

**Comments from the Delegation of Thailand**  
**Special Session on the Future of the Forum**  
**11<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit**  
**On 7 December 2018 at 10.00 – 12.30 hrs**

\* \* \* \* \*

- On behalf of the delegation of Thailand, I would like to thank Germany and Morocco, the GFMD Co-Chairs for 2017-2018 for the successful organizations of the 11<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit so far and for organizing this Special Session on the Future of the Forum, at the very important juncture where GFMD has reached its ten years and the global community is about to officially adopt the Global Compact on Migration in the next few days. It is therefore very timely to come together and discuss how we should take the GFMD platform forward, especially as we all are approaching the phase of the GCM implementation.
- I would also like to thank Ambassador Eduard Gnesa of Switzerland and Ambassador Esteban Conejos Jr. of the Philippines, the Co-Chairs of the GFMD Review team for presenting the result of the Ten Years of GFMD review and providing concrete recommendations to improve its relevance as well as overcome its structural weaknesses – many of which Thailand concurs our views with.
- Thailand is of view that **the priority of the GFMD in its new decade** should be very much aligned with the latest development, which is to **support Member States and relevant stakeholders in their implementation of the GCM**, while also strengthen further its **focus on the realization of migration-related SDGs**.
- In so doing, we are supportive of the call **to enhance the relevancy of the GFMD in this GCM context**, especially by negotiating **its relationship with the new architectures** to be established under the GCM, namely the UN Network on Migration, the Capacity Building Mechanism and the International Migration Review Fora.
- We share the view that the core strengths **of the GFMD that lies in its informal, state-led and non-binding format for discussions** on sensitive issues of migration, and the building of a common understanding on **the interlinkages with development**. That aforementioned character of the GFMD, together with its **collection of good policies and practices**, and **established partnerships** among Member States, Civil Society, Private Sector, and the Local Authority **are in similar spirit to the objectives of the Compact**, especially the promotion of international cooperation, the link with sustainable development and the necessity of a holistic understanding,

especially the use of the whole-of-government and the whole-of-society approaches to migration and development.

- The enhanced role and relevancy of the GFMD platform can hence have a positive contribution to the success of the GCM. We therefore support the recommendations in the Ten Year Review report and would like to share some of our thoughts in this regard.
- We support **the establishment of sector-specific networks and issue-specific, multi-stakeholder working groups** that will allow us to discuss more in details on specific issues/ areas. Nevertheless, it is important to bear in mind that the newly created structure should not cause extra burden to Member States and participating stakeholders, nor it should make the GFMD platform less efficient due to its expansive structure. It is also important to realize that there are synergies among different issues and that one single issue can cut cross the mandate of several agencies.
- We also support the recommendation to **develop an online “Learning Hub”**. We totally agree that there needs to be a quality control of the collection of “best practices” so as to ensure that they are up to the standard and can be applicable in other countries/ areas. We also see the merit of the development of knowledge tools to support its members. Nevertheless, we encourage that this should not be done in isolation, but rather in a collaborative manner with other existing platforms, such as those offered by the IOM or those related to the SDGs implementation.
- We also support the **recommendations to establish a solution-driven “marketplace”** to match potential partners in any specific issue and **the introduction of a peer-review space** to look at the GCM implementation and review challenges and believe that these tools really demonstrate how we can leverage the added value of the GFMD in the GCM implementation of Member States.
- Lastly, I wish to **reaffirm Thailand’s continued support to the GFMD and this endeavor to steer the platform towards its new decade** in order to make it more relevant and truly beneficial for all Member States and relevant stakeholders, especially towards the realization of objectives set forth in GCM and the migration-related SDGs.

\* \* \* \* \*