

“Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”

**Second Meeting of the Friends of the Forum
La Salle II, ILO Building, Geneva
21 May 2013**

Summary Report

1. On 21 May 2013, Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, Chair of the 2013-2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), convened the second meeting of the Friends of the Forum at the ILO Building in Geneva. The meeting was attended by around 110 participating delegates from 70 member states and 16 international organizations. Joining the Chair at the podium were Sir Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Migration and Development (SRSG), and Ms. Esen Altug, Minister Plenipotentiary, representing Turkey, the incoming GFMD 2015 Chair.
2. The Provisional Agenda was adopted with the addition of some agenda items under “Any Other Business”, namely, a) the GFMD report to the High Level Dialogue, b) update on the Post-2015 Development agenda, c) survey being planned for the Friends of the Forum, d) highlights of the conference on labour mobility organized by the United Arab Emirates on 14-15 May, and e) side event to be hosted by Switzerland after the GFMD thematic meeting on 22 May.

Update on the Preparations for the High Level Dialogue

3. Peter Sutherland, UNSG Special Representative (SRSG) for Migration and Development, shared his views about the HLD preparations. He upheld the responsibility of Member States to determine HLD outcomes, but offered his own ideas on the matter – a) a consensus on how to feature migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; b) a framework for addressing specific migration-related problems through greater international cooperation; c) guiding principles and a process for developing a framework to assist migrants affected by acute crises like civil wars and natural disasters; and d) a stock take of GFMD successes and reflections on how to strengthen its future.
4. The SRSG would like to see closer coordination between Geneva and New York on the HLD preparations. He urged Member States to deal with continuing challenges, such as violation of human rights of migrants, non-ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention, labour-matching inefficiencies, extreme uses of detention, unregulated recruitment, non-recognition of qualifications and exclusion of migrants in labour protection laws.
5. The SRSG was optimistic that the Forum would be safe in the hands of Sweden and Turkey as they lead in strengthening the process. He also recognized the hard work of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in preparing for the HLD and praised its decision to create a GMG Support Unit in order to improve its internal coordination and provide a stronger foundation for the UN leadership on migration.

Endorsement of the final concept paper and presentation of the updated 2013-2014 Provisional Calendar of Activities

6. The final GFMD 2013-2014 concept paper was presented by the Swedish Chair, which incorporates the comments and suggestions made by the Friends of the Forum after a series of consultations that began early in the year. The following changes were made: 1) more language was provided to explain “inclusive development” and “human development”; 2) migrants’ rights and protection were integrated horizontally into all the Roundtables; c) clarifying points on the issues of irregular migration, South-South migration, vulnerabilities, risks and migration costs were also added; 4) the cross-fertilization between the GFMD and the HLD preparatory process was further elaborated; 5) clearer reference to the International Catholic Migration

Commission (ICMC) as convener of the civil society process, and 6) it highlighted that the GFMD will encourage states and other stakeholders to share their experiences from voluntary follow-up of GFMD recommendations. Also, to promote balance between the economic and social aspects of development, and to avoid duplication with the IOM Conference on Diaspora taking place on June 18, the title and focus of the third thematic meeting was changed to "Enhancing migrant empowerment and voluntary asset transfers for positive social development outcomes".

7. The Friends of the Forum GFMD 2013-2014 endorsed the final concept paper which will serve as the basis of work of the Swedish Chairmanship of the GFMD.

Guidelines for and set-up of the Government Teams and Expert Networks

8. The Chair thanked all Governments and GFMD Observers that already offered to form part of the GFMD 2013-2014 government Roundtable (RT) teams. The "Guidelines for the set-up of Government Teams (GT) and Expert Networks" was then presented. The guidelines describe the voluntary participation in the GTs, as well as the varied roles that may be assigned to GT members.
9. Background papers serve as a general aid for the GTs. The Swedish Chair has suggested a two-part paper – i.e., a short 4-5 page policy overview (similar to the one-page Roundtable descriptions included in the Concept Paper) with an annex containing descriptions of relevant projects, programs and policy frameworks.
10. A GFMD expert network will be established by the Swedish Chair to lessen the burden on GFMD Focal Points in Geneva and readily provide the GTs with substantive expertise. These experts will be invited by the GT co-chairs and coordinators to contribute inputs from e.g. ministries, government agencies and relevant academia to the RT discussions and background papers.
11. The Chair underlined the importance of active participation and support by governments and observers not only in all the RT sessions, but also in the Business Roundtable and the Platform for Partnerships. She reiterated the call to join the GTs. In response, 12 governments and observers indicated their respective RT interests, as reflected in the attached overview of current Government Teams supporting the proposed sessions of GFMD 2014 summit meeting.
12. Further clarifications were made on issues raised during the meeting: i.e., the interconnections between the RT sessions were designed to link them up, where possible. As regards the drafting of the RT background papers, the policy-oriented part of the paper should be drafted by governments, with inputs by the non-governmental team members. The annex, however, should benefit from the expert inputs of governments, international and regional organizations, as well as the academics.

Updated GFMD Budget 2013-2014

13. The updated GFMD Budget 2013-2014 was circulated on 13 May, together with a note from the Chair. It provides more specifications on the projected costs. Overall, the changes resulted in a 3% reduction in the total GFMD 2013-2014 budget, now amounting to \$3,203,000, for a period of 18 months.
14. The Chair gave more information about the Swedish contribution to the proposed budget. This will include shouldering the costs of the Swedish Secretariat comprised of six staff members working full time on the GFMD, a contribution of \$100,000 towards the civil society process, and covering the cost of venue of the GFMD 2014 Civil Society Days.
15. The Chair thanked and acknowledged the countries that have already pledged to provide financial support to the proposed budget, namely, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Mexico, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. She also thanked France, India, Liechtenstein, Norway, Spain, Turkey, and UAE for agreeing to realign unspent contributions from GFMD 2012 towards the 2013-2014 budget.

Long-term financing framework for the GFMD

16. The paper "More Predictable Funding for the GFMD" was presented. This proposal is in line with the recommendations in the assessment report and also a priority of the Swedish Chairmanship to have a more durable Forum, with a multiannual work plan supported by a multiannual funding mechanism.

17. The current informal and voluntary financial system of the GFMD poses some crucial challenges to the process. It creates insecurity and instability, and does not allow financial predictability, especially at the start of a chairmanship. Fund-raising absorbs GFMD resources that could be better used for other purposes. The system also affects a state's possibility to take on the role of Chair.
18. Building upon the earlier 2011 proposal of the SRSG and Switzerland, the Chair proposed the setting up of a standardized GFMD budget and a long-term/multiannual funding mechanism for the GFMD. Advice was sought on whether or not figures should be indicated in the budget template, considering that costs vary between countries, and if a standard contribution to the civil society should be included as a line item in the GFMD Chair's budget. The Chair also asked for guidance on whether or not the GFMD should introduce an annual fee or continue with the current voluntary funding structure, or both. Finally, the Chair raised the issue of DAC-ability of GFMD contributions – i.e., to count GFMD contributions as development aid.
19. The Chair then shared the outcomes of consultations held with the GFMD Steering earlier in the day on these issues. She reported that a clear majority of the SG members opposed imposing an annual fee but supported broadening the donor base through smaller contributions from as many countries as possible. No clear conclusion was reached regarding the inclusion of a contribution to the civil society process in the Chair's budget. Most states endorsed the idea of developing a standardized budget, but most did not see the need to include figures in it, to afford the Chair enough flexibility. Some states requested more information on the issue of DAC-ability to enable them to draw conclusions.

Terms of Reference for the Platform for Partnerships and Policy and Practice Database

20. The Terms of Reference for an enhanced GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) and the Policy and Practice Database was presented. The proposal is in pursuit of the Assessment Report recommendation and the Swedish concept paper to make lasting efforts to better record and store the accumulated evidence and knowledge on migration and development, and make these more accessible to GFMD stakeholders and the global community.
21. It was recalled that the PfP was established in 2010 to provide more impetus to engage GFMD stakeholders, offer a space for discussion of concrete projects, programs and initiatives, share experiences and inspire partnerships, as well as promote a voluntary follow up on recommendations and outcomes of GFMD meetings. It was enhanced in 2011 under the Swiss Chair to showcase products or policy tools coming out of the GFMD, such as the handbook on diaspora engagement, migration profiles, and mainstreaming migration into development planning guides. The current PfP website features these good practices, calls for action, and GFMD products or policy tools.
22. To strengthen the PfP, the Swedish Chair proposes two new elements: 1) including a PfP session during regular Friends of the Forum meetings and 2) scheduling the PfP session at the final meeting in such a way that delegation heads can take part in it. Both proposals were endorsed by a number of governments during the meeting.
23. The Chair would also like to set up a Policy and Practice Database to offer a "one stop shop" where practices, programs and policies discussed in the GFMD context and experiences shared by governments, international and regional organizations in migration and development policy-making could be accessed by interested stakeholders. There are varied sources from which to gather such practices and policies, including the RT background papers from 2007 to 2012, the annual GFMD Reports of Proceedings, the report and recommendations of the civil society, the report of GMG follow up on GFMD recommendations, and responses to the upcoming GFMD 2013-2014 RT themes survey.
24. In setting up this database, consideration will be put into the categorization and processing of data to ensure that the information to be posted will be useful to GFMD stakeholders. The Support Unit will play an important role in establishing and managing this database, as well as in the clearing process. This will require additional resources and costs in the initial phase. Once the Terms of Reference have been endorsed by the Friends of the Forum, proposals for further development will also be included in the multiannual work plan.

Civil Society Process

25. The Chair-in-Office conveyed the regrets of the ICMC's Civil Society Coordinating Office for its inability to participate in the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Information on the CS process will be sent out to GFMD focal points by email.

Any Other Business

a) GFMD Thematic Recollection

26. The GFMD Chair submitted the final Thematic Recollection to the UN Secretary General in accordance with the Assessment Report recommendations. Following a suggestion made by the GFMD past and future chairs to present this report at the High Level Dialogue, the Swedish Secretariat submitted a request to the Office of the President of the General Assembly for a presentation slot. Further information on this matter will be communicated to the FOF once a response has been received.

b) Survey on Roundtable Themes

27. The Swedish Secretariat will send a survey on GFMD thematic priorities to GFMD focal points. It aims to provide governments with the opportunity to feed into the GFMD process their experiences in regard of the selected RT themes. The survey will include questions from the 2013-2014 Final Concept Paper for each Roundtable, as well as questions on policy coherence and coordination at the national level, among different government authorities and with civil society and the private sector. The survey will be circulated in early June and governments will be asked to complete it within 6-8 weeks.

c) United Arab Emirates conference, 14-15 May 2013

28. The United Arab Emirates hosted a conference on “Labour Mobility – Enabler for Sustainable Development” in Abu Dhabi on 14-15 May. The conference linked up with ongoing GFMD discussions and aimed at inspiring Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to engage in regional and global debates on migration and development. The GFMD Chair, the World Bank, IOM and various academic institutions contributed to its planning. More information on the outcomes of the meeting can be found at: <http://eservices.mol.gov.ae/LabourMobility/main.aspx>.

d) Post-2015 development agenda

29. The Chair announced that various discussions in relation to the work on the post-2015 development agenda. One GFMD Roundtable session is dedicated to this topic. In parallel, there are a number of other important and related initiatives: i.e., Sweden hosted a High-Level Panel Expert Policy Dialogue on Migration in the post-2015 development agenda and its Minister for Development Cooperation is promoting the inclusion of migration in the High-level Panel of Eminent Person’s report on the development agenda. Bangladesh and Switzerland co-chaired the Global Consultation on Population Dynamics and will co-chair also the GFMD’s first thematic meeting on “*Operationalizing Mainstreaming of Migration in Development Policy and Integrating Migration in the Post-2015 UN development Agenda.*”

e) A side event on 22 May 2013 hosted by Switzerland

30. The Chair announced that the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation will host the launch of the “*Migration and Development Policies and Practices -- a mapping study of eleven European countries and the European Commission,*” at 17:00hrs on May 22, immediately following the GFMD thematic meeting. The study was undertaken jointly by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).

Prepared by:

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