

## GFMD 2019 Third Meeting of the Steering Group

Tuesday, 10 September

14h00 – 17h00

Room IX, Palais des Nations

### Summary Report

#### I. Welcoming Remarks

1. The third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Steering Group (SG)<sup>1</sup> under the Ecuadorian Chairmanship was opened by Ambassador Santiago Javier Chávez Pareja, GFMD 2019 Chair.
2. Joining the GFMD 2019 Chair at the podium were members of the GFMD 2019 Troika, namely: **Mr. Georg Klussman**, representing the German Co-Chair of GFMD 2017-2018; **Mr. Ahmed Skim**, representing the Moroccan Co-Chair of GFMD 2017-2018; **Mr. Alex Zalami**, representing the United Arab Emirates, incoming Chair of GFMD 2020; **Mr. Andres Montalvo**, Coordinator of Ecuadorian GFMD Task Force; and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.
3. In his welcoming comments, the Chair explained ~~noted~~ that the objectives of the final meeting of the GFMD Steering Group in 2019 would be: a) to examine the report of the Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration on the follow-up of the Ten-Year Review, and agree on next steps; and b) to prepare for the GFMD Summit in Quito.

#### II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

4. The [Provisional Agenda](#) of the meeting, circulated on 3 September 2019, was adopted without any comment or reservation.

#### III. GFMD Ten-Year Review Follow-up

5. As stated by Ambassador Chavez, one of the Ecuadorian Chair's institutional priorities was to ensure that the recommendations in the Ten-Year Review Report led to concrete actions. He reminded the SG that the Working Group produced in May the draft document 'Key Features and Supporting Recommendations' which proposed a framework for the follow up of the recommendations of the Ten-Year Review Report. Following the initial discussion by the Steering Group on 28 May, the Working Group identified 12 recommendations to be adopted, which were subsequently endorsed by the Steering Group through silence procedure in June 2019.
6. Based on feedback received at the May meeting of the SG, the Working Group drafted an amended version of the document, 'Key Features and 12 recommendations' which was adopted by the SG by silence procedure in June 2019. Thereafter, the Working Group met several times to discuss how to implement the 12 adopted recommendations and to identify four other recommendations for adoption which will require further action beyond the Quito Summit and into the next Chairmanship. The Working Group reworked the Key Features document to include notes on implementation and status of each of the 16 recommendations, and sent it to the Steering Group ahead of the meeting.
7. On the Chair's invitation, Working Group Co-Chairs Germany and the United Arab Emirates offered additional elements.

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<sup>1</sup> Steering Group Member States that participated in the meeting: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

- a) **Ms. Irene Biontino**, representing the German Co-Chair of the Working Group, elaborated on the **four additional recommendations to be adopted by the Steering Group**. According to her:
- (i) The first recommendation is to engage volunteering member states to establish **sector-specific, multi-stakeholder working groups**. The working groups would be state-led but include other stakeholders and give sustained attention to specific thematic issues. The Working Group recommends that this be implemented together with the recommendations already adopted, particularly that of fostering outcome-oriented partnerships through migration labs and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
  - (ii) The second recommendation is to **engage with the research community**, including think-tanks and academia. This could be done by allowing researchers a chance to present and provide analyses of important findings and trends at FOF or SG meetings, or at the Summit. This recommendation can be implemented informally: for example, by inviting academics to contribute to Roundtable background papers, thematic workshops, etc. or by including them as members in the States' delegations to the Summit.
  - (iii) The third recommendation is to **establish a solutions-driven 'marketplace'** to match potential partners. The GFMD could provide an in-person marketplace for governments and other stakeholders to share solutions, and/or present specific challenges and seek input and support from partners. With regards to implementation, the intent is to have a physical marketplace space where governments or other providers can book a booth at the Summit in Quito. Alternatively, or in addition, the Chair may decide to provide a dedicated space where stakeholders can pitch a challenge or solution within a limited amount of time. The option of an online marketplace can also be explored.
  - (iv) The fourth recommendation is to **extend the Platform for Partnerships (PfP)** and improve upon it by developing more interactive tools for online knowledge sharing. In this regard, the Ecuadorian Chair has entered into partnership with UNITAR to develop a Migration and Development Knowledge Hub offering complimentary online training.
- When the Chair opened the floor for comments, there were not any. Thus, the Chair deemed the additional recommendations as endorsed by the SG.
- b) On the other hand, Working Group Co-Chair UAE, represented by **Mr. Alex Zalami**, presented to the SG a proposal by the Working Group on how to proceed with the implementation of recommendations on financial reforms, particularly on how to ensure the financial sustainability of the GFMD. He commented that some of the [Long Term Financing Framework](#) adopted under the Swedish GFMD Chairmanship have been implemented, but some elements remained outstanding. For instance, achieving multi-annual funding pledges was difficult due to lack of assurance of incoming Chairs. To address issues like this, the Working Group offered to develop Terms of Reference, a proposed budget and timeline for a study to be conducted with some external assistance, into how to successfully implement the Framework.
- c) On **broadening the circle of GFMD contributors**, Mr. Zalami shared his view that the Working Group Member States lacked the necessary experience in seeking contributions from non-Member State sources. As such, the Working Group proposed to hire a professional consultant who could help the Working Group to develop a strategy that strengthens the elements of the GFMD value proposition –already outlined in the Ten-Year Review report– which might appeal to prospective donors. Moreover, the Working Group believed that it would be useful to identify one or more donor categories to target for multi-year contributions, thus creating stability for critical functions of the GFMD and incentivizing prospective Chairs to step forward. Finally, **commercial sponsorship of GFMD events**, including the Summit, may also be considered with clear and enforced guidelines, and upon approval by the Chair or the Troika, in order to protect the GFMD brand.
- d) In view of the foregoing, the Working Group proposed to proceed in two phases:
- (i) First, seek professional expertise, ideally on a pro bono basis, to design and cost out an integrated fundraising campaign; and
  - (ii) If the campaign is approved by the SG, seek funding to support the implementation of the campaign, in partnership with a professional fundraising consultant.

In response, the Chair advised the Working Group to give the Steering Group more time to consider their proposal concerning the fundamental structural issues of the Forum's budget.

#### **IV. GFMD 2019 Chair's Initiatives related to the Recommendations**

##### **a) Summit Format**

8. Also in follow up to the recommendations of the Ten-Year Review Report, the Chair has its own initiatives. First, the Chair proposed a new format for the Quito Summit meeting, which **aims to offer all possible opportunities for interaction** amongst the different GFMD mechanisms and participants, and to ensure that the GFMD becomes a real space for deliberation of all relevant actors.
9. The Summit will therefore include an inaugural ceremony (19 November) open to all GFMD participants, representing Member States, GFMD Observers, civil society, the private sector and local authorities; a day of separate, parallel meetings of the different mechanisms (20 November); and a whole day dedicated to the GFMD Common Space which will be open to all stakeholders (21 November). The theme and organizational details of the Common Space this year have been coordinated between the Ecuadorian Chair and the three GFMD Mechanisms. The Summit will also offer a voluntary fourth day (22 November) for GCM-focused dialogue, to be open to all interested stakeholders.
10. The Chair has also **engaged the services of Dialogue Associates**, with the support of Germany, to introduce state-of-the-art facilitation techniques and improve the formats of the Roundtable discussions at the Summit.

##### **b) GFMD Publication (Testimonial book)**

11. Another initiative of the Chair is a GFMD publication that aims to highlight and document the historic success and continued relevance of the GFMD. The testimonial book will comprise two volumes. The first volume provides a historical account of the Forum's achievements, including key outcomes, advances in discourse on migration and development, and key thematic and institutional priorities of each Chairmanship. The second volume outlines a vision for the future of the Forum, based on the inputs of the three GFMD Mechanisms (civil society, business and mayors/local authorities). The publication is being produced with the support of ICMPD and an external consultant. It will be launched at the Quito Summit.

##### **c) Migration and Development Knowledge Hub**

12. In partnership with UNITAR, the Chair has also begun the development of a Migration and Development Knowledge Hub in order to provide online learning capacity building to all GFMD stakeholders. According to the Chair, the initiative responds to the suggestion made by some states during the 4 April consultation on the relationship between the GFMD and GCM to make available online training for the GFMD community. The hub is envisaged as a complement to the GFMD Platform for Partnerships.
13. More details of the Knowledge Hub platform were to be shared in the meeting of the FOF taking place the following day.

#### **V. GFMD 2019 Financial Situation**

14. **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit, reported on the financial situation of the GFMD, based on the interim report prepared by IOM, host entity of the Support Unit. She reminded the SG that the GFMD 2019 provisional budget, first presented in February, amounted to USD 2.43 Million. The proposed budget included provisions to support the work plan of the of the GFMD in 2019, including the convening of GFMD preparatory meetings, the launch of the Chairmanship in

New York, three thematic workshops supporting the Roundtable sessions, a number of regional workshops, the organizational costs of the Summit in Quito, and the GFMD Support Unit's operational budget. To be added to the amount of \$ 2.43 Million was the USD \$400,000 seed funding for 2020, as agreed in the GFMD Long Term Financing Framework.

15. Based on the latest interim report, the provisional budget was reduced to USD \$ 1.784 Million (excluding the \$ 400,000 seed funding). The current budget is about 20% lower than the original budget presented in February. As Ms. Lajom explained, the actual expenditure of the GFMD has been significantly lower than the estimated amount in view of limited contributions received to date, as well as changes to the program and funding arrangements, such as:
  - A number of thematic workshops were directly organized by the Chair's partners, including the Governments of the Philippines, Bahrain and Morocco;
  - The Chair has postponed the GCM Dialogue, scheduled for 12 September, to a special session at the Summit in Quito to allow for greater coordination with the UN Migration Network;
  - The final meeting budget has been reduced as the Government of Ecuador has offered to provide a space for the Summit free of charge, including not just a venue for the government activities, but also for all three mechanisms;
  - Given the ongoing deliberation on how to carry forward the recommendations of the Ten-Year Review, only about 50% of the projected budget required to strengthen the Support Unit was actually spent. Likewise, the GFMD communications strategy has not been implemented.
16. Ms. Lajom thanked the Governments of Bahrain, Canada, France and Germany that have offered fresh contributions to the GFMD in 2019, as well as the Governments of Bangladesh, Canada, Mexico, Morocco, Qatar, Switzerland, UAE that had consented to realign their unused contributions from 2018 the 2019 budget. Further contributions are expected from Norway, Philippines, Switzerland and UAE which would bring the total expected resources to USD \$ 1,306,997, leaving a projected deficit of USD \$ 477,000. Highlighting that it was the first time for the GFMD to be in this situation, she appealed to all Steering Group Member States to consider extending financial assistance to the Ecuadorian Chair in order to meet the requirements of the GFMD this year. Failing to raise sufficient resources could affect the organization of the Quito Summit and the support for the travel and participation of developing countries. The Chair seconded Ms. Lajom's call for financial contributions.
17. At this juncture, Working Group Co-Chair and incoming GFMD 2020 Chair UAE took the floor to present a proposal on how to improve the financial sustainability of the GFMD in the medium and long term. In response, one Member State welcomed the proposal while stressing the importance of addressing the short-term funding constraint concerning the Quito Summit. Another comment made was about the non-inclusion of the Chair's contribution throughout the year, which should be acknowledged by the SG, as well as the contributions offered by states to the broader GFMD community (e.g. the other GFMD Mechanisms).

## **VI. Any Other Business**

18. Mr. Alex Zalami, representing the incoming Chair UAE, took the opportunity of the last meeting before the GFMD Summit in Quito to congratulate the Chair on their successful program, and thank them for investing time and resources in the GFMD process.
19. The meeting was adjourned at 15:20.