

GFMD Thematic Recollection 2007 to 2017

Executive Summary

FEBRUARY 2018

Introduction

The need for a common and inclusive framework to govern migration has been constantly reiterated by the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) since its inception in 2007. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016 committed states to move towards a comprehensive framework and develop a set of common principles and approaches to migration. The Declaration has opened a unique chance to move forward and challenge each stakeholder to play its own role and potential to contribute to the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). The Declaration also recognized the valuable contribution of the GFMD and acknowledged the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogues on migration and development.

Contributions to the GCM Thematic Clusters

Pursuant to the New York Declaration, the GFMD contributed to the intergovernmental process of elaborating a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Under the Co-Chairmanship of Germany and Morocco, the GFMD participated in the informal thematic consultations, multi-stakeholder hearings and the Puerto Vallarta stocktaking meeting. More importantly, the GFMD Thematic Recollection 2007 to 2017 was submitted as a substantive input to the Zero Draft of the Global Compact. This document reflects the diversity of discussions held in the GFMD context over the last decade.

The Thematic Recollection highlights the main outcomes of previous GFMD Summit meetings, particularly the Roundtable recommendations; a selection of over 1,000 concrete M&D policy and practice examples from the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships database; and the deliberations in thematic workshops and GFMD Dialogues on the GCM. The Recollection follows the same thematic cluster structure as the consultative process for the GCM, and focuses on those aspects of the GCM where the GFMD has acquired substantive expertise over the years. Each cluster is sub-divided into selected issues in the migration-development nexus that have been extensively discussed in the GFMD context. Under each sub-topic, relevant **policy options** on how to address migration challenges and harness the potential benefits of migration and **options for practical action**, are suggested. Migration and development-related initiatives undertaken by governments and non-state stakeholders are, where relevant, given as **policy and practice examples** (*these policy and practice examples can also be found on the Platform for Partnerships database*).

Feedback on the Sutherland Report

The "Sutherland Report," prepared by the former SRSG for International Migration is a key reference for the GFMD Thematic Recollection. Mr. Peter Sutherland was the founding father of the Forum and served as the main link between the United Nations and the GFMD throughout its first decade of existence. In response to his Report, the GFMD Thematic Recollection illustrates how the Forum could maintain its essential characteristics while responding to the challenges ahead: firstly, by continuing to serve as (1) a platform for open dialogue between governments as well as other critical stakeholders, including international organizations, civil society, trade unions and the private sector, on all issues related to migration and development. Beyond this, the Forum could become more action-oriented by serving as a catalyst for (2)

practical cooperation and partnerships. GFMD could furthermore (3) contribute to the review of the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the GCM. Finally, as a global platform outside the UN system, the GFMD could (4) continue to interact with the UN system and feed its outcomes into relevant UN processes.

Conclusion

The GFMD has devoted significant attention and efforts to reflecting the Forum’s contribution to the Global Compact for Migration. The Forum suggests that the Compact translates existing standards into policies and actionable commitments, and identifies the following Action Areas: (1) Provide greater opportunities to migrate in a safe, orderly and regular manner; (2) Manage migration well through people-centered, human rights-based and gender-responsive commitments; (3) Recognize mixed migration as a growing reality that calls for strong interlinkages between the Global Compacts for Migration & on Refugees; (4) Collect and analyze data as a precondition for tailored, evidence-based migration policies and accountability; (5) Adopt a whole-of-government-and-of-society approach that includes parliamentarians and local actors; (6) Promote inclusive policy-making by creating enabling frameworks for civil society and other non-state actors; and (7) Encourage coalitions of different stakeholders to come forward with practical solutions to shared concerns.

GFMD Thematic Recollection and the Zero Draft GCM

The GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chairs welcome the release of the GCM Zero Draft, which recognizes that the GFMD helped pave the way for the New York Declaration, through which Member States committed to elaborate a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Co-Chairs also take pride in the fact that over 50 policy options and options for practical action proposed in the GFMD Thematic Recollection have been included in the Zero Draft (*see Annex: Comparative Overview of Thematic Recollection and Zero Draft*). The rich discussions that took place during the GFMD context are captured and amplified in the 22 broad objectives of the Zero Draft. Most importantly, the Zero Draft invites the GFMD to provide a platform “to exchange experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact, share good practices on policies and cooperation, promote innovative approaches, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships around specific policy issues,” as well as to contribute to both the International Migration Review Forum and the Regional Migration Review Fora. Specifically, the Forum could provide data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact.”

