

“Enhancing the human development of migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and states”

Second Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

**Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XVII
27 April 2012; 15.00 to 18.00 hrs**

Chair: Mr. Ali Mansoor, Mauritius GFMD Chair

Mauritian GFMD Taskforce: Amb. Shree B.C. Servansing, Mr. Adam Koodoruth, Dr. Rolph Jenny, Dr. Irena Omelaniuk, Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Ms. Elizabeth Adjei, Ms. Estrella Lajom, Ms Anja Klug, Ms Christel Adamou

Report of the Proceedings

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Mauritian GFMD Chair, Ali Mansoor, greeted 139 delegates from 74 countries and 21 international organizations who attended the second meeting of the Friends of the Forum. He announced that significant progress has been made since the first meeting in February in respect of the preparatory work leading to the GFMD Summit Meeting in November. The Chair was accompanied on the podium by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Migration and Development (SRSG), Sir Peter Sutherland.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda, which had been circulated by email to all Friends of the Forum on 10 April 2012.

3. GFMD 2012 Work Program

The Chair reported that a series of events were in the pipeline in preparation for the GFMD Summit Meeting in November. These included the traditional Roundtables, the recently held meeting of the Abu Dhabi dialogue in the Philippines, the Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning workshop and the Institutional Coherence workshop being organized by Switzerland, IOM and UNDP to be held in June in Port Louis and Brussels, respectively. Two other events will be held in Mauritius in June – a workshop on *Harnessing Diaspora Resources for Development in Africa* organized by the World Bank and a brainstorming meeting on *Enhancing Intra-African Cooperation on Migration and Development Policies*, organized by the Mauritian Chair-in-Office with the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), ADB and IOM..

Before giving an update on the Roundtables, the Chair called on Sir Peter Sutherland to address the meeting. The SRSG highlighted the issue of the Common Space and the engagement of the Civil Society. He reminded the meeting that the interface with the broad

Civil Society has always been a challenge for the Global Forum since its beginnings. As the GFMD was conceived to be primarily an inter-governmental dialogue, states have grappled with suitable modalities for civil society engagement, even as they recognized civil society groups as vital partners in migration. He observed that the engagement of governments and civil society has evolved through the years and resulted in the Common Space. He deemed it helpful if the Common Space could be organized in a way that brings up issues but also provides solutions or ideas from both sides, which the states can further discuss during the Governmental Meeting. Constructive engagement by both the governments and civil society is paramount in order to make the Common Space more effective and worthwhile.

a) Update on the Roundtable Sessions

A PowerPoint (PPT) presentation¹ provided the backdrop for an update on the Roundtable (RT) preparations. PPT slides showed the RT themes and team compositions. The Chair invited RT co-chairs to comment and more governments to take part in the RT session teams and/or offer comments on the substantive work done so far. He reminded the meeting that some RT session concept notes had already been posted online, copies of which were available at the back of the room.

Following overview of the current RT session teams was presented:

Roundtable 1: Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development

RT Coordinator: Dr. Irena Omelaniuk and Mr. Salomon Samen

RT session 1.1: Beyond-the-border Skills and Jobs for Human Development

Co-Chairs: UAE, Mauritius

Team Members: Bangladesh, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland

Non-State Partners: ILO, IOM

RT session 1.2: Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socioeconomic Change

Co-Chairs: France, Morocco, Kenya

Team Members: Belgium, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Germany

Non-State Partners: ILO, IOM, World Bank

Roundtable 2: Factoring Migration into Development Planning

RT Coordinator: Dr. Rolph Jenny and Mr. Viraj Ghoorah

RT session 2.1: Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies

Co-Chairs: Switzerland, Morocco, Mali

Team Members: Sweden, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria

Non-State Partners: UNDP, IOM, EU

¹ See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/mauritius-2012>

RT session 2.2: Addressing South-South Migration and Development Policies

Co-Chairs: Bangladesh, Ghana

Team Members: Argentina, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Non-State Partners: IOM, UNDESA, EU, World Bank

Roundtable 3: Managing Migration and Perceptions of Migration for Development Outcomes

RT session 3.1: Improving Public Perceptions of Migrants and Migration

Co-Chairs: Canada, Mexico, Russian Federation

Team Members: Argentina, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Turkey, USA

Non-State Partners: IFRC, OHCHR, IOM

RT Coordinator: Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie

RT session 3.2: Migrant Protection and Migration Management

Co-Chairs: Australia, Ethiopia

Team Members: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Netherlands, Philippines, USA

Non-State Partners: UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM

RT Coordinator: Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie

RT session 3.3: Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers-Enhancing their Development Potential

Co-Chairs: Philippines, Turkey

Team Members: Belgium, Ecuador, Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa, USA

Non-State Partners: ILO, UN Women, IFRC, IOM

RT Coordinator: Ms. Elizabeth Adjei

In addition to the 7 RT sessions, the current thematic program of GFMD 2012 includes a pilot program on burden-sharing between countries that have traditionally supported migrants, including refugees, to give people in refugee situations the chance to work and rebuild their lives while filling gaps in emerging labour markets. The Mauritian GFMD Chair is being supported by UNHCR in developing this project, with the secondment of Ms Anja Klug. He urged countries that may be interested in this initiative to collaborate with Ms Klug, as the proposal is being fine-tuned, to be ready for the next Friends of the Forum meeting in June.

a. Ad hoc Working Groups

In brief, the Chair informed the meeting that the two ad hoc Working Groups were also the subject of discussion in the ongoing GFMD assessment (Phase 2). The Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants has conducted a self-assessment to review its terms of reference and *raison d'être*, with a view to possibly improving its future work. The Working Group on Policy Coherence remains satisfied with the support it has been providing to the annual GFMD Chairs since its establishment in 2009, and in its growing membership which affirms its added value to the process.

b. Preparatory Meetings in June

The Mauritian GFMD Chair will host three international meetings on migration and development in June, 2012, in preparation for the GFMD summit meeting on 21-22 November 2012.

- i. 11 June: A brainstorming meeting on *Enhancing Intra-African Cooperation on Migration and Development Policies*, organized by the Mauritian Chair-in-Office, the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), ADB and IOM. This will help develop an African agenda on migration and development by focusing *inter alia* on labour mobility and skills in Africa.
- ii. 12-13 June: A workshop on *Factoring Migration into Development Planning*, organized by the Swiss Government, the Global Migration Group, and the Mauritian Chair-in-Office.
- iii. 14-15 June: The 2nd High Level Forum on *Harnessing Diaspora Resources for Development in Africa*, organized by the World Bank and the Mauritian Chair-in-Office.

c. GFMD Summit Meeting on 21-22 November

i. Provisional Program

On 4 April, the Mauritian GFMD Chair extended the official invitation to all UN Member States and Observers and some 45 GFMD Observers to attend the GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting. The official invitation was disseminated through the GFMD focal points, with a request to submit an indicative number of delegation members and hotel preferences by 26 April for planning purposes. As of 27 April, the Chair has received responses from 27 Governments and 6 GFMD Observers. The Chair's Taskforce will try to re-negotiate with the hotels to extend the earlier published rates until 31 May. No guarantee however can be given, and all delegations were urged to provide the requested information as soon as possible.

The Provisional Program of the two day Government Meeting on 21-22 November follows the format of the Mexico GFMD in 2010. After a brief opening ceremony in the morning of the first day, a 3-hour Common Space will be held, followed by the first round of 3 simultaneous RT sessions. The second day will begin with the second round of 3 simultaneous RT sessions. The last RT session, the Special Session on the Future of the Forum², and the Special Session on the GFMD Platform for Partnerships will be organized immediately after lunch. The closing session will bring together all delegates and guests in a final plenary for the reports of the 7 Roundtable sessions to be presented by the General Rapporteurs of the 3 Roundtables. The UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Migration and Development will likewise report on the results of the special session on the Future of the Forum. Thereafter, the Chair will deliver his conclusions, to be followed by a statement of the incoming Chair, and closing remarks by a representative of the Government of Mauritius.

² As in previous years, the special session on the Future of the Forum will be limited to the Heads of Delegation only. It will conclude the second phase of the GFMD Assessment by focusing on the strategic and political analysis of possible options for the future of the Forum.

To preserve the state-led nature of the process, all Government delegations were encouraged to have at least 3 members to be able to cover all 3 simultaneous RT sessions. Ideally, the delegations should comprise migration and development practitioners and policy-makers from the capitals to ensure an interactive and rich debate. On the other hand, Observer delegations are requested to send a maximum of three members each. Registration for the Summit Meeting has been open – either online (www.gfmd.org) or by email to the Support Unit at registration@gfmd.org or Fax to +4122 788 49 48. A more detailed Practical Note for delegates will be posted on the GFMD web portal in the coming weeks.

ii. Common Space

The GFMD 2012 Common Space will be organized Davos-style, bringing together thought leaders from governments, private sector, the civil society and international organizations. Four themes are currently being considered: 1) Actions that could lead to improvements in lives of people on the move and their families/communities; 2) Migration and development/GFMD beyond 2013; 3) Meaningful engagement with private sector as actors in migration and development; and 4) Labour mobility and skills development in South-South context: toward a multiannual program.

In June, a full proposal on the format of the Common Space will be submitted to the Friends of the Forum. The Chair encouraged those with specific ideas or suggestions to coordinate with Mr. Chukwu Emeka-Chikezie, who will put together the proposal in consultation with Civil Society organizers. Echoing the earlier comments of the SRSG, the Chair expressed the hope that the Common Space will result in a constructive exchange between governments on the one hand and civil society and the private sector on the other hand. He also suggested another possible topic to be discussed at the Common Space – i.e., stranded migrants and others who need similar assistance, such as long-standing refugees.

At this juncture, the ICMC, convenors of the Civil Society process, mentioned the survey conducted among Civil Society participants at the GFMD 2011 Concluding Debate. One of the suggestions made relating to the Common Space was to organize it in 2-3 parallel sessions where representatives of governments, civil society and international organizations could chair each session. The Chair welcomed this proposal, which he said echoed the discussions of the GFMD Steering Group earlier in the day. He was pleased to note that governments and civil society have already reached some convergence on the format of the 2012 Common Space.

4. GFMD Assessment

Ambassador Shree Servansing, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius to the UN Office in Geneva, reported that the GFMD Assessment Team has made good progress both in terms of the organization of its work and in the substantive analysis of possible options for the Future of the Forum. After its third meeting on 26 April, the Team agreed to submit its analysis and a consolidated paper on possible options for the Future of the Forum at the next meeting of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum in June. Phase 2 of the assessment process deals with the strategic and political analysis and aims to develop a common vision on the Forum's Future.

To help structure the discussions of the Assessment Team, Mexico and the UAE jointly authored a working document³ entitled, " The Future of the GFMD: Elements for Political and Strategic Discussion" which sets out three core priorities for the Forum's future, namely -- a) Consolidation of the Forum; b) Enhancement of the Forum's Impacts on the Global Migration and Development Agenda, and c) Ensuring the Forum's Sustainability.

Against these three core priorities, the Team has begun to analyse strategically the specific and technical elements of the Forum⁴. In its last two meetings held on 14 March and 26 April, the Team reached some preliminary understandings of some of these elements, including a) the need to strengthen the development focus of the GFMD's discussions; b) rationalization and streamlining of GFMD outcomes for better communication and feedback to Member States and the public at large; c) sequence of GFMD meetings in terms of periodicity, agendas and format; d) the role of the GFMD Working Groups and their interface with the usual Forum activities particularly the Roundtables; e) the links with the Civil Society and other non-state actors; f) GFMD funding; g) the GFMD Operating Modalities; h) the GFMD Supporting Structure which includes the Support Unit and the Chair's Taskforce; i) sharing of GFMD's knowledge base; and j) the interface of the GFMD with the UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue next year.

Amb. Servansing shared the views of the Team on some of these elements. For example, everybody recognized the importance of the Support Unit, but also the need to set the future direction of this structure in terms of either a vertical enhancement of its work or a horizontal diversification of its responsibilities. In regard to GFMD funding, the main concern was how to ensure greater predictability for the future, especially in order to encourage developing countries to organize GFMD activities. The Team also reached a consensus that the 2007 Operating Modalities remained valid; but some minor updating of the document and further operationalizing of some modalities were needed.

Amb. Servansing was pleased with the good spirit of the Team, and was confident that the discussions were on target. The Team will continue its discussions via email before the next meeting on 25 May. It was anticipated that the Team will be ready with the first draft of the Consolidated Assessment Issues paper when the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum meet in June. On the basis of this paper, a report will be prepared for discussion and approval at the next round of meetings in September, then brought to the November Meeting in Mauritius.

5. Funding Situation

The Chair presented the latest budget proposal for GFMD 2012 amounting to USD\$ 3,637,319. This reflected actual costs (including those already covered) in the spirit of "honest accounting". The total amount had increased because of the inclusion of preparatory activities and other cost elements that were already fully funded by certain governments and non-state partners. Also, to promote a stronger participation of developing countries, the

³ Copies of the working paper were distributed during the meeting. A soft version can be downloaded from the GFMD web portal. See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/mauritius-2012>.

⁴ See Checklist of Elements at <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/mauritius-2012>.

Chair would like to subsidize up to three delegates from each of the Least Developed Countries and Other Low-Income Countries.

He thanked and recognized the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Hungary, India, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA, the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank and the MacArthur Foundation, that have contributed or pledged to contribute a total of USD \$ 2,241,301, leaving a gap of USD\$ 1,395,723. Of these contributions, USD\$ 340,767 comes from the Republic of Mauritius.

The Chair renewed his appeal for other governments to step forward and bridge the funding gap, in order to ensure a broader and more meaningful participation of developing countries, especially from Africa, this year.

Future GFMD 2014 Sweden expressed concern about the continuing gap in the GFMD Support Unit operational budget for 2012. The important role of the Support Unit in ensuring the continuity of the GFMD process was underlined, which was affirmed by governments in the context of the GFMD assessment (Phase 1) last year and in the on-going discussions of the Assessment Team this year. On this note, an urgent call for governments to take responsibility and cover the Support Unit funding gap was made.

Former Chair Switzerland 2011 seconded the motion of Sweden and pledged to provide continuing assistance to the Support Unit. A clarification was made that out of the USD 2.15 Million proposed budget of GFMD 2011 core activities, total expenditure amounted to USD 1.34 Million or 68% of the budget proposal. This included the operational costs of the Support Unit and the cost of organizing the final meeting. In addition, the costs of organizing 14 thematic meetings last year were estimated at USD\$ 600,000, thus increasing the overall GFMD 2011 expenditure to about USD\$ 2 Million.

6. Update on the GFMD 2012 Civil Society Process

Mr. John Bingham announced to the meeting that the ICMC team recently published the full report⁵ of civil society activities in GFMD 2011 which provides an action plan for the follow-up of civil society recommendations in 2011 and building coherent *next* steps into civil society's own concept paper for 2012.

Mr. Bingham welcomed the efforts of the past three Chairs to promote continuity in the civil society process since 2010. This element of continuity has provided ICMC the opportunity to work with at least three funders who were interested in multi-year planning and possibilities for the Global Forum. Similar proposals for multi-year relationships have also been submitted to several other funders and the European Union. Conversely, the continuity of the process has carried over the burden of fundraising each year's budget. On this note, he thanked the Mauritian GFMD Chair for targeting the same funding for civil society in 2012, and expressed the hope that governments will heed the Chair's call for contributions to the civil society. The 2012 civil society budget is currently pegged at US \$ 790,000 – half of the 2010 civil society budget – and includes the operational costs of the Coordinating Office and the full Civil Society Days program. A gap of about 60% existed as of reporting time.

⁵ The report was sent to some 1600 participants of GFMD civil society activities in the past five years, and also to current GFMD focal points in governments and international organizations. It is already posted on the civil society website (www@gfmdcivilsociety.org) and the government website (www.gfmd.org).

Below are the broad outlines and timelines of the Civil Society programme for 2012:

- Based on strong recommendations received from civil society actors, the Civil society concept paper and roundtable themes will focus on: [1] labour mobility and labour matching. [2] protection of migrants and their families, and [3] diaspora and development. Moreover, there is a strong possibility that civil society will devote significant efforts towards preparing for the High Level Dialogue.
- The draft civil society concept paper will be circulated in May to the Consultation Circle of over 100 diverse civil society actors worldwide, which was assembled in 2011. The new International Advisory Committee will be convened and the application process for civil society organizations to participate at the CS Days in Mauritius will be opened also in May.
- The ICMC is working with Caritas Mauritius and with the Mauritius Council on Social Service (MACOSS) for the Civil Society activities in Mauritius.
- For the Common Space, civil society's evaluations of 2011 showed an appreciation of the value of a shared morning during the opening of the Government Meeting. However, it was strongly suggested to have a format for greater dialogue. Thus, the ICMC submitted a proposal to the Chair to consider a "dialogues plus plenary" formula, where three group dialogues of 50 participants each from civil society, governments and international organizations, linked to the themes of the three government roundtables, will run *in parallel to* the main plenary organized for all other participants.
- Subject to funding availability, the civil society process this year will also incorporate one or more inter-regional preparatory meetings (with Africa as the first priority continent) and three working groups, on labour migration and mobility, on migrants/diaspora and development, and on governance, with rights and protection cross-cutting for all three groups.

On the High Level Dialogue (HLD) in 2013, the civil society convenor echoed the hope of civil society that the second HLD will allow them to participate at the roundtables and produce not only a "Report of the Chair" but, more importantly, two or three outcomes within immediate reach. Some suggestions⁶ made by the civil society in 2011 were measures to improve recruitment and development processes; cooperation on piloting mechanisms for labour and skills matching; development of a comprehensive set of migration indicators, including Migration Profiles; and ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.

8. *Any Other Business*

⁶ In more recent input, including to the 10th meeting of the UN Coordination Committee on International Migration in February, a range of civil society actors have suggested that the High Level Dialogue should consider one of the following big questions: rights-based global governance of migration; development alternatives to forced migration (not necessarily root causes in themselves); mechanisms for safe and legal labour migration; protection of migrants who are stranded or victim of migration-related violence in transit and destination countries; moving the GFMD under "a" UN normative framework with structural support; and continuity, and greater engagement of civil society.

Ms. Estrella Lajom, Head of the GFMD Support Unit, took the floor to update the Friends of the Forum on the enhanced GFMD web portal and new Platform for Partnerships initiatives. An improved GFMD web portal (www.gfmd.org) was launched early in the day to keep pace with the current web features and technology. Its navigation system was simplified and the built-in security mechanism was strengthened for greater efficiency and user-friendliness.

On the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP), Ms. Lajom recalled that at the GFMD Concluding Debate in December 2011, the PfP special working session featured a new section called the Migration and Development Policy Tools which showcased some of the concrete policy tools that came out of GFMD discussions through the years, and which have supported the work of the Ad Hoc Working Groups and the previous Chairs. One of these was the Migration Profiles Repository⁷ which now contains 141 migration profiles authored by different organizations including the IOM, the EU, Focused Migration, and CARIM. For the first time, these MPs appear together in one common and neutral space. A search engine inside the repository allows users to locate MPs according to country, year, or region. The Guidance and Tools section features very pertinent information such as practical guides and links to better data management, which have been contributed by the IOM, the European Union and other partners.

The second M&D policy tool was the Diaspora Handbook on “Developing a Roadmap for Engaging Diasporas in Development.” This PfP project was realized through the joint efforts of IOM and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), with financial and technical support from the governments of Netherlands and Switzerland. To generate awareness among policymakers about the handbook, several launch events will be organized this year. In addition, an accompanying diaspora web page⁸, integrated into the GFMD web portal, was developed by the GFMD Support Unit, IOM and MPI. The webpage presents the handbook in different sections with an explanation for each part and chapter, thus making it easier for policymakers to zero in on the topic of interest for them. It also allows GFMD focal points to download the whole handbook and the exclusive Diaspora Focal Points Directory⁹ which contains 400 institutions at various level of governments and Civil Society that actively engage in the Diaspora in at least 62 countries.

Ms. Lajom expressed the hope that through these existing GFMD mechanisms -- the Platform for Partnerships in particular and the GFMD web portal in general -- governments can take some positive steps to enhance the delivery power of the GFMD process. The GFMD Support Unit, with the blessing of the Chair, will continue to work with the different GFMD Structures, Working Groups, Roundtables Sessions and organizers of thematic meetings to help to identify more migration and development practices, calls for action, and potential policy tools that can be featured and shared through the Platform for Partnerships.

There being no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 17:55hrs.

*Prepared by
GFMD Support Unit*

⁷ See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles> for more information.

⁸ See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/pfp/policy-tools/diaspora-handbook> for more information.

⁹ The diaspora directory was generated as part of the methodology of this project, through a survey conducted by IOM and MPI involving GFMD Focal Points.