



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

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

**Wednesday, 5 April 2017**

**14.00 to 17.00 hrs**

**Room XVIII, 1st Floor, Building E**

**Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Delivered by Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair, United Nations University Institute on  
Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)**

**On behalf of the GMG Chair**

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2017 and Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Dr. David Malone. He extends his appreciation to the co-Chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for inviting GMG to speak today.

We were most interested to hear earlier from the recently appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration (SRSG), Ms. Louise Arbour. We join others in congratulating her on her appointment. The GMG is working closely with SRSG Arbour and her team in the crucial undertaking before us to help states prepare the ground for a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GC/M). Indeed, we were honoured that she attended a working level meeting of our Group earlier this week.

May I also take this opportunity to convey the warm appreciation of the GMG to her predecessor, Peter Sutherland. His recently released report, which challenges Member States, the UN system and other stakeholders to put in place a better

functioning international architecture for migration, is a fitting tribute to his pioneering work.

### ***GMG Contributions towards a Global Compact on Migration (GC/M)***

I have been asked to share an overview on the global compact on migration, specifically the GMG contribution.

Earlier this year, at a Strategic Retreat of the GMG at Principal Level, we heard a strong request from the GFMD Troika and other Member States for unified and substantive GMG support for the GC/M process. The GMG agreed that support for the intergovernmental negotiations should be the priority for the Group in the period ahead. GMG Working Groups and Task Forces (WG/TF) will adjust their work programmes, as well as the GMG Multi-Annual Work Plan (MAWP), guided by this priority.

With the recent welcome addition of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), GMG now has 22 members. All GMG members are currently intensively engaged in a collaborative process to prepare a coordinated GMG Input to each of the issue briefs which are being prepared by the SRSB for the six thematic sessions, mandated by the resolution on modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations.

GMG colleagues are working hard to provide inputs for the issue briefs that will be accessible, evidence-driven, concrete, human rights-based and gender-responsive. We intend to incorporate throughout all the GMG Inputs a series of cross-cutting issues, including the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, men, girls and boys at all stages of migration; health, social protection; food security; decent work opportunities; the 2030 Agenda; as well as means of implementation and accountability more generally, to name a few. The inputs will consider and build upon the 24 elements identified by Member States in Annex II of the New York Declaration. They will include the most recent age- and sex-disaggregated data that are available; provide a succinct analysis of key

trends; and propose specific, concrete and action-orientated recommendations. Once finalized by the SRSG the Issue Briefs will, we hope, be a useful contribution to the preparatory process for the intergovernmental negotiations on the GC/M.

In parallel to contributing to the Issue Briefs process, the 2017 GMG Chair, UNU, participates as an observer in regular meetings of a Core Group of UN entities chaired by the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) to consider preparations for the six thematic sessions as well as the multi-stakeholder hearings mandated by the modalities resolution.

A meeting of the GMG at Principal Level is scheduled to take place later this month in Geneva and will allow our Principals the opportunity to take stock, at a strategic level, of implementation of the New York Declaration and the GMG contribution in support of the GC/M process. The GMG principal meeting will also serve to select the GMG Chair for 2018, which will continue to support the Global Compact process.

### ***Building Synergies with the GFMD throughout the GC/M Process***

Both the GFMD and GMG, in coordination with the SRSG, have important roles to play in contributing towards the success of the GC/M preparatory process and the ensuing intergovernmental negotiations.

I am pleased to report that GMG is compiling an illustrative compendium of recent policy-oriented, research or analytical outputs from GMG members to be made available to Member States, including members of the GFMD, as a resource to support GC/M consultations.

Useful meetings have already taken place this year between the GMG and GFMD, including between our Chairs recently in New York, as well as regular contact at

working level. Along with GMG participation in GFMD meetings, events and initiatives, these are important avenues to advance our collective strategic thinking and action on migration and more specifically our contributions to the GC/M process.

A healthy cross-fertilization of ideas, information and resources between the GMG and GFMD and our respective partners and stakeholders is mutually beneficial, indeed crucial, as we together forge a path to the GC/M.

I will conclude by underlining that the GMG is fully committed to supporting Member States work towards a concrete, action-orientated and forward looking GC/M that builds on the commitments agreed to in the New York Declaration, ensuring that the first blueprint for international migration is truly human rights-based and gender responsive.

Thank you.