

“Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”

GFMD 2013-2014 Fourth Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Tuesday, 19 November 2013
14.30 to 18.00 hrs
La Salle II, ILO Building, Geneva

Summary Report

Welcoming Remarks

1. The fourth meeting of the GFMD Friends of the Forum¹ was chaired by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, GFMD 2013-2014 Chair. The Chair was assisted at the podium by the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Migration and Development (SRSG), Mr. Peter Sutherland, the incoming GFMD 2015 Chair Turkey, represented by Ms. Esen Altug, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa, and representatives of the GFMD 2013-2014 Secretariat and the GFMD Support Unit.
2. The Chair started off with a brief summary of the discussions held in the morning, at the fourth meeting of the GFMD Steering Group. The meeting continued earlier discussions by the Steering Group on the issues of a) enhancing the working methods of the GFMD Steering Group and b) the long-term financing framework for the GFMD.
3. On the issue of enhancing the working methods of the Steering Group, the Chair reported that several models were explored during the meeting. However, no concrete decision was reached. Thus, the Chair will revise the proposal, to be further discussed in the Steering Group and later shared with the Friends of the Forum. Discussions on the long-term financing framework, meanwhile, have approached finality. The Chair will present the proposal in March to the Friends of the Forum for the latter’s comments. The long-term financing framework is closely linked with the work on the multiannual work plan (MWP) that the Chair is now elaborating with the Troika.
4. The Chair also informed the Friends of the Forum about the lunch event presentation by Mr Sutherland, together with the Swedish GFMD Chair and the GMG Chair (represented by IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson) on the HLD Outcomes.

Follow-up to the HLD and implications for the work of the GFMD

5. The Chair reported that the GFMD contributed to the HLD with a thematic recollection of shared experiences between 2007 and 2013, which can be found on the GFMD website. The Swedish Migration Minister Tobias Billström, representing the GFMD Chair-in-Office, delivered a statement on behalf of the GFMD on the basis of this thematic recollection during the HLD Opening Session. All former, current and incoming chairs participated in a side-event on the GFMD process that took stock of progress to date and looked at the future of the GFMD. In general, many statements and intervention during the HLD acknowledged the importance of the Forum for the global agenda and cooperation on migration and development. The UN Secretary General attributed the consensus achieved on the HLD Declaration to the climate of trust established in the GFMD.

¹ Over 150 delegates from 80 Governments and 14 Observers attended the meeting. The participants list may be found on <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/sweden-2013-2014>.

6. Following the High-level Dialogue, the Chair saw the need to look at lessons learnt and outcomes that might be useful to follow-up on in the GMFD process. To this end, the Chair had circulated a document, “*Summary of the UN High-level Dialogue and possible follow-up within the GFMD process*,” dated 12 November 2013. During the FOF meeting, Mr Kristof Tamas, Senior Policy Adviser of the Swedish GFMD Secretariat, made a brief [presentation](#), outlining the 7 main points that came out of the HLD, which relate directly with the GFMD work stream.
7. The outcomes of the HLD were summarized from the following key references: the UN Secretary-General’s Report to the HLD (A/68/190) eight-point agenda for action, the consensus Declaration adopted by the General Assembly, the Civil Society eight key action points over five years, plenary sessions, four thematic roundtables, the GFMD thematic recollection, plenary speeches and side events.
8. Seven (7) main themes emerged out of these references, namely: 1) Integrating migration into the post-2015 global development agenda; 2) Improving the portability of migrant skills and reducing the costs of labour migration; 3) Protecting the human rights of all migrants; 4) Improving the public perceptions of migrants; 5) Addressing the plight of stranded migrants and migrants in crisis situations; 6) Enhancing migration partnerships and cooperation; and 7) Strengthening the evidence-base. In his presentation, Mr Tamas explained how each of these themes relates with one or several work streams of the GFMD, such as the Government teams and the Roundtables, thematic survey, the Platform for Partnerships, outreach to civil society and the private sector.
9. The Chair then opened the floor for discussions to ask the Friends of the Forum 3 questions: i) Which of the seven points should be prioritized for follow-up within the GFMD? ii) In what ways should these points be reflected in a more focused and holistic way in the GFMD Roundtables, the Platform for Partnerships and the Business Roundtable? and iii) How can the GFMD process contribute to keeping the momentum and political interest to ensure progress in the global debate on migration and development?
10. Many delegates offered their comments and suggestions. There was a resounding appreciation for the success of the 2nd UN HLD, both in terms of process and substance. The HLD took stock of the progress made on migration and development debate; it also recognized the equally valuable role played by different stakeholders, including governments, international organizations (notably the GMG), the civil society and the private sector. The common thread that runs through the UN Secretary General’s report, the HLD Declaration, the civil society 8-point work plan, the GFMD thematic recollection and the UNHLD proceedings was a testament to the increasing convergence on migration and development issues.
11. Responding to the Chair’s first question on what topics to prioritize, many held the view that all 7 points were important for the GFMD to take forward. Incoming Chair Turkey highlighted the fact that the 7 themes reflect the priority issues of the Turkish Chairmanship, as contained in the draft multiannual work program for the GFMD. Another delegation anticipated that more themes will come up later, because of emerging situations and new evidences. Points 1) Integrating migration into the post-2015 global development agenda and 3) Protecting the human rights of all migrants received most support. Nonetheless, all the other topics – 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7- were also cited by at least one intervener.
12. One concrete suggestion given was to look into the role of mayors and local authorities in promoting partnerships and building the evidence base. Another was to consider migration and citizenship within the purview of points 3, 4 and 5. Regarding point 4 on the perception of migrants, the need for scientific agenda and comparative methodologies across countries was underlined. Finally, a suggestion to include capacity building was also made.
13. Regarding question no. 2, the Chair’s presentation on the relation between the HLD outcomes and the different GFMD work streams was well-taken. One delegate stressed that it is up to the GFMD Chair to choose the themes to address, and also decide on the use of complementary tools, such as the Roundtables, thematic meetings, Platform for Partnerships, and the Business Roundtable.

14. Finally, re question no. 3, many held the view that the GFMD can keep the political momentum and political interest by reinforcing its cooperation with the civil society, the Global Migration Group, and the private sector. Synergies with other new initiatives, including the Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) was also proposed.
15. The Chair was very pleased with the dynamic response from the floor. The proposals that were made will be taken into consideration by the Chair, as the preparations for GFMD 2014 in Stockholm continue. In addition, the Chair will endeavor to incorporate these inputs into the multiannual work plan that is now being elaborated with incoming GFMD 2014-2015 Chair Turkey.

GFMD Thematic Survey

16. Recalling the presentation of the preliminary GFMD Survey results at the last meeting in September, the Chair reminded the Friends of the Forum that the survey of GFMD governments was conducted in order to map experiences on the thematic priorities during the Swedish GFMD Chairmanship as outlined in the Concept Paper. Collected responses will provide evidence and experiences for two priority issue areas. First, the GFMD Roundtable background papers and annexes will benefit from the detailed information on relevant policies, practices, projects and programmes. Second, this information will be fed into the GFMD Policy and Practice Database, a useful one-stop shop for seeking knowledge in the area of migration and development, which is open to all GFMD stakeholders and the broader international community as a source of inspiration and reference in policy development and for partnerships.
17. Mr Kristof Tamas made a presentation about the [draft Survey Report](#) which has been prepared on the basis of the 47 responses received from June to October 2013. In terms of geographical distribution, 24 responses came from Europe, 10 from Africa, 6 from Asia and Oceania, 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 2 from North America. The survey includes questions on each of the six Roundtable themes, questions on policy coherence and coordination, dialogue with civil society and the private sector.
18. As the survey report shows, the GFMD thematic survey generated very interesting information about the varied policies and programs that respondent governments have done and/or are implementing that could support the preparations of the GFMD 2013-2014 Roundtables.
19. The Chair expressed appreciation to all governments that participated in the GFMD thematic survey and encouraged all Friends of the Forum to study intently the valuable report. Aside from utilizing the outcomes of this survey for the work of the Government Teams/Roundtables and the GFMD Policy and Practice Database, an Online Survey will be launched in November/December, to be open to all stakeholders – Governments, observers, Civil Society, private sector, and the academia.

The Platform for Partnerships

20. The Chair recalled that the GFMD Platform for Partnerships (PfP) was launched and promoted by Switzerland, Mexico and Mauritius in order to provide a mechanism to facilitate, record and showcase partnerships and cooperation among governments, primarily in support of initiatives that relate to GFMD outcomes and Roundtable themes. Incoming GFMD Chair Turkey has stepped forward to become the PfP session Co-chair, together with Morocco.
21. As explained in the Concept Paper, the Swedish Chair has given priority to the PfP to help showcase more evidence-based outcomes and recommendations from the GFMD, and also make the Friends of the Forum more interactive. It was also suggested, on the basis of the Assessment Report, that the PfP should play a greater role in sharing the GFMD knowledge in a more systematic and accessible manner. The Chair is hopeful that the PfP will be a useful platform for the exchange of concrete experiences, inspire partnerships and enable PfP-discussions all year round at regular GFMD meetings.

22. The Swedish GFMD Chair has made proposals towards improving the collection, storage and dissemination of GFMD-generated policies and practices by setting up a database and enhancing the PFP. Funding from Switzerland has made it possible to reinforce the Support Unit staff structure to this end. The GFMD Policy and Practice Database would improve outreach to more stakeholders and further strengthen the evidence-base.
23. As announced at the September meeting of the Friends of the Forum, the Chair invited Governments to share their experiences on policy and project development relating to the current thematic priorities and the voluntary follow-up of GFMD outcomes or recommendations. A number of governments shared about their national experiences, including Australia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE and USA. A brief summary of their interventions/presentations is found on **Annex A**.

The GFMD and engagement with the private sector

24. The Chair requested Ms Marielle Sander-Lindström, Senior Policy Advisor of the Swedish GFMD Secretariat, to update the Friends of the Forum on the progress of the GFMD engagement with the private sector. Building on the recommendations from the Assessment report, several initiatives have been piloted under the Swedish Chairmanship which are aimed at increasing engagement with business as a separate stakeholder in the GFMD process. One of these is the formation of a government team on this issue to help focus the GFMD strategy and provide inputs and ideas.
25. Ms Sander-Lindström explained that it has been a challenge in the past to attract the private sector to engage within the framework of the GFMD process. Efforts have focused on areas of common interest between states and business, particularly, the global competition for skills. Using the WEF projected skills shortage list across all global regions between 2010-2030, some target sectors were identified: extractive industries, ICT, health, tourism, recruitment, construction, financial services and education. One short and one longer term strategy was chosen in order not to lose momentum – the short term strategy involved direct outreach to targeted business sectors, and the longer term was a mapping study on how the private sector works with business. This strategy serves a dual purpose – to raise awareness build trust between business stakeholders and the GFMD, and to provide an opportunity for different states to understand the consequences of immigration policy on their own economic growth targets.
26. In implementing these strategies, the Chair sought partnership with organizations that have a high trust level and brand awareness with businesses, including the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Migration, International Organisation of Employers, The Hague Process, and the US based Council for Global Immigration.
27. The direct outreach strategy involves working through different networks in Sweden, the Netherlands and beyond to seek feedback from the ICT, construction, and extractive industries on how they address migration challenges and opportunities. As part of the Chair's sector outreach efforts, a GFMD-WEF business roundtable was arranged during the HLD week in New York with the US based *Council for Global Immigration*. The focus of the discussion was on how governments and states can collaborate to improve access to skills on the global labour market. The meeting looked at how different immigration systems impact on corporate goals, what new models for collaboration are needed to balance access to skills with the protection of the domestic labour market, and how different strategies could be replicated on a global scale. The meeting was attended by prominent policy-makers, including the Swedish Minister for Migration, Tobias Billström, and government representatives from Canada, Australia, Turkey and the EU. The private sector included Pfizer, Fragoman Worldwide, Amazon, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Ericsson, the Canadian Employee Relocation Council and the Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce. A more detailed report of the New York meeting has been circulated through the Government Team RT on Business and is available upon request.

28. The longer term strategy includes commissioning a mapping study coordinated by The Hague Process, in partnership with the IOE, which could be used by future chairs as a roadmap for sustained engagement with the private sector. This road map would be based on a thorough understanding of business priorities, challenges, opportunity costs and needs. The mapping study will include information from large, mid and smaller sized companies in order to understand how their needs and responses vary based on size and human resources.
29. The following key messages came out of the New York Business roundtable: a) skills shortages threaten growth potential for both states and businesses; b) there are models available that can be shared between states to facilitate access to talent (in fact cross fertilization has already occurred based on this meeting); c) there is a need to identify models for brain circulation; d) there is a need for a skills mapping as well as more work to facilitate work visas and fair migration policies, also for third country nationals; e) there was a call for a space where businesses and governments could meet on equal terms to speak informally about the challenges they face. It is possible that the GFMD could provide that space and it may be something that the GFMD wishes to explore further.
30. The mapping study is currently under development and will be launched within the next few weeks. Based on the response in New York, a second roundtable on ICT in Brussels will be organized in January, with the possibility of attendance by Commissioner Malmström.
31. The GFMD thematic meeting on Business will be held in March 2014, where the results of the mapping study covering ten global skills shortage sectors will be presented. The topics for discussion at the roundtables are still being finalized. Ms Sander-Lindström cautioned that the entire strategy towards the private sector is evolving; thus, there may be changes to the Chair's agenda based on what is achievable and the level of interest from the private sector. In the meantime, membership in the business roundtable team remains open.
32. Several governments and observers expressed their views and comments about the strategies for private sector engagement. One delegate affirmed the invaluable role that the private sector plays, citing one concrete program that their government had undertaken, which failed due to the absence of the private sector. A third delegate thought that the difficulty comes from lack of understanding by the private sector of the GFMD process and its activities. In this regard, a suggestion was made to send an invitation for cooperation to private sector organizations through government diplomatic missions.
33. One delegate suggested adding the element of diaspora mobilization, in addition to skills matching and facilitating labour migration. Another proposed looking at South-South migration and inquired about the status of the African skills mobility program launched in 2012 by Mauritius. The GFMD 2011 Chair drew attention to the outcomes of the thematic meeting on Markets for Migration and Development (M4MD) held in Berne under their leadership. Caution was raised about transferring the burden of both countries of origin and destination to the private sector and creating different silos in the GFMD process – i.e., separate approaches to various stakeholders.

Program for GFMD Stockholm May 2014

34. Due to insufficient time, the Chair did not manage to discuss in detail the proposed program for GFMD Stockholm in May 2014 which was circulated earlier. The paper provides information on the dates and overall set up of the final meeting, including the arrangement for the common space between governments and civil society. The Chair announced that the official invitation to the meeting will be sent out in January through the focal points, as has been the GFMD tradition. In the meantime, the Chair invites comments on the format and suggested themes for the common space. A reminder email will be sent out for this purpose.

Civil Society Days

35. Mr John Bingham of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), convener of the civil society process, offered to send a written report to the Friends of the Forum after the meeting. He confirmed that the Civil society Steering Committee has also just started to deliberate on the proposal for the shared common space.

Any Other Business

36. The Chair briefly reported on the financial situation of the GFMD. She thanked all the governments that have so far offered financial support, both by way of realignment of unused funds from GFMD 2012 and by making fresh contributions. However, a budget gap of about USD 1.2Million still exists. To fill this gap, the Chair expressed the hope that more governments step forward and contribute financially to the process.

Closing Remarks

37. The Chair thanked all the delegates for their active participation and for a very constructive meeting. In closing, she announced that the last Friends of the Forum meeting under the Swedish Chairmanship will be held on 11 March 2014. The Chair also invited all the Friends of the Forum to attend the 3rd thematic meeting on “*Migration as an Enabler for Inclusive Social Development - Enhancing migrant empowerment and voluntary social and economic asset transfers*” to be held the following day (20 November).
38. The meeting was adjourned at 18.00 hrs.

This summary report was prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.

Annex A – Platform for Partnerships

Australia

Australia has had some very interesting conversations with the business and private sector, particularly in setting policies and administering its skilled migration program. For at least 20 years, the government has been holding annual substantive policy consultations with a range of actors, including the private sector and business, to discuss labour migration programs. Comprehensive economic and labour migration data are utilized to develop visa models based on particular skills of individuals, and forms of sponsored migration that relate to both employer and sector needs. As mentioned in previous GFMD sessions, Australia has introduced the “skills select program”, an online application tool that allows migrants to express interest in migration through an “expression of interest” process. The state is working closely with professional, government, non-government organizations so that migrants can have their qualifications formally recognized. This, in turn, enhances gainful employment and higher wages. While it is a seemingly complex arrangement, policies and practices are being defined through strong partnerships between governments and important stakeholders in order to lead to better outcomes for states and migrants alike.

Mexico

Mexico believed that there are other dimensions of the PfP that remain underexplored, and that the PfP continues to be underutilized. For example, while Mexico has offered some practices and cooperation with other countries via the PfP, it has not drawn from the experiences showcased in the PfP for its own policy-making. Mexico has offered its expertise on protection of unaccompanied minors, which is the responsibility of INAMI. There is a lack of institutional information. Mexico would like to offer other practices, such as the health window and community programs that have been carried out outside the country. These experiences must be shared at a coordinated level both nationally and internationally. Also, there is need to enhance the dissemination of information and develop modalities through which states will appreciate the PfP as a tool that can help them design public policies. Mexico also plans to contribute to the PfP its capacity-building and cooperation programs.

Moldova

For Moldova, partnership has been a key instrument in building its capacity in the field of migration and development at the national, regional and international fronts. In particular, Moldova has benefitted from the regional platform, “Mobility Partnership between Moldova and the EU countries.” Now on its sixth year of implementation, the Mobility Partnership has been a very viable mechanism for the follow up of recommendations of big international forums like the GFMD. Within this framework, Moldova has implemented more than 18 projects in the field of migration and, more recently, has undertaken a comprehensive evaluation which showed that due to the implementation of this platform, the country could gain increased capacity in elaborating and implementing new policies. As an indication of the success of this platform, the EU President Barroso recently came out with a communication stating that Moldova has fulfilled all the benchmarks and conditionalities for visa liberalization. Hence, the Commission will propose the amendment for the specific directive and follow up by the ratification of member states. In this regard, the platform has proved to be a most viable and useful instrument in achieving Moldova’s political goal of integration with the European Community.

The Mobility Partnership has also been very important for the Moldovan citizens, as reflected in the GFMD survey. It has helped the country reform its migration management infrastructures, secure borders, reduce irregular migration and combat trafficking in persons in a more efficient way, and foster the development opportunities for migration and cooperation with the diaspora.

In addition, Moldova is mainstreaming migration into strategic development planning, thanks to the generous and constant support of Switzerland. The government is implementing a whole of government approach in managing diaspora and migration-related policies. Currently, all the central institutions have a focal point at the decision making level – a deputy minister - and at the technical level – the head of directorate – who are responsible for diaspora matters. Moreover, institutions are reviewing their regulations to better support the diaspora. As a result, more than 12 projects have now been implemented while 18 are under way. Moldova has government budgetary programs to support the diaspora.

Morocco

Morocco offered to co-chair the Platform for Partnerships session of GFMD 2014 Stockholm meeting because it appreciated the potential of the PfP not only in terms of showcasing practices on Migration and development, but also in helping implement GFMD outcomes and recommendations, by encouraging partnerships and cooperation between and among governments and non-government stakeholders.

Earlier this year, Morocco expressed its wish before the Steering Group for the GFMD to take on a bolder approach in terms of implementing GFMD projects, a logical step after six years of GFMD dialogue. The GFMD meetings produce a number of recommendations which governments could pursue with other governments or with non-government partners, such as the Global Migration Group (GMG), the civil society and the private sector. However, the GFMD has no operational capacity. Morocco realized that the immediate challenge is how to enable governments that need assistance in terms of translating GFMD recommendations and examples of migration and development practices into concrete actions and programs. To this end, Morocco expressed its commitment to work with the Turkish co-chair of the PfP, the Swedish Chair and the GFMD Support Unit in moving the PfP forward. Morocco welcomed the Swedish Chair's decision to integrate the Platform for Partnerships in the agenda of the Friends of the Forum Meeting. Morocco also expressed its appreciation for Switzerland's offer of funding for a Programme Officer at the GFMD Support Unit.

Morocco noted that the PfP remains highly relevant, but there are operational challenges that have been encountered. Aside from the lack of resources at the GFMD Support Unit, the other challenge for the PfP is how to generate its content. As a state-led process, the GFMD Platform for Partnerships should be driven primarily by governments. The practices – programs and policies – and partnerships that governments are doing should be fed systematically into the PfP by the governments. Additionally, there is need for systematic updating of information on the PfP online. Some of the practices that have been introduced are works in progress and it would be helpful for the Friends of the Forum to be kept informed of further developments. For example, at the 2012 Summit meeting in Mauritius, Morocco and Switzerland endorsed the informal survey on Migration Profiles. Also, IOM and MPI authored a handbook for diaspora engagement which was intended to be a living document and it would be timely to hear about the progress of these migration and development policy toolkits. Morocco expressed its hope that the enhanced PfP in action will eventually become a durable and long-term knowledge resource base that incoming GFMD Chairs can continue to manage and develop further, starting with the next GFMD Chair Turkey (July 2014 - December 2015).

Russian Federation

The Russian is a leading country in the world when it comes to migration flows and considers migration as one of the key elements of international agenda that influences development. The national approach towards migration and its various impacts on social life are reflected in the state concept of Migration Policy until 2025, approved by the President of the Russian Federation last year. Partnership is a significant part of this document. The Russian Federation supports the wide international debate on migration issues at various levels. As an example, the Russian Federation and Bangladesh were co-chairs of the HLD Roundtable session on international and regional labour migration and the country was active in preparatory regional consultation towards the Dialogue. In this regard, Russia supports the GFMD as a very state-led, informal platform for migration discourse. The Russian delegation co-chaired alongside Canada and Mexico a Roundtable on public perceptions during the Mauritanian Chairmanship, and now serves as a co-chair of RT 1.1 of the GFMD 2013-2014.

Switzerland

In 2011, Switzerland supported the practical application of the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development planning through a two-year pilot project involving Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova and Tunisia. The objective was to operationalize the GMG Handbook which was discussed at the global level by informing governments and other stakeholders about the process and challenges related to the mainstreaming approach of migration into development. A series of meetings were organized in 2012 by Switzerland and partners which identified three priority issues for a successful mainstreaming exercise: 1) undertake systematic assessment of Migration and Development inter-linkages in their particular national context; 2) put in place appropriate institutional structures that would look at migration in an integrated manner, to address gaps within the national context; and 3) there is a need for more coherent and efficient support from countries – especially from International Organizations, particularly the GMG - in regard to the UN capacity to deliver within this new mainstreaming paradigm.

Switzerland added that for the second phase of the Swiss funded project, which will begin next year, there has already been the inclusion of additional governments like Morocco and Serbia. The project will integrate lessons learned from past experiences and new ideas gathered during various discussions held under the GFMD banner, including the Swedish Chairmanship. The PFP is a practical tool, created to especially address the need to share good practices and foster partnerships with the global community, government and other stakeholders.

Turkey

Turkey is introducing a legal and institutional framework on migration and asylum with its new Law on Foreigners and International Protection. The law will lead to the establishment of a human rights focused civilian institution called the General Directorate of Migration Management (GDMM), which will be institutionalized in 81 provinces as well as abroad, with migration officials to be assigned to Turkish consulates. This new system will enable the identification of short, medium and long term migration policies and strategies.

Turkey highlighted the importance of migration in the development framework. Turkey is one of the countries that have introduced migration to its National Development Plan. As Chair of the Budapest Process Silk Routes Partnership and as the incoming Chair of the GFMD, Turkey will continue its work on this issue by sharing its experiences in the field. As a source, transit and destination country, Turkey has experienced migration in many different aspects, and therefore has introduced a “Turkish Model on Migration and Development” on a humanitarian basis for all migrants. Turkey also offered an account on the Syrian crisis, emphasizing that Turkey has made significant efforts to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis. According to official Turkish data, the number of Syrians staying in 15 tent cities, five container camps and a temporary reception centre exceeded 200 000. Between 200 000 to 400 000 Syrians live outside the camps that are registered in coordination centres in Gaziantep and Kilis. Registered Syrians receive an ID card, valid for one year, giving them access to medical and other material assistance. Also, all Syrian refugees benefit from a temporary protection regime entailing open borders, protection and non-refoulement. Turkey expects to collaborate with other countries in order to better support Syrian refugees in terms of financial issues and receiving the Syrians to the countries. Turkey has, in fact, spent more than 2 billion US Dollars during this crisis.

UAE

The UAE shared about its new program on piloting skills development certification, enhancement and recognition. The UAE pilot project entails the development of a comprehensive qualification and skills recognition framework, based on national qualification skills standard (NQSS) endorsed by the National Qualifications Authority (NQA). This will improve the recruitment and job matching practices for a group of occupations in the construction sector. The concept of the pilot is to field test practices of recruitment, job matching and placement using ten levels of skills and qualifications indicated in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The UAE NQSS template provides a tool for employers to identify the skills and qualification requirements using the NQF. The project enables workers and employers to record and document

enhanced upgraded skills, an essential recognition that eventually enables labour mobility. The pilot will be conducted in collaboration with no less than two governments of countries of origin, including the Philippines which has already agreed to participate. A number of UAE federal and local government agencies will take part in the development and implementation of the project. The project will leverage the outcomes of work conducted by Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC), which has yielded 54 occupational standards endorsed by the NQA for the 24 targeted occupations, primarily for the construction sector. The NQSS were developed by the industry and were enabled by the development of a specialized training to be delivered to participating workers, potential partners, training institutes and third party quality assurance auditors. UAE will require the worker to pass a skill test, whether administered by the UAE government or an accredited party. Training therefore is not required for certification, passing the test is. NQA will align the test with the national qualifications framework to ensure effective recognition of skills. Also, NQA will compile a federal register of occupational standards to ensure that the scheme may be expanded to other occupations. The Ministry of Labour and appropriate departments of the UAE Ministry of Interior will look at the progress and outcomes and study how they could be used to enhance admission and internal market mobility guidelines and policies to align with the UAE 2021 vision. The UAE has invited international organizations and agencies to share their expertise in the design and implementation of the pilot. In particular, the UAE seeks input by prospective partners that have conducted similar projects and are prepared to offer hands-on expertise and project design and project management.

To date, the World Bank, KNOMAD, IOM, ILO, UNITAR and GIZ have expressed their interest in participating in and/or supporting the project. The UAE envisions the formation of the project design implementation team composed of experts from participating governments and international organization agencies and is looking to launch the pilot in early 2014. The UAE plans to share information about the progress through the PfP.

USA

The US shared about three successful partnerships that it has undertaken.

First is the Migrants in crises initiative, under the leadership by the SRSRG, and in partnership with the Philippines, Australia and Bangladesh. The initiative will address situations of migrants caught in countries in situations of crises, like in Libya, Hurricane Sandy, the Japanese tsunami, and the like. The US has just began planning and the overarching goal is to generate a set of guidelines to improve the ability of states and other stakeholders, such as the employers, private sector, civil society, and international organizations, to prepare for and respond to these types of crises. The US will partner with a core group of 6-8 countries who will actually undertake the work, but will also do extensive consultations with other audiences, such as through the GFMD, the RCPs, the business community, and the civil society.

The second initiative is the Loaned Executives Program and Entrepreneur Residents spearheaded by the Department of Home Security (DHS) which has an interesting website that can be linked to the Pfp – www.uscis.gov. Thru this program, the government is partnering with employers to maximize the potential of the immigration system, by attracting and retaining immigrants who are founding start-up enterprises that promote innovation and create jobs. The government noticed that some visa applicants with skills needed by the US were possibly being unnecessarily denied visas due to lack of understanding about how start-ups function, what their documents look like, how entrepreneurial businesses are structured, and so on. In this regard, experts from inside and outside the government were brought in to provide the right information to foreign entrepreneurs. The program is running successfully, without having to change the existing visa categories.

The third program relates to the State Department's efforts to support the diaspora, with a dedicated website, diasporaalliance.org. The State Department and the USAID have formed the IDEA (International Diaspora Engagement Alliance) which works in partnership with the American vast diaspora networks to strengthen diplomacy and promote innovation, volunteerism and philanthropy in countries of origin. Remittances provide a huge lifeline, and immigrant businesses in the US generate 67 Billion in US business income. Initiatives all over

the world have been launched under the partnerships, generally called idea marketplaces – one in the Caribbean, one in Latin America, and two in Africa. These are regionally focused business competitions that encourage innovation and high-impact ideas, where businesses get technical assistance grants and are awarded to multiple winners. Examples in Africa include the first mobile anti-counterfeiting service for pharmaceutical drugs in Nigeria, the first GPS tracking system to prevent loss of products in Ethiopia, and a high-speed ferry system powered by sunflower oil in East Africa, which connects local economies in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania. Each winner receives \$100,000 funding.