

## GFMD 2019 Third Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 11 September  
10h00 – 13h00  
Room XXI, Palais des Nations

### Summary Report

#### I. Welcoming Remarks

1. The third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Friends of the Forum (FOF)<sup>1</sup> under the Ecuadorian Chairmanship was opened by **Ambassador Santiago Javier Chávez Pareja**, Republic of Ecuador, Chair-in-Office of the GFMD 2019. Joining the GFMD 2019 Chair at the podium were **Mr. Georg Klussman**, representing the German Co-Chair of GFMD 2017-2018; **Mr. Ahmed Skim**, representing the Moroccan Co-Chair of GFMD 2017-2018; **Mr. Alex Zalami**, representing the United Arab Emirates and incoming Chair of GFMD 2020; **Mr. Andres Montalvo**, Coordinator of Ecuadorian GFMD Task Force; and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

#### II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

2. The [Provisional Agenda](#) of the meeting, which was circulated on 2 September 2019, was adopted without any comment or reservation.

#### III. GFMD 2019 Thematic Agenda and Work Plan

##### (a) Update on the GFMD Calendar, including thematic and regional workshops

3. The GFMD Chair provided updates on the GFMD 2019 calendar which had been packed with events since May. He also announced upcoming events:
  - a. **The Observance Event of the International Day of Family Remittances, 14 June, New York** ([summary report](#)). In cooperation with IFAD, the GFMD co-organized this event on the margins of the International Day of Family Remittances. Attended by over 60 participants from member states, international organizations and the private sector, the event highlighted migrants' contributions to sustainable development through remittances and investment. See the
  - b. **GFMD Thematic Workshop 'Narratives on Migration: Towards evidence-based communication,' 4-5 July, Skhirat** ([highlights of proceedings](#)). The results of this successful workshop, which was hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco, were presented to the FOF by **Mr. Ahmed Skim**. The workshop brought together some 150 local and regional partners representing a wide range of stakeholders, including the academia and media, to discuss the strategies and mechanisms by which governments and other actors could provide clear and accurate information on migration in order to realign the migration discourse with reality.
  - c. **GFMD side event on the margins of HLPF 2019, 11 July, New York**. The substance of this event was discussed in more detail in agenda point V(a), 'GFMD and Related Process - High Level Political Forum 2019'.

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<sup>1</sup> The third FOF meeting of 2019 attracted 86 member states, and 15 Observer organizations, and 6 invited private sector/civil society representatives.

- d. **GFMD 2019 Regional Workshops.** The Chair, along with ICMPD representative **Mr. Oleg Chirita**, provided an update on the status of the four GFMD regional workshops in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshops are a collaborative project between the 2019 Chairmanship and MIEUX, financed by the European Union, aiming to facilitate the regionalization of the GFMD process and focus discussion on the roundtable topics of the Ecuadorian Chair. The speakers informed the FOF of the two workshops which had already taken place, and two which were still to be held:
- *‘Facilitating social and economic inclusion’, 24-25 July, San Jose* ([summary report](#))
  - *‘Harnessing migration for rural development’, 14-15 August, Kingston* ([summary report](#))
  - *‘Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety’, 19-20 September, Quito* ([concept note and agenda](#))
  - *‘Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships’, 16 October, Lima* ([concept note and agenda](#)).
- e. **Thematic event on ‘The impact of remittances on rural transformation in Africa: from commitments to action’, 11 October, Addis Ababa.** The upcoming event, which is co-hosted by the GFMD Chair and IFAD, in partnership with the African Institute for Remittances, was presented to the FOF by **Mr. Mauro Martini**, Remittances and Development Officer, IFAD. The event will provide a platform to exchange good practices and present new initiatives on remittances in Africa, and to engage directly with AU member states delegates, as well as the private sector and civil society in Africa. See the [concept note and draft agenda](#) and [logistics note](#) for this upcoming event.
- f. Finally, the Chair provided an update on the **GFMD-related activities in Ecuador**, facilitated as part of the GFMD Ecuador Chairmanship’s national process:
- ***Civil Society Workshop, 19 June, Quito.*** The workshop convened more than 20 different civil society organizations from Ecuador with the objective of communicating how the GFMD civil society process works and ensuring the participation of national organizations in that process, and exchanging views on the substantive priorities of the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship.
  - ***National Academic Workshop, 27 June, Quito.*** The workshop gathered around 50 local academia to foster their contribution to the GFMD process and to support the substantive priorities of the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship.

#### **(b) Update on the GFMD 2019 Government-led Roundtables**

4. The Chair thanked the 84 Governments and some 24 non-state partners that have assumed an active role in the Roundtables. In line with the recommendations of the GFMD Ten-Year Review, the Ecuadorian Chairmanship engaged the services of expert facilitators to help the RT Co-Chairs adopt a more interactive format during the roundtable consultations and the actual Summit Roundtables.
5. At the request of the GFMD Chair, the RT Co-Chairs provided brief updates on the current status of preparations of their respective roundtables:
  - **RT Session 1.1 - *Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety*** - Together with Nigeria, Mexico informed that the first draft of the background paper was elaborated with the support of the OHCHR and enriched with comments from IOM, UNHCR, UN Women, PDD, and ICMPD. The Co-Chairs called on states to contribute to the development of the draft, shared the previous week, through submission of comments and good practices to be added in the annex.
  - **RT Session 1.2 - *Facilitating social and economic inclusion*** --Together with Norway, Thailand reported that the background paper was almost finalized, having incorporated the inputs from the second roundtable consultations in May and the outcomes of the regional workshop in Costa Rica. The Co-Chairs encouraged the submission of comments on the substantive text and good practices at the consultation or in writing.
  - **RT Session 2.1 - *Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants*** - Together with Morocco, Canada thanked the group of content advisors that contributed to drafting the background paper, including IOM, OHCHR, Open Society Foundations, Migration Policy Institute, More in

Common, Migration Lab, OECD and RT Rapporteur Sweden. They echoed the call for those who might be interested in contributing comments and good practices to reach out to the Co-Chairs and the Support Unit.

- **RT Session 2.2** - *Communicating effectively with migrants* - Together with Gambia and the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines reported that the background paper had been drafted by UNAOC and circulated for consideration and comments, has benefitted from written comments from UN Women, ICMPD and others, as well as the outcomes of the second RT consultations and the Thematic Workshop in Morocco on Migration Narratives.
- **RT Session 3.1** - *Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships* - Together with Switzerland, Egypt reported that the second draft of the background paper had been completed, incorporating comments from UN Women, UNICEF, ICMPD and others. They invited other countries to join the consultation that afternoon to exchange experiences and share in practical terms the challenges and solutions of ensuring arrival and inclusion of migrants in arrival cities. IOM, on behalf of the lead drafting organization, the GFMD Mayors Mechanism, thanked those that had contributed so far for their very active participation in the drafting process. The final deadline for submission of comments is 25 September.
- **RT Session 3.2** - *Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development* - together with Jamaica, Indonesia thanked FAO for drafting the background paper and those that had offered comments. To promote a multi-stakeholder perspective, the Roundtable in Quito will have a panel comprised of specialized agencies dealing with rural development and migration, as well as representatives of governments, business actors and civil society.

#### (c) Twelfth GFMD Summit (18-22 November 2019, Quito)

6. According to the GFMD Chair, all activities of the different mechanisms of the GFMD will be held in the same space during the Twelfth Summit to be held at the *Centro de Convenciones Metropolitano de Quito* in Quito (see brief [video](#)). The Summit **program** will include traditional and new features, specifically:
  - Space for side-events,<sup>2</sup> including in the morning on 19 November.
  - An inaugural ceremony in the afternoon on 19 November.
  - On 20 November, the mechanisms of the GFMD will hold events in parallel, including the Government meetings (the Roundtables, the Platform for Partnerships Session and the Future of the Forum Session for heads of delegations only); the Civil Society Day; the Business Meeting, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Forum.
  - The GFMD Common Space on November 21 will provide an opportunity for all GFMD stakeholders to interact and engage.
  - The GFMD Marketplace will afford governments and other non-state actors a space to exchange about their policy/program ‘demand and supply.’
  - The official closing ceremony of the Twelfth Summit will be held in the afternoon on 21 November.
  - An optional day for informal multi-stakeholder dialogue on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration will be held on November 22.
7. **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit, presented the modalities for **registration** for the Summit. She explained that the registration through the GFMD Support Unit would be open to policy makers and practitioners from relevant ministries of Member and Observer States of the UN, as well as GFMD Observers. However, there were separate registration modalities for the Civil Society Day, Business Meeting and Mayoral Forum. Governments and GFMD Observers are advised to complete [online registration](#) by 25 October in coordination with their GFMD [Focal Points](#). A Note Verbale indicating all delegation members will be required from the country’s Permanent Mission in Geneva (or New York, if none in Geneva) to complete the registration process.
8. Ms. Lajom further clarified that subject to availability of funds, the Chair may extend **financial assistance** to enable the participation of developing countries and other participants who will play special roles at the Summit meeting, such as the RT Co-Chairs, speakers, rapporteurs, and panelists.

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<sup>2</sup> Application for **side events** will be open until 4 October.

#### **(d) Migration and sustainable development knowledge hub in partnership with UNITAR**

9. Speaking on behalf of the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship and UNITAR, **Mr. Alex Mejia** presented the draft proposal for the Migration and Sustainable Development Knowledge Hub which aims to provide online training and capacity building on migration and development to all GFMD stakeholders. The tool aims to strengthen knowledge on migration as a source of sustainable development by:
- providing e-learning training options for raising awareness and offering solutions to states and other stakeholders interested in the relationship between migration and development; and
  - facilitating face-to-face training options around the world, and providing information about upcoming events and resources.

The knowledge hub is also intended to complement the existing GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP). In reacting to the presentation, one Member State urged UNITAR to explore potential synergies with the ongoing IOM project ‘Essentials of Migration Management,’ which also provides similar services.

#### ***(e) Ten-Year Review Follow Up***

10. The Chair informed the FOF about the progress on the follow up of the [Ten-Year Review Report](#) recommendations since the last meeting in May. At the time, the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration had developed a document “[Key Features and Supporting Recommendations](#),” which sets out a description of what GFMD is, what it does, and how it does it. The purpose of this was to establish a structure through which the recommendations of the 10-Year Review could be assessed, and to introduce a future-focused narrative that reflects the consensus on the value and purpose of GFMD. Following the initial discussion within the Steering Group on 28 May, the Working Group identified 12 recommendations to be adopted, which were subsequently endorsed by the Steering Group through silence procedure in June 2019.
11. Thereafter, the Working Group met several times to discuss how to implement the 12 adopted recommendations and to identify 4 other recommendations for adoption which will require further action beyond the Quito Summit and into the next Chairmanship. The Working Group reworked the Key Features document to include notes on implementation and status of each of the 16 recommendations. The document was presented to and endorsed by the Steering Group on 10 September 2019. It will inform the report to be presented by the Working Group at the Future of the Forum special session in Quito.

### **IV. GFMD Mechanisms**

#### **(a) Civil Society Process**

12. In his [presentation](#), **Mr. Stephane Jaquemet**, Director of Policy of ICMC, coordinating office of the GFMD Civil Society Process, thanked governments that have contributed to the process and called for further contributions in order to facilitate the participation of civil society representatives from low-income countries in the GFMD Summit. The central theme of the Civil Society Days (CSD) will concern civil society’s contribution to shaping migration governance, through a clear focus on implementation and partnerships for migrants and communities. The selection of the final 220 participants in the Quito Summit was in the process of finalization – from a total of 1,400 applications that ICMC received, over 700 of which met all the selection criteria.
13. Mr. Jaquemet praised the close coordination between the Ecuadorian Chair and the other non-governmental mechanisms in order to make a meaningful contribution to the Common Space agenda for the Summit, and thanked the future Chair, UAE, for beginning a consultative process early with civil society.

#### **(b) GFMD Business Mechanism**

14. **Ms. Stephanie Winet**, IOE, reported that the Mechanism has organized the following events to enable governments and businesses to have a dialogue on the impact of migration policies on business:

- A [Business Regional Workshop](#) in Tunisia on 2-3; and
- An [informal breakfast meeting](#) on the margins of the ILO Conference on 19 June.

In addition, a [Business Regional Meeting](#) will take place in Buenos Aires, 9-10 October, aiming to examine the impact of migration policies in that region, with a special focus on Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

15. Ms. Winet also mentioned that the registration for business participants at the Quito Summit is now open on the GFMD Business Mechanism [website](#). She echoed the views of the Civil Society Process in welcoming the close coordination between the Chair and the three mechanisms, and thanking the UAE for their inclusive approach towards planning the next year of the GFMD. **Ms. Julia Onslow-Cole**, representing the Chair of the Business Mechanism, Mr. Austin Fragomen, added that “there has never been such a good time for the GFMD to engage with businesses,” and reiterated the support on behalf of businesses for the active part that the private sector are able to play in the GFMD.

### (c) Mayors Mechanism

16. **Ms. Veronique Lamontagne**, Senior Advisor to the Mayors Migration Council, reported on the progress of preparations for the Mayoral Forum in Quito. She thanked the Chair for providing a space for the Mayoral Forum to be integrated in the Summit, and affirmed that local authorities intended to play an active role therein. In particular, the Mayoral Forum will seek to ensure the role of cities in migration management and explore how to facilitate the implementation of the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees. **Mr. Mejia** of UNITAR, one of the organizations behind the Mayors Mechanism, added that formal invitations for the Mayoral Forum will follow shortly. The mechanism aims to attract at least 80 relevant mayors.

## V. GFMD and Related Process

### (a) High Level Political Forum 2019

17. The GFMD side event was held on 11 July in New York on the margins of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum. In this event, the GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador gathered over 100 representatives of governments, UN organizations, civil society and local and regional authorities. A key focus of the event was the [GFMD’s Recommendations to the 2019 HLPF](#), which was prepared by the GFMD Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration. See the [brief and program](#) of this event for more information.

### (b) UN Network on Migration

18. **Mr. Jonathan Prentice**, Head of the Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, shared information about the important forward steps that the Network has taken over the summer, including:

- finalization of the inaugural [work plan](#) of the Network, which includes core and thematic activities, as well as a pipeline of potential activities worthy of consideration but not yet ready for action;
- production of a number of statements in preparation for the Secretary-General’s report, which will be one of the key elements of the International Migration Review Forum;
- launch of the Network’s [Trust Fund \(MPTE\)](#) on 16 July in New York.

He thanked initial contributors and reiterated calls for Member States to support the Fund. The aim is to identify pilot projects to be funded by the Fund within the next six months. The tools of the Fund – such as its operational manual, management strategy and results – are on the way to being finalized. He acknowledged the importance of existing actors, particularly the GFMD, which he recognized as having developed expertise and capacity in the area of migration. Finally, he said that the Network’s Steering Committee was still being set up, with plans to hold the first meeting before the end of 2019. It will be chaired by the Director General of IOM in his capacity as Coordinator of the Network.

19. Intervening Member States voiced their support and pledged continued cooperation with the Network; at the same time, they reaffirmed their strong support for the GFMD as a crucial venue for informal exchange between states and other key stakeholders on the implementation of the GCM. Some Member States highlighted the need to maintain coherence between the activities of the GFMD and the work of the Network, in particular regarding the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships and the Connection Hub and Knowledge Platform. One suggestion was to make use of the Marketplace at the GFMD Summit to support the objective of the Network.

#### **VI. Any Other Business**

20. Mr. Ahmed Skim, representing Morocco, took the opportunity of the last GFMD meeting prior to Quito to thank the Republic of Ecuador for its excellent efforts in steering the GFMD process in 2019.

21. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.