

## GFMD 2014-2015 Second Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Monday, 24 November 2014  
La Salle II, R3 Level, ILO Building

### Summary Report

#### Welcoming Remarks

1. Ms. Esen Altug, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, warmly welcomed delegates over 100 delegates to the second meeting of the Friends of the Forum under the Turkish Chairmanship. She recognized the presence of the GFMD 2014-2015 Troika at the podium -- outgoing GFMD 2013-2014 Chair Sweden was represented by Ambassador Eva Akerman Borje and incoming GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh by Ambassador Shameem Ahsan, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Mr. Francois Fouinat represented Mr. Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration and Development. Also assisting the Chair at the podium was Ms. Ozlem Kural from the Turkish Permanent Mission in Geneva, as well as Ms Estrella Lajom, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

2. The Chair asked if there were any comments on the Provisional Agenda. She added that in relation to the agenda sub-items on Roundtables and Thematic Meetings, the KNOMAD will make a presentation on a new initiative on measuring policy coherence.

#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Concept Paper and Work Plan of GFMD 2014-2015

3. The Chair highlighted the revisions that had been made on the draft concept note and work plan for GFMD 2014-2015, which revolves around the overarching theme, “*Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development.*” Comments offered by countries and other stakeholders before, during and after the October GFMD preparatory meetings were considered in preparing the second draft which was circulated ahead of the meeting. Some suggestions contradicted each other, so the Chair revised the concept note in line with the most often expressed opinions.

4. The Chair explained that the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft concept note clarifies the broad objectives of the GFMD 2014-2015 Chairmanship and the ways in which GFMD intends to interact with the Regional Consultation Processes, the post-2015 development agenda process, and upcoming global meetings such as the G-20 and the World Humanitarian Summit. It also outlines in much greater detail the plans to continue the work of the Swedish Chair to strengthen the administration, governance and financing of the GFMD.

5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft concept note was also discussed by the GFMD Steering Group earlier in the day<sup>1</sup>. The Chair was grateful for the additional comments offered by SG members and urged other countries and interested stakeholders to **submit additional comments by 10 December 2014**, to be considered in further revising the concept note. The Turkish Chair intends to circulate the final GFMD 2014-2015 concept note by mid-January 2015.

6. The outgoing GFMD 2013-2014 Chair, Ambassador Eva Akerman Borje, welcomed the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft, particularly the emphasis on the structure of the GFMD and the important links to relevant regional and global processes. She suggested putting an accent on the cooperation between the SRSG, the GFMD and the GMG, which is a concrete outcome of the 2013 High Level Dialogue. Two other delegates echoed a general appreciation for the improved concept note, while offering some concrete suggestions. One proposed to further define the scope of the

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015> for the Report of Proceedings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GFMD 2014-2015 Steering Group meeting.

concept of human mobility and to explain its links with sustainable development. A view was held that the Forum has the opportunity to follow up on the outcomes of the High Level Dialogue, for example, by promoting migration in the post-2015 development agenda. The other delegate welcomed the renewed attention given to the structures of the Forum, including the Platform for Partnerships, the GFMD Support Unit, the multi-annual work plan and the need for an enhanced GFMD communications plan.

7. The ICMC<sup>2</sup>, civil society coordinating office, conveyed to the Chair their appreciation for considering many suggestions that civil society submitted on the first draft, particularly the practical focus on labour and human rights. On RT 3, civil society urged to look at the perilous journeys of migrants and not just the productive destinations of migrants worldwide. About the GFMD process, ICMC was pleased to see three new references to civil society interaction, but reiterated two proposals aimed at enhancing government-civil society interaction by a) increasing states' participation in the Civil society programme and b) allowing the participation of a small number of civil society representatives in the government roundtables. In addition, ICMC proposed to the GFMD Troika to consider commissioning a small, joint "Progress and Impacts Team" to be comprised of civil society and state representatives who will take stock and report on joint achievements in Global Forum activities.

8. The Chair also presented the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the GFMD 2014-2015 Roundtables, adopted from the TORs that were endorsed at the Stockholm GFMD. The Chair underlined the importance of promoting balanced representation of governments in each RT session. On this note, the Chair reserved the right to decide in case of several offers to co-chair the same RT session, and/or to approach and encourage governments to support certain RT sessions where participation seems to be lacking. The Chair expressed the hope that other governments will offer their expertise in developing the Istanbul GFMD Roundtables, by lending support to the following GFMD 2014-2015 Government Roundtable Teams<sup>3</sup>:

***RT 1: Human mobility and the well-being of migrants***

***Session 1.1 - Partnerships to promote inclusion and protect the human rights of all migrants***

- Co-Chairs: El Salvador
- Team Members: Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia
- Non-Government Partners: OHCHR

***Session 1.2 - Reducing the human and financial costs of migration: Cooperative approaches to fair recruitment practices and lower remittance fees***

- Co-Chairs: Russia, UAE
- Team Members: Bangladesh; France; India; Mauritius; Philippines

***RT 2: Migration as a factor in development***

***Session 2.1 - Mainstreaming migration into planning at the sectoral level***

- Co-Chairs: Morocco, Australia
- Team Members: Bangladesh, Philippines

***Session 2.2 - Making migration work post-2015: implementing the SDGs***

- Co-Chairs: Bangladesh, Greece, Mexico
- Team Members: Sweden, Switzerland
- Non-Government Partners: OHCHR

***RT 3: Enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility***

***Session 3.1 - Enhancing human development and human security for forced migrants through international cooperation on labor market access, educational opportunity, family reunification, and other avenues of mobility***

- Co-Chairs: Greece
- Team Members: Bangladesh (Rapporteur), Sweden, Switzerland
- Non-Government Partners: ICMPD, OHCHR

***Session 3.2 – Private sector-government cooperation to support migrant/diaspora entrepreneurship and job creation, with a focus on small and medium enterprises***

- Co-Chairs: France, Canada (TBC)
- Team Members: Netherlands (TBC), Philippines
- Non-Government Partners: ICMPD

9. The Chair also encouraged international organizations and other GFMD Observers, particularly members of the Global Migration Group (GMG), to support the Government-led Roundtable teams.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015> for the full report of the ICMC to the Friends of the Forum.

<sup>3</sup> This is the Government Roundtable Teams overview as of 18 December 2014.

10. On thematic meetings, the Chair explained that in view of the timelines of the post-2015 Development process, the first GFMD 2014-2015 thematic meeting on 5 February 2015 will be on “*Updating the GFMD Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda.*” The Provisional Calendar of GFMD 2014-2015 Activities has been updated accordingly. The second and third thematic meetings on the “*Role of communication in promoting widespread recognition of the benefits of migration, etc.*” and the third thematic meeting on “*Recognizing the contributions of women migrants to the economic and social development in countries of origin and destination and addressing their specific needs*” will be held on 29 April and 3 September 2015, respectively.

11. The Chair invited countries to offer to co-chair or provide financial or in-kind support to the organization of the three thematic meetings. She also underlined the importance of drawing from the expertise of capital-based policymakers. Thereafter, she gave the floor to Mr. David Khoudour from the OECD.

12. In his presentation<sup>4</sup>, Mr. Khoudour explained that he was speaking on behalf of the KNOMAD-Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Policy and Institutional Coherence. The TWG focused its first year of work on defining the concept of policy coherence, as well as its objectives. The TWG is now embarking on a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase wherein the focus is on monitoring policy coherence. During the Stockholm GFMD, the TWG first introduced the idea of using a dashboard of indicators based on different migration and development objectives across countries. The TWG wishes to operationalize this proposal by inviting about 10 countries to discuss and assess the dashboard of indicators.

13. Countries representing all migration perspectives and income levels were requested to volunteer their time and expertise for this project. Their inputs will enable the TWG to consolidate its methodological framework. The TWG aims to present the user-friendly dashboard during the first GFMD thematic meeting, also to support the GFMD 2014-2015 Roundtable 2. Thereafter, KNOMAD will work at the country level, operationalizing the dashboard between March and September. The TWG hopes to present the results at the GFMD in Istanbul next year.

14. The Chair called on interested Friends of the Forum to participate in this KNOMAD initiative and urged them to contact Mr. Khoudour, should they be interested in the pilot project.

## **GFMD 2014-2015 Budget**

15. The Chair presented anew the preliminary budget for the 18-month Turkish Chairmanship of the Global Forum, amounting to USD \$ 3,071,855, broken down into three components:

- a) Preparatory Costs, including preparatory meetings of the GFMD Troika, Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, the proposed 3 GFMD Thematic Meetings and Research and Consultancy – USD 543,816 (18% of total budget)
- b) Final Meeting organizational costs in Istanbul – USD \$ 1,502,336 (50% of the total budget)
- c) GFMD Support Unit operational costs, including costs of hiring new staff to reinforce the office – USD 936,232 ((30% of the total budget)

16. The Chair acknowledged and thanked the following governments that have already offered financial contributions to the Turkish GFMD Chair: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. According to the Chair, Germany indicated that it intended to give an annual contribution towards the work of the GFMD starting in 2015, in the amount of EUR 75,000. The Chair welcomed it very much as it would help with the implementation of the new multi-annual work plan which is dependent on a multi-year funding support. She expressed the hope that similar arrangements could be looked into by other donor’s governments for the sake of the sustainability of the GFMD.

17. As of the last budget update, the Turkish Chair is expecting around USD 2.3 Million, half of which amount is a contribution from Ankara. The Chair wished for other governments to step forward and offer financial support, regardless of the amount, in order to broaden the ownership of the GFMD process. She underscored the fact that, in accordance with the Long Term financing framework, the outgoing Chair needs to leave an amount of at least USD 400,000 to the next Chair. Thus, the existing budget gap of the Turkish Chair is USD 1.1 Million, including the USD 400,000 to be handed over to Bangladesh in 2016.

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015> for Mr. Khodour’s PowerPoint presentation.

18. One delegate took the floor to thank the Chair for the presentation of the updated budget, which he deemed as an exercise in promoting transparency. He lauded the Chair for adopting the budget format of previous years, inasmuch as it facilitates comparability and trust-building. He encouraged the Chair, and other incoming Chairs, to indicate their respective share in the total budget of the Chairmanship. In this regard, the Chair stated that Turkey has so far contributed EUR 1 Million to the Turkish GFMD budget.

### **GFMD 2014-2015 Civil Society Process**

19. The Chair announced that preparations for the civil society days will be led by authorities from the Ministries of Labour, Development and Interior, in cooperation with the Turkish civil society and the ICMC, coordinating office of the GFMD civil society process. She expressed the hope that ICMC will visit Turkey soon.

20. Mr. John Bingham, ICMC Head of Policy, accepted the Chair's invitation to visit Turkey to meet with universities and civil society that are actively working on migration and development. As in the past GFMD, the civil society process will promote practical information-sharing and concrete activities involving national civil society actors before, in and well beyond the Global Forum meeting itself, to ensure that the GFMD has national value as well as global character.

21. Mr. Bingham reported<sup>5</sup> a number of activities that have been and will be organized by the civil society across the globe to follow up on the implementation of the civil society's "5-year 8-point Plan of Action for collaboration" with governments, and in preparation for the GFMD meeting in Istanbul. These include regional meetings in Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Jordan and Malaysia and global thematic meetings on post-2015 global development, diaspora, entrepreneurship and labour migration. Civil society continues to advocate for the inclusion of migrants and migration into the post-2015 global development agenda, both globally and nationally. 270 Civil society organizations around the world have now signed the Stockholm Declaration which evidences civil society's unified position in this regard.

22. On behalf of the civil society, Mr. Bingham expressed appreciation for the pledging meeting organized by the GFMD Chair in October 2014, wherein the civil society was invited to present its work plan and provisional 18-month budget for GFMD Civil Society 2014-2015. Some governments, including Bangladesh and Switzerland, pledged to give financial contributions to support the proposed budget of USD \$ 890,000. A funding gap of about 40% of total budget still remains. In coordination with the GFMD Support Unit, full details of the budget will be circulated later to all governments in the hope that other donors will come forward. As well, the ICMC will send a request to update its database of contact persons from governments and international organizations dealing with migration and development.

### **Any Other Business**

23. The Chair reminded the Friends of the Forum that the next Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meetings will be held on 4 February 2015. This will be followed by the first GFMD 2014-2015 thematic meeting on "Updating the GFMD position on Post-2015 Development agenda" to be held on 5 February, and the first preparatory meetings of the Government Roundtable Teams on 6 February. The incoming GFMD 2016 Chair Bangladesh looked forward to co-chairing the first thematic meeting on 6 February and affirmed their full support for the Turkish Chair and the Global Forum process.

24. In her closing remarks, the Chair extended warm season's greetings to all Friends of the Forum. She thanked all delegates for their participation, the interpreters for their assistance during the meeting, and the GFMD Support Unit for the overall preparation.

25. The meeting was adjourned at 17h00.

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit  
3 December 2014

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.gfmd.org/docs/turkey-2014-2015> for ICMC's full report to the Friends of the Forum.