

## GFMD 2017-2018 Fourth Meeting of the Steering Group

Wednesday, 22 November 2017

10h00 – 13h00

Salle XXI, Building E, Palais des Nations

### Summary Report

#### I. Welcoming Remarks

1. **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, GFMD German Co-Chair, together with **Mr. Tarik Sissou**, Head of Division of the Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, and representative of the GFMD Moroccan Co-Chair, welcomed the participating [Steering Group](#) (SG) members<sup>1</sup> at the fourth and final meeting in 2017 under the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco. The Co-Chairs were joined on the podium by **Mr. Robiul Islam**, representing GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh, **Mr. Jonathan Prentice**, representing the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration, and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

#### II. Adoption of the Agenda of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Group

2. The [Provisional Agenda](#) that was circulated on 8 November was adopted by the Steering Group.

#### III. Presentation of the GFMD 2018 Program and Draft Concept Paper

3. Mr. Sissou, speaking on behalf of the Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, informed the SG that following the work of the Co-Chairmanship beginning in 2017, the GFMD will help to identify a new social contract for migration. By focusing on and consolidating GFMD's achievements in 2018, it is well positioned to transform its principles into action – the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) being one major challenge. The GFMD under the Moroccan Co-Chairmanship will accompany the GCM process, from the stocktaking in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on 4 to 6 December, to the intergovernmental negotiations beginning February 2018, all the way to the Intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in Marrakesh on 5 to 7 December 2018.
4. In his update on the thematic agenda and work plan for the second year of the German-Moroccan Chairmanship, Mr. Sissou underlined the element of “action” in addressing the 11<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit and in shaping the 2018 agenda more broadly. The substantive agenda of the GFMD 2018 will revolve around three main “roundtable” themes. The first roundtable, “*From Vulnerability to Resilience*” will address the factors that lead to migrant vulnerability and how migrants can overcome these vulnerabilities so that they can contribute to local economies and become actors of development. The second roundtable on “*Regional Mobility*” will focus on mobility and the role of origin, transit, and destination countries. Lastly, the third roundtable, “*Drivers of Migration and Human Security*” will analyze the various social and environmental factors that pose great threats to peace and security.

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<sup>1</sup> Of the 30 Steering Group Member States, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United States participated in the meeting.

5. In addition to the roundtable themes, a number of important events were flagged which would form part of the 2018 Calendar of Key Activities. Two *thematic workshops* – and a possible third workshop will be organized in 2018. The first workshop on “*Migration and Cities*” – taking place in Berlin in April – will look comprehensively at the concentration of migrants in cities on a global scale and issues of integration. The second workshop on “*Migration and Identity*” – taking place in Rabat in June – will address the ways in which migrants balance multiple identities. Further, there will be three *preparatory meetings* in Geneva: February, May, and September to prepare for the 11<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit in Marrakesh to be held on 5 to 7 December 2018. There will also be *side events* organized on the margins of major international conferences such as the UNDESA coordination meeting (February), the International Dialogue on Migration, and the High Level Political Forum (July). The SG will reconvene in April 2018. Further details will be confirmed by February 2018.

#### IV. GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration

##### *A. GFMD Input to the GCM, including GFMD’s role in the follow-up to the GCM*

6. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme announced that Morocco will host the intergovernmental conference to adopt the GCM in Marrakech on 10 and 11 December 2018. Meanwhile, the GFMD Co-Chairs will submit the GFMD Thematic Recollection (2007 to 2017) as a contribution to the GCM process ahead of the scheduled stocktaking meeting in Puerto Vallarta on 4 to 6 December 2017. The GFMD ad Hoc Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM Co-Chairs, Germany and Bangladesh led the preparation of said thematic recollection. The WG began with a draft outline on 21 April and met on four additional occasions. It was agreed that the document would cover all six thematic clusters of the GCM thematic consultations contained in the UN General Assembly modalities resolution, and within these, focus on the areas in which GFMD has expertise.
7. GCM Special Rapporteurs were designated to draw inputs for the GCM report during the 10<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit Meeting in Berlin (June). Comments from these results were included in the working draft that was produced in August, prior to the Workshop meeting in Vienna (September 2017). The draft was then distributed among members of the Friends of the Forum ahead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> GFMD Preparatory Meetings (October 2017) and received substantial feedback. The final draft was disseminated to SG members jointly with invitations to the 4<sup>th</sup> GFMD Preparatory Meetings.
8. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme clarified that the document reflects the diversity of discussions within the GFMD context over the last ten years and thereby serves to inform the GCM process. Taking this into account, it does not intend to anticipate the national positions of GFMD participating states in the negotiation phase of the GCM. The GFMD contribution to the GCM is rather a thematic recollection from 2007 to 2017 that reflects the best and most workable ideas and practices of the last decade.
9. At the invitation of the Chair, **Ms. Anne Hitzegrad**, on behalf of the German Co-Chair of the Working Group (WG) on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM, outlined the process that the WG has led to coordinate the drafting process. This occurred in an inclusive manner by requesting written comments from the GFMD community at various points throughout the year. During the process, the WG was responsive in replying to questions and comments from member states and observers. This feedback was especially productive as the WG began to see a common vision emerge. During the October preparatory meetings, SG members engaged in a highly constructive discussion on the framing and presentation of the document, which defined more clearly the intention of the document.
10. The GFMD contribution to the GCM document title had been changed to “*Thematic Recollection 2007-2017 prepared by the GFMD for the GCM*”. In citing further examples, the words “input” and “endorsement” were replaced throughout the document by “thematic recollection” and “welcome”, respectively. It was anticipated that these changes would better reflect GFMD’s informal character and the diversity of discussions held within GFMD. To add, it was underlined that this thematic

recollection is not a consensus document, but rather a diverse and comprehensive document that reflects the views from a wide range of GFMD stakeholders.

11. During the open discussion, intervening SG members generally welcomed the tentative final draft, with the exception of the United States of America. Some delegations expressed their wish to clearly communicate that the compendium of best practices and ideas is not reflective of any of the state's national positions. SG members who expressed support for the thematic recollection also held the view that the report will be a source of inspiration for the ongoing GCM process.

*B. Participation at Mexico Stocktaking Conference, 4 to 6 Dec 2017*

12. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme reiterated that the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs received an invitation to participate in the Mexico stocktaking conference. However, the Puerto Vallarta stocktaking programme has been updated and GFMD will now have a prominent role only on the first day of the conference, in "Panel I – Global, regional, sub-regional and national perspectives" within the "Retrospection Session – Looking Back on Phase I". The German-Moroccan Co-Chairmanship together will represent GFMD in the panel and share the key outcomes of decade-long GFMD discussions and partnerships.

## **V. GFMD-GMG-SRSG Collaboration**

13. GFMD is linked with the UN through the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for International Migration and Inter Agency Global Migration Group (GMG). Speaking on behalf of the Office of the SRSG (OSRSG), Mr. Jonathan Prentice updated the Steering Group on the GCM process. The OSRSG has finalized the informal thematic consultations which constitute Phase I of the GCM process, and is now preparing the UN Secretary General's report which will serve as an input to the Zero Draft of the Global Compact. The UNSG's report will not be definitive as it is both an input to a Zero Draft and the system response to a global compact that has yet to come into existence. At this stage, it is presumed that the GCM is going to be legally non-binding and that it will be based entirely around the level of cooperation that it secures among member states. While the GCM will not be an institutional or governance paper, the UN Secretary General will offer reflections on how he can position the UN system to best support member states in the implementation of the compact.

## **VI. Enhancing GFMD Communications**

*- An Update from the ad hoc Working Group on Communications*

14. The WG Co-Chairs updated the Steering Group on recent GFMD communications' developments. The Troika and SG reached a decision in February 2017 to extend the mandate of the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on Communications. Morocco and Mexico have served as Co-Chairs of the WG and UAE has since joined the group. The third meeting of the WG was held on 21 November with the purpose to identify gaps in the current communications activities. This would inform the next steps towards developing a long-term GFMD "communications strategy" and "communications plan". GFMD's communication activities progress-to-date include a redesign of the web portal, the reclassification of over 1,000 policy and practice entries, the launching of the GFMD mobile application, and the GFMD newsletter. To add, the Support Unit has begun drafting the "1<sup>st</sup> Year Report of the 2017-2018 GFMD Co-Chairmanship" which will be circulated by February 2018.
15. The WG proposed the following next steps for the consideration of the Steering Group:
  - a. The WG retreat in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of January 2018 to determine the objectives and desired outcomes that will frame the GFMD communications strategy.

- b. The hiring of an external communications agency to lead the drafting of the GFMD communications strategy and possibly provide oversight, in close collaboration with the WG, the GFMD Support Unit and Steering Group.
- c. The positioning of a dedicated communications staff member in the Support Unit.

The WG Co-Chairs indicated that they would present a document that details the financial implications of the proposed action steps for the consideration of the Steering Group in February 2018.

## **VII. Chairmanship of Future GFMD**

16. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme advised SG members that to date no formal avowal of interest has been brought to the attention of the Co-Chairs for assuming the 2019 GFMD Chairmanship. He held the view that the year 2019 yields great challenges and rewards, especially considering the opportunities for contributing to the implementation of the GCM. He thus urged SG Member States to consider stepping forward to take on the Chairmanship after Morocco.

## **VIII. Any Other Business**

### *A. FAO Request to become a GFMD Observer*

17. Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme informed the Steering Group that the GFMD Troika earlier welcomed the request from the Food and Agriculture Office (FAO) of the United Nations to become an Observer of the GFMD. The Steering Group acquiesced to the admission of FAO as a GFMD Observer.

### *B. GFMD Observer Status in UN Related Processes*

18. The GFMD Chair informed the SG that the Co-Chairs will present a document in preparation of the February Steering Group meeting with potential pros and cons of applying for ECOSOC Observer Status.

### *C. Participation of the GFMD Co-Chair in a Conference on “Humane migration across the Mediterranean” (Malta)*

19. Mr. Sissou shared that the GFMD accepted an invitation to participate in an event on 16 to 17 November organized jointly by the Parliament of Malta, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. The objectives of the meeting were to explore the role of parliaments in sustainable development and migration, and ultimately, promote safe, regular and orderly migration in the Mediterranean Sea. One point of dialogue was the role of GFMD in parliamentary debates. The GFMD Co-Chairs shared a number of practical experience based on findings from previous GFMD roundtable sessions, such as the 2012 roundtable in Mauritius on the public perception of migrants, and more broadly, communicated that through its inclusive character, GFMD has involved all stakeholders – including parliaments – in issues of migration governance.

20. The meeting was adjourned at 11h57.