

*Migration and Human Mobility in the context of the Post-2015  
Development Agenda: Perspectives from the GFMD*

**HLPF Side Event**

**Opening Remarks by Ambassador Mehmet Samsar,  
Director General for Consular Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Turkish Chairmanship of the GFMD 2014-2015**

**Introduction**

1. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I warmly welcome you to this side-event on “Migration and Human Mobility in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.”
2. I am Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I represent the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2014-2015.
3. I am honoured to host this meeting organized together with the IOM, taking place along with the High-Level Political Forum.
4. Including migration in the post-2015 development agenda has been one of the key priorities of the Turkish Chairmanship of the GFMD.

As we all know, Turkish GFMD Chairmanship takes place at a very crucial year. There are two important global processes going simultaneously on: First one is “financing for development” and the second one is “Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda”.

And the theme of our Chairmanship speaks exactly to this point; “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development.”

5. We have suggested that migration should be mainstreamed into a wide range of policy fields; not only in terms of migration policies but also into development and employment policies to address labour market needs.

6. The 8th GFMD Summit Meeting will be taking place in Istanbul on 14-16 October 2015. Since we have assumed the Chairmanship, we have been carrying out significant work and held many important and preparatory meetings, to lead us successfully to the Summit.
7. In this regard, we have so far organized or co-hosted many important meetings, gathering all relevant stakeholders. Looking back to the side events that we have organized, we firstly have co-hosted a GFMD-GMG side event on “Fair Migration and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda” together with the ILO as the 2014 GMG Chair. The event took place at the sidelines of the July 2014 discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development.
8. In line with our objectives, we have given priority to organize a thematic meeting on “Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”. It was held in February 2015, along with the GFMD technical meetings in Geneva. The meeting brought together around 150 policymakers and officials from UN Member States, representatives of international organizations and the civil society. It has served to assess the progress of ensuring the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda as well as underlining the role that the GFMD can continue to play to follow up the implementation of these goals.
9. We have co-convened with the GFMD Troika, a GFMD side event on “Migration, labour mobility and the renewed global partnership for sustainable development,” in April 2015. The event brought together government and non-state delegations who were negotiating on the outcome document for the Third Conference on Financing for Development as well as the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development.
10. Taking the opportunity of Turkey’s concurrent Chair of the G-20 and the GFMD for 2015, we have held a joint event last month in İzmir, Turkey. The joint meeting of G-20, the GFMD and the Global Migration Group at the sidelines of the G-20 Developing Working Group meeting, reflected on ways to leverage migration, remittances and diaspora for financing sustainable development, and on how to implement relevant post-2015 UN development targets.
11. Today’s side event thus follows a series of deliberate and strategic efforts of the Turkish GFMD Chair to achieve its main objective of promoting the recognition of the developmental impact of migration in public policies, particularly in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. It also aims at engaging all relevant

stakeholders and agenda-setting processes in strengthening the linkages between migration and development.

12. The GFMD would like to take advantage of this opportunity to engage delegates to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is the main UN platform that provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations on sustainable development. The HLPF is mandated to follow up and review the implementation of sustainable development commitments and, as of 2016, the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs.
13. Our objective today is to encourage Member States, international organizations, civil society and all concerned stakeholders to reflect on the latest shape of the proposed SDG targets and possible indicators for migration-related targets; and to consider the GFMD's potential contribution to Post-2015 follow-up and review suggested by the UN Secretary General and endorsed by the HLPF.

### **Migration in the Post-2015**

14. For the GFMD, the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda has taken a central stage as a follow up issue to the High Level Dialogue in 2013.
15. The recommendations of the GFMD, particularly under the Swedish Chairmanship in 2014, have been reflected in the outcomes of some of the processes at the United Nations that are leading up to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.
16. The Open Working Group's proposed sustainable development goals include a number of important targets relating to different migration-related issues, such as human trafficking, remittances, labour migration, safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration, and data disaggregation, including by migratory status.
17. The inclusion of these targets, and others related to migration, would be a significant achievement and reaffirms the fact that migration can be a significant driver of development. Indeed, the new development agenda would be incomplete if it did not include migrants and migration in its constituent goals and targets.

### **The role of the GFMD in the follow up and review of the post-2015 process**

18. As the inter-governmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda draw nearer to conclusion, a key question is how to effectively implement migration-related targets and what are the different mechanisms and processes that could help review progress in the area of migration.

19. In his Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 development agenda, the Secretary-General urges Member States to consider the use of voluntary, state-led, participatory, evidence-based, and multi-tiered processes to monitor progress, including through regular thematic reviews at the global and regional levels.
20. Today let us look at how the GFMD can respond to this challenge. The GFMD is a uniquely placed, voluntary process for exchanging policy and experiences in the field of migration and development. Throughout the years, it proved its ability to play a constructive role in promoting consensus and developing coalitions of interest around the migration aspects of the UN development agenda.
21. The GFMD Summit meeting in Istanbul will take place in October, immediately after the adoption of the Post-2015 agenda. Therefore it will be an important venue to discuss the implementation of migration-related goals, targets and indicators appearing in the SDG report and how to make migration work for sustainable development.
22. I count on your active participation today to further discuss and to consider ways for the GFMD to support the implementation, monitoring and follow up of the new migration-related sustainable development goals.
23. We will hear the reflections of key stakeholders on these issues today. We are privileged to have with us Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary General of the UNDESA, who will inform us about the state of discussions on a possible framework for review and follow up of the Post-2015 agenda.
24. His Excellency, Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, will share with us the perspectives of the incoming GFMD Chair Bangladesh on potential opportunities for migration and how to make migration work beyond the post-2015 development process.
25. Mr. Lars Lonnback, Senior Policy Officer of the IOM, Mr. Gregory Maniatis, representing the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Migration and Development, and Ms. Sonia Plaza, representing the GMG Chair will help us frame our discussions today based on their respective viewpoints.
26. I look forward to interesting exchanges to follow, and I would like to encourage everyone to give their perspectives on the issue or ask questions. Thank you to all and I would now like to call on Mr. Thomas Gass.