the GFMD is more than a meeting, that it is in fact an ongoing year-long process of meetings and exchanging experiences and lessons learnt, I must thank **all of those who have worked with us over the past 18 months** and for the faith that you vested in Sweden during our Chairmanship.

Thank you!

*[Hand-over to Turkey]*

With these words, I would like to hand over the GFMD **Chairmanship plaque to the incoming Chair Turkey**, which is represented here by Ms Esen Altug, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

What country could be more suitable to take on the chairmanship of the GFMD?

A **country of origin, of destination and transit**; Turkey is a key country when it comes to the migration and development nexus. **Turkish diaspora**, primarily in Europe, constitutes a well-known example of how migrant entrepreneurs can contribute to growth and job creation in their host societies. **Your experiences** in harnessing the contributions of Turks resident abroad for the development in Turkey will prove a valuable lesson for the GFMD.

Turkey has also long been a country of destination for migrants, both economic migrants and refugees. As we all know, Turkey is today hosting an **extremely large refugee population, due to tragic circumstances in the region**.

All in all, I feel certain that the Turkish chairmanship will make sure the GFMD remains relevant to countries with all different migration experiences and of all different stages of development.

I wish you the best of luck with chairing the Forum and stand ready to support you in your endeavours. Knowing how essential the support from other states has been during our Chairmanship, I encourage all of you here today to consider how you can provide a generous support to the incoming Turkish Chair.

*[Hand over takes place]*

It has been a wonderful experience for us in Team Sweden to chair the Global forum with your help. Working together towards a stronger global dialogue on migration and development, of which Sweden has been a relentless supporter for the last ten years, has been a privilege.

I will miss leading the GFMD process but feel so privileged to have worked with something so truly meaningful and urgent together with a wonderful team and together with our global network.



Thank you!