

## FIRST MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FORUM

### *“Partnerships for Migration and Human Development – shared prosperity, shared responsibility”*

Palais des Nations, Geneva

02 February 2010

### **Report of the Proceedings**

In preparation for the fourth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) to be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in November 2010, the Mexican Government convened the first meeting of the Friends of the Forum (FOF) in Geneva on 02 February 2010. Mrs. Cecilia Romero Castillo, Commissioner of Mexico’s National Migration Institute and Executive Director of Mexico GFMD 2010, chaired the meeting, which was attended by over 130 delegates from 100 UN Member States and 22 Observers. The meeting took place one day after the GFMD Steering Group met, also for the first time, to set the tone for the first FOF meeting.

Joining Commissioner Romero Castillo on the podium were Troika Co-Chair Greece, represented by Vice-Minister Theodora Tzakri and Co-Chair Spain, represented by Ambassador Maria Bassols-Delgado.

#### ***I Welcoming Remarks***

In her welcoming remarks, Commissioner Romero Castillo stressed the importance of the GFMD for Mexico. Chairing the GFMD is an honor for Mexico, which is committed to increasing the space for dialogue and exchange of opinion and towards a holistic approach to the links between integration, migration and development.

After offering to host the GFMD in 2010, Mexico established a national institutional entity comprising the Secretary for Foreign Relations and the National Migration Institute to prepare the Forum. Mexico had taken note of the multi-dimensional aspects of the GFMD, as well as its concept and objectives; but there were also gaps and limitations to the process. The Government’s efforts would also benefit from the contributions of experts in promoting continuity while introducing innovations.

Five international advisers supporting the Chair in Office in preparing the substantive agenda of Mexico GFMD 2010 include Dr. Irena Omelaniuk, Dr. Rolph Jenny, and Mr. Albert Moses, who had been with the process since Brussels. Two new members - Dr. Jorge Durand from Mexico and Mr. Chukwu-Emeka from Sierra Leone – were also expected to contribute to the success of the work of the Mexico GFMD Taskforce.

Mexico assumes the responsibility of taking forward the achievements of the past three meetings in Brussels, Manila, and Athens. For a start, Mexico intends to strengthen the GFMD as an ongoing process, not just an annual meeting, in order to promote continuity and progress. The meetings of the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum serve not only the preparations for the annual meeting but the whole process.

Mexico would also like to define the respective roles of the various bodies in the GFMD. There is a need to clearly distinguish between the functions of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, to avoid any overlap. Mexico proposes that the meeting of the Friends of the Forum be seen as a space for networking, enriching the agenda, and defining the structure and format of each meeting. It would also include a discussion on the work of the ad

hoc Working Groups concerning GFMD recommendations and follow-up actions, the GFMD budget, and preparations of the Civil Society Days.

Mexico also recognizes the need for better synergy between the GFMD and the UN and other organizations that contributed to the first three GFMD meetings. A number of options will be explored to enhance this relationship without affecting the intergovernmental nature of the Forum. To this end, Mexico expressed appreciation for the continued support of the Secretary General of the United Nations through his Special Representative, Mr. Peter Sutherland.

Finally, Mexico hopes to improve the Forum's relationship with Civil Society. While remaining state-driven, the GFMD process could benefit from the contributions of Civil Society and enrich the debate on migration. Hence, Mexico is working on a proposal for a common space between the Civil Society days and the Government forum to facilitate dialogue between both. This proposal would be discussed in the next FOF meeting.

In conclusion, the Chair presented a video featuring Mexico, its culture and tourist attractions.

### ***Adoption of the Agenda***

The Chair announced the request of Switzerland to include under agenda item "Any Other Business" its proposal for a Platform for Partnerships. There being no objection from the floor, the Chair declared the Agenda as adopted by the meeting.

### **III. Conclusions from the Greek Chair**

#### ***a) 2009 GFMD Presentation***

**Vice Minister T. Tzakri** of the Greek Ministry of Interior, reported on the achievements of the third GFMD meeting in Athens. The Greek Chairmanship had made a significant contribution to the GFMD process, and had achieved its main objectives.

The Greek GFMD Chair shared some of the main thoughts and impressions of the experiences gained during the Athens meeting and its twelve-month preparatory process, in the hope that this would prove valuable for the current Chair, future chairs and the GFMD process as a whole.

1. The achievements of the Athens GFMD derived from two important factors which distinguish the GFMD from other similar international fora - the spirit of cooperation and the support extended to the Chair by all GFMD actors, including the Troika, the Steering Group, the Roundtable session government teams, the Friends of the Forum and the international organizations and experts, which had provided knowledge and help.
2. The results of the Athens meeting have to be seen as part of a process and the incremental growth of the Forum since its inception in 2007. Belgium set out the broad outlines of the GFMD agenda. Further momentum was gained when the Philippines spotlighted the human face of migration. In Athens, with the overarching theme of "Integrating migration policy into development strategies for the benefit of all" the GFMD introduced an innovative approach to the migration and development nexus by seeing migrants' contribution to development in terms of social and human capital. Integration policies were one way to create this kind of capital and boost development. Greece wanted to bring forward ways of integrating migration into development-oriented actions and thinking, and supporting the initiative of the UN Secretary General to address the connection between root causes of migration and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
3. 2009 had been a year of consolidation for the Global Forum:

- a) A number of recommendations from Brussels and Manila meetings were brought to fruition.
  - b) There is more evidence now of a change in government thinking and action towards greater coherence in migration and development policy making.
  - c) The GFMD Support Unit had been established in Geneva to effectively backstop the financial, technological, and administrative work of the GFMD and the Chair.
  - d) Two ad hoc Working Groups – on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development, and on Policy Coherence, Data and Research – were also established.
4. Also in 2009, a survey of governments was conducted, which showed how well the GFMD partner states are working towards policy and institutional coherence, particularly as a result of the GFMD process.
5. The Athens GFMD also gave special importance to gender by dealing with it in all Roundtable sessions and assigning a Special Gender Rapporteur, who reported that more still needs to be done, particularly to gather gender-disaggregated data to inform policies.
6. The Greek Chair also took time to discuss the future of the GFMD with all Friends of the Forum. Most governments stated that they were satisfied with the GFMD Operating Modalities established in 2007. While preserving the governmental character of the Forum, governments also recognized the value of Civil Society input and the need for improved dialogue with Civil Society.
7. The GFMD is considered in all circles, including those of Civil Society, to be the most comprehensive space for international dialogue on migration and its linkage to development. Nonetheless, the GFMD would have to address certain needs including:
- a) to remain forward looking and policy relevant;
  - b) to keep track of its own impact on policies and practices on the ground;
  - c) to strengthen its structural bodies, i.e., the FOF should be a real “body of the whole”, where all GFMD participants and not just a few can actively contribute, and the Steering Group should be more operational; and
  - d) to further strengthen the national focal points as advocates for follow-up to the GFMD recommendations and as catalysts for greater policy coherence at national and international levels.

In closing, **Vice Minister Tzakri** was optimistic that Mexico would uphold and promote the recommendations adopted in Athens, both in substance and process, and would bring in fresh perspectives and ideas. She reiterated that as a Troika member and past Chair of the GFMD, Greece is ready, willing and able to provide any support and advice that may be needed.

On behalf of the Friends of the Forum, **Commission Romero Castillo** expressed Mexico’s sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Greek Government in organizing the very successful third GFMD meeting in Athens in November 2009. Mexico was mindful of the great challenge to do better this year in order to assure continuous progress.

***b) Work plan of the ad hoc Working Groups***

***(i) ad hoc Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development***

**Argentina** reported on behalf of the first ad hoc working group on “Protecting and empowering migrants for development”, co-chaired by the Philippines and United Arab Emirates (UAE), and including among its membership Argentina, Bangladesh, Ghana, Ecuador and Mexico. Last year, this Working Group undertook three projects to identify best

practices at the three critical stages of migration, pre-departure, during migration and post return. The studies have been posted on the GFMD web portal. The group is made up of members of different backgrounds and diverse experience, and would welcome other interested governments.

To prepare for the Mexico GFMD, the Working Group has already met twice this year to discuss continuity of work carried out last year, and to reflect on new areas of study which Mexico was bringing into the GFMD debate. The ad hoc Working Group has identified two areas of principal interest at this point, namely:

- a) The promotion of partnerships to reduce the costs and risks of migration throughout the migration cycle, and
- b) Partnerships to protect and empower migrants throughout the migration cycle, irrespective of the migrant's status.

The proposals of this ad hoc Working Group will be further elaborated on at the next FOF meeting in April.

### ***(ii) Ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research***

Co-Chairs **Morocco and Switzerland** presented their plan for 2010:

**Morocco** reported that the second ad hoc Working Group met in December 2009 in Geneva, with some 30 participants including member governments, Finland, France, Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines, UAE and, representatives of ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNITAR, World Bank, OECD, European Commission, L'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noir du Senegal, ICMPD, Georgetown University, IPPR, MacArthur foundation, one GFMD international adviser, one representative of the Mexican GFMD Chair, and GFMD coordinator, Dr. Rolph Jenny.

The meeting discussed the concept and relevance of the working group for the GFMD process and confirmed its informal status as an entity that: discusses and analyzes GFMD outcomes, ensures thematic continuity between annual GFMD meetings, has no direct operational role, could support the preparation of relevant GFMD roundtables, and should promote the interface of GFMD with the Global Migration Group and Civil Society.

The meeting also reviewed in greater detail the Athens GFMD Roundtable session 3 outcomes on policy and institutional coherence and agreed on the Working Group's priority areas of activity in 2010, including its Work Plan.

**Switzerland** shared the 5 priority areas in the Work Plan of this ad hoc Working Group, i.e.:

1. **Clustering the GFMD outcomes** on policy coherence, data and research, along five categories: i) linking research and policy and strengthening cooperation between government policy-makers and the research community; ii) assessing the impact of policies; iii) building capacity for data collection and research; iv) make better use of existing data (including the extended migration profiles); and v) collecting new data, e.g. by adding migration-related questions to censuses and specialized surveys. IOM is currently preparing this clustering exercise for the group.
2. Continue using the '**informal inquiry**' tool with GFMD participating governments on specific issues (along the line of the 2009 informal inquiries on policy and institutional coherence, data and research). Action will depend on whether 2010 GFMD preparations will warrant such informal inquiries.
3. **Hold a workshop** with government and non-governmental experts, probably this summer, to define indicators for assessing the development impact of, e.g., integration and

reintegration strategies, and the impact of migration on the development of origin and host countries. Switzerland has committed to fund this exercise, but the group is also ascertaining whether other donors would be prepared to fund it. The concrete purpose and objectives of the workshop are currently being designed.

4. Pursue consultations with the EC and GMG agencies on further developing the **(extended) Migration Profiles** to ensure broad ownership of the instruments, by integrating the interests of origin countries, and to ensure a large vision of migration challenges. The working group Coordinator, Dr. Jenny, is in touch with EC colleagues on this.
5. Request **the GFMD Chair** to draw the attention of the **Friends of the Forum** to the importance of including migration data in the **2010 global population census**. A brief note was prepared and made available at the meeting.

These five priorities will keep the ad hoc Working Group busy until the Mexican Global Forum in November 2010. The group may also contribute to the preparation of one of the roundtables. But more important is the group's ongoing focus on the discussion of GFMD outcomes in the areas of policy and institutional coherence and the link with policy relevant data and research, which is assured through the active participation of GMG agencies and academia. These non-governmental entities expressed their interest in concretely supporting the Working Group's activities, thus, strengthening the overall cooperation within the GFMD process.

The Working Group remains as an open and informal structure. The Co-Chairs would welcome the participation of any interested government, and especially, representatives from the capitals to ensure the applicability and the relevance of the ideas and recommendations of the working group.

#### ***IV. Draft Themes Concept Paper***

No comments followed the presentations of the ad hoc Working Groups. The Chair proceeded to the Draft Themes Concept Paper, which the Mexican Chair had developed together with the international advisers on the Taskforce, and sent to all Friends of the Forum in January. The paper had built on the rich discussions of the past three GFMD meetings.

The discussion of the concept paper by the Steering Group the day before had been very enlightening. The Chair summarized the main points made by the Steering Group to inform the wider discussion of the FOF.

1. The Steering Group members generally shared Mexico's vision for GFMD 2010. The partnership perspective of Mexico's overall theme was widely accepted. Partnership among governments, with civil society, between private and public sectors and with migrants, is a key tool for managing migration and development in a comprehensive and balanced way. The focus on human development – as defined by the UNDP 2009 Human Development Report on Migration - was also welcomed.
2. Shared responsibility as part of the partnership approach was key to advancing governments' thinking on migration and development and making policies work better.
3. A number of overarching issues were raised:
  - a) Some governments were concerned about discussing irregular migration; others felt that the GFMD was the place to speak openly about it. For the Mexican chair, the focus is not on irregular migration per se but on joint approaches to managing irregular migration. Understanding the causes of irregular migration is part of a comprehensive approach to managing migration, particularly for enhanced development outcomes. Regular and irregular migration are two sides of the same

coin; hence some governments suggested combining or linking the two sub-themes in RT1 relating to regular and irregular migration.

b) Governments also felt there was a need for clearer definitions of key terms used in the themes and sub-theme titles such as “human development”, “shared prosperity”, and “shared responsibility”. These terms will be elaborated on as working definitions in the preparation by the government teams of the Roundtable sessions and the background papers. The final titles proposed for the Roundtables and RT sessions will be considered carefully before finalizing the Themes Paper.

c) Some governments were interested in giving greater emphasis to climate change and its effects on migration. Other governments felt that it was premature to discuss this at the 2010 GFMD, or that the Forum itself was not suitable for this issue. Given the strong interest in the issue, the Chair advised the Steering Group at the end of the meeting that the Chair will prepare a note on how this may be incorporated in the Roundtable discussions.

4. The ensuing discussion on the proposed Roundtables was very constructive. In sum, the Steering Group expressed its responses and preferences as follows:

- a) **Roundtable 1: Partnerships for migration and development, shared prosperity, shared responsibility.** The majority expressed a preference for sub-themes 2 and 4. Some suggested linking or merging the two sub-themes.
- b) **Roundtable 2: Human mobility and human development.** The majority of governments expressed a preference for sub-themes 1 and 2. Some suggestions were made to expand on the circular migration discussion, include the concept of poverty reduction strategies and address climate change in this Roundtable.
- c) **Roundtable 3: Policy and institutional coherence to address the relationship between migration and development.** More governments appeared to express an interest in sub-themes 1 and 4 with suggestions to adjust the focus and avoid repetitions with previous years. Some suggested a combination of sub-themes 1 and 3. Climate change also came up as a possible sub-theme.

### **General Discussion:**

One government welcomed the proposed concept paper, broadly reflecting an issue which to date had been dealt with only superficially in multilateral fora, i.e. human rights. Migration needs to be looked at in its multi-dimensional aspects, so that countries of origin, transit and destination can design and implement effective migration policies. The delegate also praised the central theme of the forum – “partnerships for migration and development - shared prosperity - shared responsibility,” and the inclusion of the issue of irregular migration.

The Chair thanked the Friends for having noted the report of the Steering Group **and invited all FOF participants to submit any further contributions to the Themes Concept Paper in writing through the GFMD national focal points, before 19 February, 2010.**

## ***V. Organizational matters***

### ***1. Calendar of Meetings***

- a) The Chair announced that the Fourth GFMD Meeting will be held in Puerto Vallarta on 08-11 November 2010. Puerto Vallarta is a town on the Pacific coast of Mexico. It is in the region of Bahíade Vandas, endowed with major infrastructure, airport and maritime facilities, and high quality hotel services. Direct flights are available from Mexico City and from some cities in the USA and even Canada. The International Congress Center, recently

built by the Jalisco State government, allows for smooth GFMD meetings of both the civil society and the governments. As preparation continues, more detailed information on logistics will be provided via the Mexico GFMD webpage, [www.gfmd.org/mexico-2010](http://www.gfmd.org/mexico-2010), which can be accessed through the GFMD web portal, [www.gfmd.org](http://www.gfmd.org).

- b) The Chair plans to convene the second meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum towards the end of April, and the third meetings at the beginning of September. If necessary, an additional meeting will be called in June.

## ***2. Budget***

The Chair presented the budget of Mexico GFMD, copies of which were available in the conference room. Mexico was urged by many countries to be rigorous in preparing the budget, especially in light of the economic situation in Mexico and globally. The projected total cost of Mexico GFMD is Euros 1.748,255 Million, or USD 2.6 Million. Around 60% of this budget, or Euros 1.03 Million, will be covered by the Mexican Government. This clearly reflects the Mexican Government's determination to ensure the success of the fourth GFMD.

Mexico is committed to a transparent, austere, cost-efficient budget, which will be reported on in future meetings. The first principal item of the budget is the cost of maintaining a Taskforce and some experts, which amounts to Euros 946,704. The second item, amounting to Euros 25,953, is for preparatory activities, such as the meetings of the Steering group, Friends of the forum and others considered essential. The third and largest item relates to the general logistics of the event, e.g. rent of the convention center, furniture and equipment to be leased for the venue, simultaneous interpretation, and other organizational expenses. There is also a contingency fund to be covered by the Mexican Presidency.

The Mexican Government invited other states to help cover the costs of participation of delegates, particularly those from developing countries. Mexico had so far received a number of offers of both earmarked and unearmarked funds. Other voluntary offers from countries that have the capacity to contribute were welcomed.

Four government delegates commented on the budget.

1. One delegate complimented Mexico on its rigorous budget, which is appropriate for the GFMD, especially in the context of today's global economic situation. She also called upon other countries to come forward and broaden the donor base.
2. Another delegate asked about the basis of the budget, pointing out that the share of the host country is significantly larger than voluntary contributions. This could pose a challenge to future hosts of the GFMD, particularly among countries of the South.
3. The delegates from Sweden and Spain announced their Government's readiness to contribute to Mexico GFMD.

The Chair welcomed the pledges of financial assistance to the Mexico GFMD, and took note of the question on future funding of the GFMD. She agreed that no country should be deprived of the chance to host the GFMD because of financial considerations. Hence, there was a need to find more stable sources of funding in the long term.

## ***3. Updates on the GFMD Web Portal***

The Chair invited **Ms. Estrella Lajom Roman**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit (SU), to make a presentation of the new GFMD web portal, [www.gfmd.org](http://www.gfmd.org). Ms Lajom Roman thanked the Mexican Chair for taking advantage of the full array of services that the GFMD Support Unit was intended to provide the GFMD Chair-in-Office and the process in general.

Following are the key objectives of the GFMD web portal:

1. To consolidate information about the GFMD process:
  - History of the GFMD Process,
  - Supporting Framework, the Operating Modalities, Links with the UN, Civil Society and Other Stakeholders.
2. To make available online the following:
  - GFMD Documents Library
  - Archives of GFMD-related events
  - Highlights of GFMD Meetings, and
  - Recommendations and Follow ups
3. To support the GFMD Chair-in-Office in organizing meetings, by providing:
  - Practical information about the preparatory process and the main meeting
  - Online registration of participants
  - Online space for the GFMD Forum, or consultations and exchanges between and among GFMD stakeholders.
3. To foster partnerships and cooperation resulting from the GFMD.
4. To promote continuity of the process despite changes in GFMD Chairmanship.
5. To maintain links with GFMD partners in migration and development. (All Friends of the Forum were requested to create hyperlinks to their respective websites.)

Key features of the GFMD web portal were presented by going into the live link via the internet. Different sections of the web page were explained, including the special feature box of the GFMD Chair, which goes into the webpage of Mexico GFMD.

The importance of the GFMD Documents Library, Recommendations, and Follow up Actions was emphasized in keeping track of the substantive progress of annual GFMD meetings. The log-in feature box could be used by the GFMD Focal Points to access restricted sections of the portal, and help the GFMD Support Unit update information about the governments' focal points. Future facilities such as online registration, online inquiry, and online forum were also mentioned.

The web portal is available in English, French, and Spanish. Institutional email addresses that refer to various actors in the GFMD were created as a result of the portal. Communications may be addressed to the corresponding email addresses of the Chair-in-Office, the Executive Director, the Taskforce, the Support Unit, and the International Advisers.

In her conclusion, Ms. Lajom Roman enjoined the Friends of the Forum to use the GFMD web portal in ensuring their active engagement in the GFMD process, and in keeping abreast of GFMD debates, the organizational plans of the GFMD Chair-in-Office, and the road forward. She thanked the Support Unit's host entity, IOM, as well as the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Support Unit donors for 2009 (Spain, Greece, Switzerland ) and 2010 (Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland), and finally, the Mexican Chair for allowing the Support Unit to operate as originally envisaged, in spite of its limited personnel and resources.

The Chair expressed thanks and appreciation for the presentation and the overall work of the GFMD Support Unit. She reiterated the potential of the GFMD web portal in being one of the best means of communication for the GFMD, without discounting the usefulness of other traditional means.

One delegate congratulated the Mexican GFMD Chair for the establishment of the consolidated web portal for GFMD over a term of several years. It was suggested that the web portal could also serve as a tool to monitor the application of certain recommendations, in particular the link with the regional forums dealing with migration and development. News about initiatives of the various regional fora could be shared with the Friends of the Forum

through the portal, e.g. by creating hyperlinks. The Chair took note of this suggestion.

#### **4. Civil Society Days**

The Chair then called on Mr. Gustavo Lara, Director of the Banco Bilbao Vizcarra (BBVA) Bancomer Foundation, official convenor of the Civil Society Days at the Mexico GFMD.

**Mr. Lara** stressed the importance for Mexico to host the fourth GFMD meeting. Mexico is one of the countries with the largest number of migrants, and the third largest receiver of remittances in the world. The population of Mexicans in the US is around 12 Million or 11 percent of the population of Mexico.

Bancomer Foundation has committed itself to a number of initiatives in the area of migration and development. It has provided scholarships for Mexicans under 15 who come from migrant communities. These scholars are provided with economic assistance and tutors from bank employees who stay with them for three years during their secondary education. This work has been done in 18 states and 103 communities, supporting thousands of students with the participation of 700 volunteer bank employees. The Foundation has also worked with the Autonomous University of Zacatecas on developing information systems on migration and development. It has also published the magazine *Migration Situation in Mexico*, which analyzes the various social and economic situations of Mexican migrants and their families. (Electronic copies of the magazine were given to the delegates.)

In 2007, Bancomer organized an international conference on migration and development on the theme, “Holistic perspectives from the south.” Experts from around the world and officials and authorities and representatives from civil society participated.

Drawing upon the guidance received from the Ayala and Onassis Foundations, and the International Advisory Council of GFMD Civil Society Days in 2009, he outlined the plans of the Bancomer Foundation for the Civil Society Days in 2010:

1. Promote free communication between the Civil Society and Governments to better enhance public policy-making in the areas of migration and development. Two key elements are: a) shared responsibility, understood as greater communication and collaboration between the stakeholders in the migratory process, and b) the contribution of migrants in the receiving country. For Civil Society, transparency, consultations, inclusion and plurality are reflective of each step of the process.
2. Moving towards the Forum, the dialogue will begin with a webpage that will come on live between March and April. This will have an area for posting publications from organizations, where they can describe themselves and explain their work, enabling a network of contacts and support to be built before the event.
3. In the event, there will be exhibition stands at the conference center for the free exchange of information to enrich the knowledge and exchange of best practices. The Foundation will also look for various organizations to participate in a photographic exposition that reflects the multiple aspects of migration and development. Participants will be encouraged to submit their proposal to a selection committee and the winners will be presented during the event.
4. The run-up meetings will provide an operation for organizations, which did not have the chance to participate in the Civil Society Days. This will be reported on at the Civil Society Days Forum in a single document to be submitted to the Governments during the joint event.

5. Bancomer will continue working on the issues suggested in Athens relating to the future of the forum, the continued increase of migrants, the possible effects of climate change, and the effects of global recession resulting in increased unemployment, low salaries, etc. It is necessary to have an overview or realistic understanding in each one of the areas of interest to ensure a high level participation at the international level. The Foundation also wants to ensure a balanced representation of the areas of development, unions, migrant initiatives, diaspora, migrant protection, academics, etc.
6. An important aspect of the Civil Society days would be the interface with Governments. The Foundation will work together with the Mexican Chair to increase the time and space for the interface, and pursue a frank dialogue in order to promote a spirit of shared responsibility and association.
7. In this regard, Bancomer would like to suggest that a limited number of representatives of Civil Society participate in the inter-governmental meeting. To support the meetings at the Civil Society Days, The Bancomer Foundation will capitalize on its experience in organizing international events, and apply innovative rules of communication to enable productive meetings with governments.
8. The International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Mexico Civil Society Days will be formed by the end of February. The first meeting of the committee is planned for the end of March, to establish the agenda for the Civil Society Days, the invitation for participants, the criteria for selection of experts, rapporteurs and the formats of presentations and preparations of the working documents.
9. The Bancomer Foundation will suggest to the IAC to continue with four simultaneous roundtables, including one on the future of the Forum. It would like to add a fifth roundtable for an interface with private enterprises working with migrants, and include proposals to discuss with governments two other areas – a) the creation of a database to gather information and build indicators on migration at the international level, and b) the situation of migrant families who remain in the countries of origin.

The Bancomer Foundation has committed itself to work with governments and to give a more qualitative dimension to the GFMD dialogue. Its final objective is to broaden the dialogue and find better solutions and opportunities for migrants, which in practice will enable them to chart their own future.

After the presentation, a government delegate asked whether the Civil Society Days would mirror the agenda of the government meeting. This had been the case in the past GFMD meetings, with the objective of facilitating a real interface between the Civil Society days and the Government meeting.

By way of clarification, the Permanent Representative of Mexico in Geneva, Ambassador Juan Jose Gomez-Camacho, stressed that the format and spirit of the meeting would be essentially the same. The idea is to recognize the work of Civil Society as a complementary exercise which adds value to the work of the governments. The Bancomer Foundation is putting together a project where the substance and content of the debate will be complementary. In addition to the three Roundtable topics of the government meeting, Bancomer proposes two more complementary topics for Roundtables.

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

### ***1. Swiss Proposal for a Platform for Partnerships***

**Switzerland** presented their proposal for a Platform for Partnerships. As explained in the concept note provided to the participants, the proposal has the following salient points:

1. **Rationale:** Each year the GFMD produces a number of recommendations for “voluntary” follow up. Many of these recommendations could be pursued in collaboration with other stakeholders, governments, academia, civil society, or the private sector. As an informal process, the GFMD has no operational capacity. However, the GFMD can, and should be, an instrument to support governments and other stakeholders in their efforts to cooperate and to voluntarily follow up on GFMD recommendations, which they believe to be valuable and interesting. The Platform for Partnerships aims to support governments in transforming GFMD recommendations into concrete actions, projects and programs.
2. **Mechanics:** The Platform will consist of two main stages.
  - a) A preparatory stage which takes place on a virtual basis between the annual meetings

Interested governments will be invited to submit to the GFMD Chair a concrete project proposal by means of a pre-defined online template. Where possible, this project proposal would already have undergone preliminary consultations with interested international agencies and/or NGOs. Upon approval by the Chair, the proposal will be posted on the GFMD website and made available to interested governments, as well as to other international bodies ready to either provide technical capacity or financial assistance for the implementation of the project. This will be done by means of a restricted online facility on the GFMD web portal, which could also be used to collect and share good practices.

- b) A direct interface which is organized during the actual GFMD meeting.

Interested governments would share with the GFMD participants their project proposal and present the results of their consultations. A special session on the Platform for Partnerships will be held in parallel with the Special Session on the Future of the Forum. The session program will be distributed together with the agenda of the GFMD. And if needed, the GFMD Chair would limit the number of presentations on a first come-first served basis.

3. **Implementation** of the proposal would entail some administrative work – a) providing and maintaining a link to a restricted site in the GFMD web portal for concerned government and non-government stakeholders, and b) organizing the special session on the Platform for Partnerships. Switzerland believes that the GFMD Support Unit could be useful to support the Chair-in-Office in these areas. Technical and financial support could be provided to support this platform, if necessary.

Switzerland stressed that the Platform for Partnerships does not aim to be a highly sophisticated tool, but rather an opportunity for governments and other important stakeholders to informally discuss and present practical follow-ups on the GFMD recommendations.

No comments were made from the floor.

## **2. Note on the 2010 Global Population Census**

The **UNDESA** delegate sought to elaborate on the Note earlier mentioned by the ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, concerning the 2010 Global Population Census. The Note draws attention to the lack of coherence between policymakers gathered in the forum and providers of data. It suggests two steps:

1. National Focal Points should meet with their national statistics officers and other data providers to discuss the needs for evidence-based policy making.
2. To involve the UN Statistical Commissions which will meet in two weeks in New York. The single best way to improving migration data is to put this item on the agenda of the UN Statistics Commission. Therefore, the national GFMD focal points should ask their Chief Statisticians to call for strengthening migration data at the upcoming meeting of the Statistics Commission in February.

The delegate also made reference to the report on Migrants Count presented by UNDESA in Athens GFMD, which provides an excellent roadmap to improve data before the UNHLD on International Migration and Development in 2013. The report recommends five steps, including taking advantage of the 2010 round of censuses. This year and next, some 120 countries will organize their censuses, which are the single most important source of internationally comparable data.

The Chair thanked UNDESA for its participation to ensure that migrants are counted.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Commissioner Romero Castillo closed the meeting by once again thanking the Friends of the Forum for their participation, and by saying:

“Friends support, Friends suggest, Friends, applaud, require, assess, and celebrate, but above all, Friends share. The Friends of the GFMD and all of us here who call ourselves Friends have taken on a commitment to work together to ensure that our Forum is efficient, responsible, enjoyable, expresses solidarity, overcomes bureaucracy and recognizes that the world is a place where responsibility and liberty can be used to ensure that we can all do our part”.

**The first FOF meeting adjourned at 1300 hrs.**

Prepared by:  
GFMD Support Unit