

GFMD 2017-2018 Second Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

14h00 – 17h00

Salle XVIII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Summary Report

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship of Germany, welcomed the 150 representatives from 84 member states and 18 international organizations at the second meeting under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco. He was joined on the podium by Mr. Sönke Lorenz, Head of the GFMD Task Force at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Ahmed Skim, Director of Migration Affairs, representing Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General of the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs as Co-Chair Morocco; and Ambassador Shameem Ahsan, representing GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh.
2. In welcoming the delegates, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme announced that the meeting on April 5 would be the last preparatory meeting before the Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin to be held on 28-30 June. He reminded the participants that a second GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) would be held the following day (6 April), followed by the Roundtable (RT) meetings on 7 April. He also mentioned the GFMD Business Thematic Meeting that was held on 3-4 April. He thanked Ms. Estrella Lajom and her Support Unit team for the outstanding commitment to set up all the meetings.

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

3. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated ahead of the meeting was adopted by the [Friends of the Forum](#) (FOF).

III. Video message from the new SRSG Ms. Louise Arbour

4. In her video message, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Ms. Louise Arbour recognized the remarkable job that Mr. Peter Sutherland, former SRSG, has done in building the GFMD and forcefully setting migration on the global agenda. She acknowledged the [Sutherland report](#) as a key reference for the GFMD and the global community in the GCM process and beyond. She recognized the important role of GFMD in setting the global agenda on international migration and in building trust among states and other stakeholders. She looked forward to working with all GFMD stakeholders in strengthening the multilateral approach to migration.

IV. GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship

A. Final Concept Note and [Work Plan](#)

5. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme expressed the Co-Chairs' gratitude to all Member States and organizations that helped with finalizing the concept note¹. The Co-Chairs have done their best in trying to accommodate all

¹ The final concept paper is posted on the GFMD web portal in English, French and Spanish: http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_2017-2018_co-chairmanship_concept_paper_eng.pdf/

comments that were made in the first preparatory meetings and that were submitted in writing. In particular, the roundtable themes have been linked more closely to the themes of the thematic sessions of the GCM that will take place between May and October. The final concept note was circulated on 28 February, and now posted on the GFMD web portal, along with French and Spanish translations.

6. As regards the GFMD 2017-2018 work plan, two important deadlines were flagged: April 28 for the finalization of the draft background papers of the roundtables, and 14 June for the submission of written statements on the background papers. The Co-Chairs would like to adopt a new practice of providing written statements prior to the Summit, rather than during the actual meeting, in order to facilitate more interactive and spontaneous exchanges. Governments are encouraged to submit their prepared statements ahead of the Summit, to be uploaded on the GFMD web portal and on the GFMD mobile app that is being developed. Other important events are the [Thematic Workshop](#) on ‘Climate change and human mobility’ (24 May, Rabat), the Thematic Workshop to synthesize the GFMD input to the GCM (6 September, in Vienna or Geneva), and the third preparatory meetings (9 October, Geneva) under the 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship.
7. At the request of the GFMD Co-Chairs, the RT Session Co-Chairs reported on the status of the six the [government-led roundtables](#):
 - RT Session 1.1: Co-chair Moldova (on behalf of other co-chairs Sri Lanka and United Kingdom, the rapporteur is Bangladesh) explained that the aim of the RT session is to address coherence with the GCM and the 2030 Agenda, and to mainstream migration into development planning.
 - RT Session 1.2; Co-Chair Norway (on behalf of Co-chair Bangladesh), shared that the RT session is aimed at achieving a common understanding at the national and regional levels and to develop the GCM. General agreement has been reached on the fact that SDG 10.7 should be considered as a broad concept for promoting well-managed migration. Secondly, the subnational level was emphasized, echoing the outcomes of the Dhaka Summit.
 - RT Session 2.1: Co-chair Egypt (on behalf of Co-Chair Denmark) highlighted the main points identified in the background paper, namely the humanitarian perspective, the scale of crises, the impact of displacement on displaced persons and the host communities, and the challenges in categorization.
 - RT Session 2.2: Co-chairs Nigeria and Switzerland informed the meeting that El Salvador will serve as rapporteur of the RT session, and that the main elements of the RT are integration and reintegration for safe, humane and dignified migration, while one of the main challenges of the topic is the lack of data on reintegration.
 - RT Session 3.1: Co-Chair Philippines (on behalf of Co-Chair Australia) reported that the RT 3.1 background paper focuses mainly on examples and practices of skills creation and skills mobility, and a possible design of Global Skills Partnerships.
 - RT Session 3.2: Co-Chair Canada (on behalf of Co-Chair Mexico) explained that the background paper underlines the benefits of a multi-stakeholder approach and the engagement of civil society for social integration of migrants in host countries. All participants were encouraged to contribute best practices for this RT session.
8. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme then elaborated on the proposal of the Co-Chairs for more dynamic and interactive roundtables. Reference was also made to the [Terms of Reference \(TORs\) for the GFMD Government Teams](#) that offers some ideas and suggestions on how to prepare lively roundtables, draft concise discussion papers, and clarify the tasks of Government Teams and all relevant actors concerned with the preparation for the Summit roundtables. As an added measure, each RT session has been assigned a facilitator who will provide support in organizing the actual RT session in Berlin. In addition, guidelines for [RT session rapporteurs](#) and also for [special GCM rapporteurs](#) (who will follow all debates and identify outcomes relevant to the GCM, with a special focus on migration-related SDG) have now been made available.
9. Mr. Skim announced that the Eleventh GFMD Summit will take place on 5-7 December 2018 in Marrakesh. He elaborated on the upcoming Thematic Workshop on “[Climate Change and Human Mobility](#)” to be held on 24 May in Rabat. According to him, this workshop aims to feed into GFMD’s contribution to the GCM. It will have an opening session, followed by two sessions. The first session will focus on knowledge sharing and identifying best practices and concrete initiatives in the field of climate

change and human mobility, while the second session will be dedicated to pursuing greater consistency of international strategic frameworks and ways for greater access to funding for climate migration issues. The Co-Chairs aim for a balanced representation at this meeting; thus, funding assistance will be offered for 25 delegates from developing countries. Those interested can send their nomination by Note Verbale to the Support Unit, no later than 21 April.

B. Tenth GFMD Summit (28 to 30 June 2017, Berlin)

10. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme reminded the Friends of the Forum that the [provisional programme](#) of the Berlin Summit was circulated earlier. He highlighted the most important activities for each day of the Tenth GFMD Summit:

28 June: the official inauguration to be led by the Foreign Minister of Germany, H.E. Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, in the presence of high level officials; the six roundtable sessions; and an official dinner hosted by Co-Chair Germany.

29 June: the special session on the Future of the Forum (for Heads of Delegations only), the special session on the Platform for Partnerships; six side events, a plenary session to summarize the RT and special session proceedings, the GFMD Business meeting, and a reception to be hosted by Co-Chair Morocco.

30 June: the 2017 Common Space, the official closing session of the Tenth GFMD Summit, and tea table exchanges (upon invitation) by the civil society.

11. The [official invitation](#) to the Berlin Summit will be sent out later in the week through the designated GFMD focal points of Member States and GFMD Observers. A separate invitation from the German Minister of Foreign Affairs will be sent to all Ministers in charge of GFMD issues. In order to facilitate a smooth registration process, all participants are requested to [register online](#) via the GFMD web portal. Practical information on the Summit will be made available shortly. There will be a briefing on 18 May at 3PM in Berlin for the diplomatic missions of countries participating in GFMD.
12. In line with the intent to promote a more dynamic and paperless Summit in Berlin, the German Co-Chair has funded the development of a GFMD mobile app that aims to foster greater interaction among GFMD users during the Summit, while providing important information such as RT background papers and written statements of the GFMD community. Ms. Estrella Lajom, Head of the GFMD Support Unit (SU), gave a [presentation](#) on the anticipated features of the GFMD App, which will be administered by the SU. These will include, *inter alia*, Summit registration for logged in users, live conference feedback on policy questions, push notifications, seamless integration with the GFMD web portal and access to the GFMD gallery of photos and videos. The aim is for the mobile app to go live on 20 May. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme asked in this regard if the app could be used at the Thematic Workshop on 24 May. Ms. Lajom replied that the SU would aim to do so, provided that the service provider delivers the App timely.

C. Ad hoc Working Group on 2030 Agenda and the GCM

13. In response to the invitation for the GFMD to provide substantive input into the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, led by Bangladesh and Germany, drafted a [recommendation to the 2017 HLPF](#). In their report to the Friends of the Forum, the Co-Chairs underlined that the theme of 2017 HLPF is “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. Thus, the report illustrates the linkages between migration and the 2030 Agenda particularly in the context of poverty alleviation and employment generation. It showcases GFMD best practices culled from the PfP Policy and Practice Database, and offers general and specific recommendations. It was emphasized that the document may also inspire GFMD’s contribution to the GCM and serve as the basis for a more comprehensive discussion on GFMD’s contribution to the HLPF of 2018. The document was approved for endorsement to the Friends of the Forum by the [Steering Group](#) earlier in the day.
14. The ad hoc WG on 2030 Agenda and GCM Co-Chairs also reported that the work stream of the WG will soon be dedicated to GFMD’s input to the GCM. With the objective to submit a contribution to the stocktaking conference in the GCM process in Mexico in November 2017, the WG will have a series of meetings both before and after the Berlin Summit. At this juncture, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme invited

everyone to participate in the second GFMD Dialogue on the GCM to be held the following day. He also reiterated that a Thematic Workshop will be held in September to synthesize GFMD's inputs to the GCM, and informed the FOF that a cocktail lunch would be hosted by the Co-Chairs on the following day to promote networking among GFMD stakeholders.

15. Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair, representing Mr. David Malone, Rector of United Nations University (UNU), Chair-in-Office of the Global Migration Group (GMG), joined the podium to provide an [update on the GCM and GMG's contribution](#). She explained that the priority of the GMG is now on the intergovernmental negotiations of the GCM process, and that GMG will continue to build synergies with GFMD throughout the GCM process. In this regard, she underlined the importance of a cross-fertilization of ideas, information and resources between GMG and GFMD and their respective partners and stakeholders.

D. Ad hoc Working Group on Communications

16. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme recalled the Troika's decision in February to extend the mandate of the ad hoc WG on Communications, now co-chaired by Morocco and Mexico. He welcomed the new WG member, United Arab Emirates, and expressed his appreciation for the contribution of former members (Philippines, Switzerland and Sweden) and the commitment of the current members (see below).
17. Reporting on behalf of the WG Co-Chairs, Morocco informed the Friends of the Forum that the WG includes Australia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Mexico, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, but the membership is open to other interested SG and FOF members. A first meeting was held on 29 March to discuss the [updated Terms of Reference \(TORs\)](#) and the short- and long-term recommendations as outlined in the [report](#) of the ad hoc WG in Dhaka. Some progress has already been made in this regard: a [newsletter](#) has been circulated by the German Co-Chair on 28 February and a GFMD mobile app is underway. Further, GFMD's social media usage is increasing, and guidelines thereon are being drafted. The Co-Chairs invited the GFMD community to subscribe to social media channels used by GFMD and to actively disseminate GFMD communications. On the longer term, the WG will aim to develop a GFMD communication strategy, based on a multi-stakeholder approach.

E. GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship Budget

18. A brief report on the status of GFMD 2016 financial report and GFMD 2017 budget was given by Ms. Estrella Lajom, Head of the Support Unit. She informed the meeting that the audit of the GFMD 2016 financial report was completed in the third week of March, and the IOM External Auditor (Government of Ghana) has just released its independent audit opinion indicating that *"the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the GFMD Related Activities and GFMD Support Unit for the year ended 31 December 2016."* Thanks to a carry-over amount of USD 1 Million from Turkey at the start of 2016, the total resources available by end 2016 amounted to USD 3.293 Million, while actual expenses amounted to USD 2.293 Million, leaving some USD 1.0 Million left-over balances, which now have to be coordinated with the donor countries² for possible realignment towards the GFMD 2017 budget. The GFMD 2016 expenses amounted to only 96 % of the proposed budget (USD 2.38 Million).
19. Turning to the GFMD 2017 financial position, Ms. Lajom explained that notwithstanding the left-over funds from GFMD 2016, and the commitment of Co-Chair Germany to cover USD 1 Million of total proposed budget of USD 2.335 Million, contributions would be needed not only for the year 2017, but for the two-year Co-Chairmanship period ending in 2018. So far, only the Governments of Canada, Germany, France and Switzerland have confirmed their contribution for 2017. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme then thanked Bangladesh and Turkey for their budgetary discipline and left-over contributions. He emphasized that the GCM brings extra challenges and costs for the GFMD, and thus called upon Member States to provide financial support to the process.

² GFMD 2016 donors included the Governments of Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

V. GFMD Civil Society Process

20. The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), represented by Mr. John Bingham, updated the Friends of the Forum on the civil society process. He stressed the need for implementation of commitments already made in the SDGs and the New York Declaration. He made a reference to the Sutherland report and called for an emphasis on the common grounds between different stakeholders. According to him, the Civil Society Days (CSD) in Berlin will be focused on the GCM. The selection process and the invitation are underway; around 250 civil society delegates are expected. As mentioned before, the CSD this year will be held after the government days. On 29 June the [Common Space](#) will open with plenary sessions in the morning, to be followed by several breakout sessions on the key elements to go forward with the GCM. As regards the budget, ICMC thanked the governments of Germany, Canada, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland for their contributions. There is still a funding gap of 150,000 USD; thus contributions would be very much appreciated.
21. Echoing the words by ICMC and those by the SRSR earlier in the meeting, Amb. Schmidt-Bremme underlined the importance and relevance of the Sutherland report. Switzerland reiterated its continued support for the Civil Society Days and confirmed a financial contribution of 120,000 CHF.

VI. GFMD Business Mechanism

22. Ms. Stephanie Winet, representing the GFMD Business Mechanism, then joined the podium and elaborated on the successful [GFMD Business Meeting](#) that was held in Geneva on 3-4 April. An important outcome of the meeting was that a multi-stakeholder approach through Global Skills Partnerships and enhanced collaboration between the private sector and governments should be pursued. She informed the FOF that a business report will be presented at the Berlin Summit, which should feed into the GCM. All Friends of the Forum are invited to participate actively in the business meeting that will take place in the afternoon of 29 June. In addition, a business meeting will be held towards the end of September to refine the position of the private sector on the GCM. Switzerland emphasized the importance of the GFMD Business Mechanism and said that they will continue to contribute financially to the Business Mechanism in the critical period ahead.

VII. Any Other Business

23. Through the Support Unit, the GFMD Co-Chairs received a [request from the People's Global Action \(PGA\)](#) to become an observer to the GFMD. The Troika and the Steering Group have earlier accepted this request. By acquiescence of the Friends of the Forum, PGA was welcomed by the Co-Chairs as a new GFMD observer. Mr. William Gois, PGA representative, was invited to give his remarks. Mr. Gois thanked the GFMD for accepting their request, and reminded the Friends of the Forum that PGA has been engaged with the GFMD since its inception. PGA is particularly pleased to join GFMD in this important period that coincides with the GCM process.
24. Amb. Schmidt-Bremme thanked all Friends of the Forum for their attendance and expressed the hope to see all members at the GFMD Dialogue on the GCM the following day, and at the Tenth GFMD Summit in Berlin on 28 – 30 June.
25. The meeting was adjourned at 16h38.