

First Meeting of the GFMD Steering Group
12 February 2020
10.00 – 13.00 Room Geneva
Centre de Conférence de Varembe (CCV), Geneva

SUMMARY REPORT

1. The first 2020 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Steering Group (SG)¹ was presided over by H.E. Abdulla Ali Alnuaimi, Undersecretary for Communication & International Relations, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, Representative of the GFMD 2020 Chair United Arab Emirates (UAE).
2. The GFMD 2020 Chair was joined at the podium by Mr. Alex Zalami, Advisor to the UAE Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization, the members of the GFMD 2020 Troika, Mr. Ahmed Skim, representing GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chair Morocco, Mr. Alejandro Davalos, representing GFMD 2019 Chair, and the Head of the GFMD Support Unit (Ms. Estrella Lajom).

I. Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Chair informed the Steering Group that the previously circulated [Provisional Agenda](#) had been updated, copies of which were made available in the room. The Chair further requested the Steering Group's agreement for the representatives of the three GFMD mechanisms to join the discussion of Agenda Item 2, 2020 Vision and Work Plan. There being no opposition nor further comments from the Steering Group, the updated agenda was adopted and the representatives of the GFMD mechanisms were invited to join the meeting.

II. Overview of 2020 Vision and Work Plan

4. The GFMD UAE Chair presented to the GFMD Steering Group the 2020 [Vision and Work Plan](#) which will culminate in the Thirteenth GFMD Summit to be held in Dubai on 11-15 January 2021. Member States who took the floor welcomed and declared full support for the UAE Chairmanship and its vision and proposed work plan. A number of states expressed appreciation for the consultative process by which the Chair developed its thematic agenda. Some comments were offered in particular for the Dubai Summit, such as to ensure more space for discussion on GCM implementation, to enhance social media promotion, to have an improved Marketplace, to organize a similar Business mechanism pitching session like the one in Quito, and to include the youth in a meaningful way. There was also a suggestion from a member state to find a space for GCM discussion at the next preparatory meetings in July and October.
5. Regarding the GFMD Roundtables, some member states urged the Chair to explore and/or use more interactive moderation techniques. It was also suggested to involve the GFMD Mechanisms in the drafting of the background papers for, and possibly co-chairing certain Roundtable sessions. There was some concern over the short drafting process for RT background papers envisaged in the Work Plan, to which the Chair replied that the reports generated from the regional meetings would help facilitate the speedy production of RT background notes.

¹ Steering Group Member States that participated in the meeting: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden (via videolink), Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates. SG Members who were not present: Greece, India, Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Tunisia.

6. A number of interveners requested more information from the Chair on how the proposed regional meetings will build into the work plan and Roundtables, and on the full calendar of events, so that member states may better plan their engagement with GFMD activities.
7. The three GFMD Mechanisms successively expressed their support for the Chair's vision and proposed thematic agenda, and also briefly presented their own 2020 work plans. A common request made by the Mechanisms was for a representative of the coordinating offices / secretariats be given financial support to attend all six regional meetings in order to ensure coherence and continuity of work. The Chair then excused them from the rest of the meeting.

III. GFMD Finances

(1) Financial Report on GFMD 2019

8. The Head of the GFMD Support Unit (HSU) presented a preliminary financial report of the GFMD 2019, which indicated a projected balance of resources amounting to around \$181,000, to be carried forward to the GFMD 2020 budget. Ms. Lajom thanked especially those countries that responded to the Ecuadorian Chair's call for additional financial contributions in September 2019, when a considerable deficit was foreseen. The final financial report will be made available before the scheduled external audit of GFMD 2019 accounts towards the end of March 2020, and the narrative and financial reports to the 2019 donors by end April 2020.

(2) Proposed 2020 Provisional Budget

9. The Chair presented the [Provisional GFMD 2020 Budget](#), which was endorsed by the GFMD Troika at its meeting earlier on same day, 12 February. With Troika support, the Chair called on Steering Group member states to offer financial contributions to the GFMD. The Chair highlighted the need to announce their pledges by 1 March in order to ensure better budget planning.
10. Mexico announced that it intended to offer a financial contribution, and advised the Chair to consider ways to bring the budget down without compromising the work plan. The proposed budget was thereafter approved by the SG.

(3) Long Term Financial Sustainability

11. The Chair presented a plan to improve the long term financial sustainability of the GFMD by exploring options to expand funding sources to non-traditional donors. The Chair proposed to the Steering Group the engagement of a professional consultant (an agency) to prepare a report on the feasibility and methodology of approaching prospective non-government donors. To this end, the Chair also proposed to create a Fundraising Committee to be comprised of the three Troika members, three GFMD Mechanisms, and volunteering member states, especially from those that have historically contributed to the GFMD. The role of the Fundraising Committee is to inform and interact with the consultant to assist in the development of the report
12. There was general support for this proposal; however, some concerns were expressed concerning the potential cost of engaging such a consultant, and how to ensure GFMD's independence while broadening its donor base. The UAE Chair announced that they will make available \$ 50,000 to pay for this consultancy work, and agreed to draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Fundraising Committee to assuage any concern re the independence of the process. The Chair will submit the draft TOR's to the Troika for approval. Meantime, the Chair will convene a meeting of key donor member states who will be invited to voluntarily join the Fundraising Committee.
13. The Steering Group approved the Chair's proposal to hire a consultant and to establish a Fundraising Committee.

IV. Mandating the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration

14. At the Chair's bidding, the Steering Group approved to re-mandate the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration to continue its work in 2020. Two key roles were envisaged for the Working Group in 2020: i.e., to coordinate GFMD's response to the request for input to the [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF) and to consider how to ensure the long term sustainable financing of the GFMD.

V. Proposed Amendments to Operating Modalities

15. The Chair proposed to amend the appropriate clause in the GFMD [Operating Modalities](#) to allow any of the three GFMD Mechanisms to co-chair Roundtables or Working Groups alongside member states. The Steering Group agreed to wait within three days for an amended text of the Modalities to be proposed by the Chair in consultation with the Troika. The Steering Group will consider the amended text for approval via silence procedure within seven (7) days from receipt thereof.

VI. Formation of other Working Groups

16. The Chair announced that Canada proposed the creation of a new GFMD [ad hoc thematic Working Group \(WG\) on Public Narratives on Migration](#) to build on the discussion of this theme at the Quito GFMD Summit. Taking the floor to explain the motivation for this initiative, Canada proposed a first digital meeting in March, with an in-person meeting of the ad hoc WG in San Jose. Furthermore, Canada proposed that the Mayoral Mechanism serve as Co-Chair of the ad hoc Working Group, along with Canada and another member state.
17. A number of member states made statements in support of the proposal to establish the ad hoc Working Group. However, the approval of the Mayoral Mechanism serving as a Co-Chair was held in abeyance, pending the adoption of the proposed amendments to the GFMD operating modalities (under Agenda item 5).

VII Any other business

(1) Request to become a member of the Steering Group

18. The Chair invited the Steering Group to comment on the [request made by the Republic of Azerbaijan](#) to join the SG. A couple of Member States expressed strong support for Azerbaijan's request, adding that they saw nothing that would prevent a volunteering country like Azerbaijan from becoming a member of the Steering Group. The Chair therefore announced that the request was deemed as approved. Moreover, the Chair suggested to invite the Azerbaijan to participate in GFMD Working Groups to learn more about the work of the GFMD.

(2) Requests to become GFMD Observers

19. The Chair informed the SG of requests made by the [Overseas Development Institute \(ODI\)](#), [United Nations Human Settlements Programme \(UN Habitat\)](#), and [Latin American and Caribbean Economic System Permanent Secretariat \(SELA\)](#) to become GFMD Observers.
20. The SG approved the requests of ODI, UN Habitat and SELA to become GFMD Observers without objection.