

## **Meeting of the GFMD Steering Group**

Tuesday, November 22, 11:30 CET, CIC Geneva/Online

### ***Report of the Proceedings***

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#### **Opening remarks by the Troika**

1. Francois Vandeville, Deputy Ambassador for Migration of France opened the meeting, thanking representatives of Member States, the GFMD mechanisms and youth for joining and IOM for its organizational support.
2. Alia Ibrahim, Director of International Organizations at the UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization congratulated the Chair for an ambitious program for the new era of the GFMD. The UAE stressed that the introduction of an entirely new theme dedicated to the impact of climate change on human mobility underlines the importance of the GFMD as a space for bringing forward critical issues within the global dialogue on migration. The UAE thanked France for efforts conducted to establish a Secretariat for the GFMD and renewed its support to the Chair in office.

#### **Adoption of the meeting agenda**

3. The meeting agenda was adopted without any changes.

#### **Financial outlook: pledges by member states to contribute to 2022-2023**

4. The Chair provided an overview of the GFMD financial outlook thanking the UAE, Mexico and the Philippines for their recent voluntary contributions and highlighting that the total funds raised for the GFMD 2022-2023 amount to 720,000 USD as of 10 November 2022, including a contribution of 250,000 Euro by France in 2022. The Chair also thanked Germany for its 75,000 EUR contribution in 2022, which will bring the budget to about 800,000 USD by the end of the year, and its additional pledge of 75,000 EUR for 2023.
5. The Chair recalled that the overall fundraising target is set at 2,2 MIL Euro and that the GFMD is financed exclusively through voluntary contributions of Member States and in particular of Steering Group (SG) members. Reaffirming its strong commitment to the Forum, France indicated that it has committed an additional 7 MIL Euro budget for the GFMD Summit in addition to its voluntary contributions to the GFMD budget.
6. Canada announced a pledge of 25,000 USD for the GFMD 2022-2023 program.
7. Mexico expressed appreciation for the financial outlook presented by the Chair, noting that the financial situation of the GFMD has significantly improved in comparison to last year and this ensures more predictability and stability to the Forum. Mexico announced that it intends to uphold its regular yearly contributions to the GFMD budget and invited SG Member States who have not contributed financially yet to consider doing so even with small amounts. Mexico invited the Chair to pursue fund-raising also beyond the SG within the Friends of the Forum (FOF).

8. The Philippines thanked the Chair for acknowledging its contribution and announced that it will maintain it and possibly scale it pending confirmation of the Philippines Home Office.
9. Switzerland thanked the Chair and announced that in addition to the 2021-2022 contribution, it will continue to contribute financially to the Forum in 2023. The amount of the Swiss voluntary contribution will be communicated over the coming months.
10. Germany thanked the Chair for acknowledging its past and future contributions and welcomed the contributions of other Member States.

### **Briefing on the first preparatory meetings and chairmanship agenda**

11. The Chair greeted the start of the GFMD 2022-2023 activities and informed the SG that registrations for the first preparatory meeting show a high level of participation in person and online both for the FOF and Government-led Roundtable Teams (GRTs).
12. The Chair thanked Azerbaijan, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Fiji, Mexico, Moldova, the UAE and Zimbabwe who volunteered to co-chair roundtables, and invited expressions of interest to co-chair GRT 5 on 'Improving the perception of migration in public opinion through narratives, culture, emotion and rational discourse', and for GRT 6 on 'Multi-level governance: bringing together multiple stakeholders for improved migration management'.
13. The Chair informed the Steering Group that it is considering postponing the GFMD Summit from December 2023 to February 2024 to avoid an overlap with the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), scheduled to take place from 13-16 December. France proposes a synergic sequencing between these high-level events - the GRF and the GFMD Summit on Migration and Development. To do so, the Chair proposed to the SG to extend the French Chair's mandate until early 2024.
14. In relation to the GFMD 2022-2023 Chairing arrangements, France informed the Steering Group that Senegal had originally accepted the invitation of France to co-chair the GFMD. Senegal participated in developing the program, but for the moment has not been able to take active part in the meetings. While the offer to co-chair remains valid and open to Senegal, France assumes its responsibilities as GFMD Chair to allow the program to advance.
15. Canada asked if the GFMD events originally planned to take place in Senegal will be implemented as planned.
16. The Chair indicated that activities originally scheduled to take place in Senegal, such as for instance the launch event in Dakar, are currently pending confirmation.
17. Türkiye informed the Chair that it will take part in one of the roundtables and will consider contributing to the GFMD financially in 2023.
18. The Chair thanked Türkiye for their expression of thematic and financial support and all Member States for showing their continued engagement and support to the Forum.

### **GFMD Governance - Update on committees (Revisions to the Terms of Reference of Governing Bodies, GFMD-GCM Relations, Fundraising and Budget Management)**

19. The governance reforms started under the UAE Chair are still to be completed. Two of the four Steering Group sub-committees have been closed: the Committee to identify a Chair for 2022 and the Committee on relations between the GFMD and the GCM.
20. The UAE and Canada as Co-Chairs of the Committee on Revisions of the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Governing Bodies thanked all members of the Committee for their support and provided an update on progress. Canada recalled that the TORs of the GFMD Governing Bodies, including the Steering Group, Chair and Troika, have been worked on by a small committee of Member States since 2019. The UAE and Canada have focused on the TORs for the Troika and Chair (UAE) and Steering Group (Canada) respectively.

21. The UAE informed the SG that a revised draft of the TORs of the Troika and Chair was circulated to the SG members via email in April 2022. Comments have been received and will be worked into a new draft to be circulated to the SG for approval by silence procedure. Canada informed the SG that the latest version of the TORs for the Steering Group was circulated in December 2021. Comments were received by Germany, Thailand, France and Ecuador and were incorporated. A revised version will be circulated after this meeting for approval with the same modalities indicated by the UAE.
22. Canada invited all Member States in the Steering Group to familiarize with the new TORs, noting that there are responsibilities that permeate areas such as for instance the future Secretariat and it will be important to take a cohesive perspective to the responsibilities of each Governance Body.
23. Thailand expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Committee Co-Chairs for considering its comments to the Steering Group TORs. Thailand looks forward to a revised version of the draft and hopes that other SG members will engage in this process to ensure there is shared ownership of the governance reforms.
24. The Chair welcomed the newly appointed representative of Egypt, chairing the Committee on Financial Matters and Sustainability of the Forum, thanking all members of the Committee for the work done to advance with the preparation of a dedicated report and proposed to convene a meeting after the SG to finalize the report.
25. Mexico thanked the Chair and Committees for the update and encouraged the SG to finalize this process and refocus attention on the thematic aspects of the program, which are at the heart of the GFMD dialogue.
26. An expression of interest to join the GFMD has been submitted by Labour Mobility Partnerships (LaMP), an organization that had been introduced to the GFMD by the UAE Chair as facilitator of the Migration Labs at the January 2021 Summit. LaMP is formally registered as a non-governmental organization (NGO) but does not operate as a traditional NGO. Its specific status poses some challenges in terms of accreditation as a GFMD observer. As a temporary measure, LaMP has been granted silent observer status.
27. The UAE recalled that LaMP had been invited to facilitate the migration labs because of their focus on promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are an area the GFMD dialogue values. Agreeing with the Chair's assessment that granting LaMP observer status would be premature at this stage given the limited experience and dimension of LaMP as an organization, the UAE proposed to provide the opportunity to LaMP to participate in the preparatory process and the Summit, reviewing their position based on their effective contribution to the GFMD, while reserving the granting of observer status to organizations with a substantial track record on migration governance.
28. Canada noted that the GFMD does not currently have TORs for GFMD Observers, and it may be helpful to have a set of criteria to decide on future requests.
29. The Chair thanked Canada and invited the SG to reflect on this point, recalling that the [GFMD Friends of the Forum \(FOF\) TORs](#), approved in 2013 under the Swedish Chair, state that the FOF is *'open to all States that are Members or Observers of the United Nations*. Though anchored in the UN system, the GFMD as a State-led, informal, voluntary process provides for some flexibility. In fact, the FOF TORs further state that *'The FOF also includes some GFMD Observers, comprised of specialised agencies of the United Nations, international organisations, regional consultative processes and select non-government stakeholders on migration and development issues (...). Interested organizations, processes and other bodies may indicate their motivation to join the GFMD Observers and, where possible, their intended contributions which can be either substantive or financial. Based on expression of interest, the Steering Group will deliberate on possible additional requests to join the GFMD Observers. The main factors would be the relevance of the organization's work to the GFMD agenda and work streams, as well as indication of commitment to fulfill the mandates and responsibilities of the FOF. The Troika may also suggest to the Steering Group the inclusion of other organizations, processes and bodies that could enrich GFMD debates and offer meaningful contributions to the Chair-in-Office and to the overall GFMD process.* Hence, the

Chair welcomed the proposal of the UAE to approach this request flexibly and with a view to promoting innovative solutions, in line with GFMD practice.

30. Türkiye asked for clarification on how this would affect the overall process of inclusion of NGOs in the Forum beyond the established and agreed framework.
31. France indicated that the case of LaMP is being considered on an exceptional basis in the SG because this organization was involved by a previous Chair, the UAE, by virtue of their specific capacity to contribute to their program. The current Chair is also considering inviting a network of museums to engage in support of the 2022-2023 program. Previous Chairs also reserved the prerogative to engage specific organizations that could be instrumental to the success of their respective programs. The Chair further clarified that the participation of such organizations may be limited to a specific time or thematic priority to avoid disparities in treatment and inclusion of stakeholders.

### **Reports of activities by the Committees, Mechanisms and Working Groups (WGs)**

32. The Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration, co-chaired by the GFMD Mayors Mechanism (MM), Canada and Ecuador provided an update on recent activities.
33. The MM recalled that the WG was established to bring together a multi-stakeholder group of national and local governments, civil society, youth and private sector to share experiences, lessons learned and identify concrete ways to balance public narratives on migration. As the mandate of the WG is about to expire, the WG Co-Chairs would like to propose to extend it for two more years (2023-2024) in light of the continued relevance of the topic which has been put on the GFMD 2022-2023 agenda by the Chair and its increasing salience. The WG has been an incubator for joint and multi-actor partnerships; in 2021, it launched the It Takes A Community campaign (#ITAC), a global social media campaign that aims to balance the public narrative on migration by inviting diverse stakeholders to share stories of how migration enriches communities. With significant help of WG partners, in particular the GFMD mechanisms and youth, the campaign was rolled out in March 2021 through engaging content and customizable digital resources made available on the campaign website <https://www.ittakesacomunity.org/> and live stream events. The campaign generated over 12 million social media impressions in its initial phase in 2021.
34. Because of this success, Canada has provided the funding for a second phase of the ITAC campaign starting in the Fall 2022 until May 2023 including a) exchange among experts to foster cross-fertilization and learning; b) live stream events open to the public; c) the creation of a repository of resources as a one-stop shop on the website.
35. The Co-Chairs are working on a concept note and budget to continue the work of ITAC beyond May 2023 and are seeking the support of the GFMD community to do so as there are many connections with the GFMD 2022-2023 program. New members are welcome to join the Working Group for the renewed mandate that starts in January 2023 and are encouraged to reach out to the WG Co-Chairs to engage. The GFMD Secretariat will circulate the revised TORs for the Working Group following this meeting.
36. Ecuador informed the SG that members of the WG attended a meeting organized by Morocco and ICMPD in Rabat on 10-11 November 2022 within the frame of the second Euro-Mediterranean Migration Narratives Conference. During this event, which was co-sponsored by the GFMD 2022-2023 Chair, France, the WG delegation presented the #ITAC campaign and its specific approach, which promotes a global campaign adaptable to local contexts, and invited participants to the Rabat conference to join the campaign and highlight the positive contribution of migrants and refugees shaping a global movement to promote balanced narratives on migration.
37. With reference to #ITAC, Canada informed the SG that it contributed 276,000 USD for the implementation of phase II of the campaign with IOM as the implementer. Canada invited Steering Group members to attend the virtual live streaming events that will be organized

over the next months and encouraged MS to reach out to the Mayors Mechanism, Ecuador, Canada to engage in the campaign.

38. Canada informed the SG about the organization of a WG event at the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2022. The WG Co-Chairs in partnership with Open Society Foundation and with the support of the government of France organized an armchair discussion on 'Building partnerships to balance the public narratives on migrants and refugees', which was very well attended by UN Member States, local governments, civil society, philanthropy, private sector, think-tanks, migrant and refugee groups.
39. In view of the links with the GFMD Chair program, Canada announced that it will co-chair roundtable 5 on Narratives and Culture and that with the support of the WG Co-Chairs, Ecuador and the Mayors Mechanism, a draft concept note has been prepared to contribute to the French Chair's priorities. The proposal focuses on the development of a Global Migration Narratives Outlook throughout the GFMD preparatory process to present it at the Summit in February 2024, highlighting how the narrative landscape has evolved in different regions of the world with examples of what works and how the public reacts to specific interventions. Canada invited all Member States to help shape the proposal further during the session devoted to Roundtable 5.
40. The Chair thanked the WG for the dynamic work carried out and the significant contribution to the thematic priority on narratives and culture of the GFMD 2022-2023 program. The Chair invited the WG to share progress at the June 2023 event devoted to narratives and culture.
41. The GFMD Mayors Mechanism shared its support for the GFMD Chair's priorities, presenting a summary of its activities and financial budget, indicating that an in-depth overview would be presented in the FOF.
42. The GFMD Business Mechanism expressed support for the GFMD French presidency and illustrated the three workstreams through which the private sector plans to contribute to the program: 1. research and data, 2. Dialogue and advocacy promotion, and 3. Innovation, with special attention to work and human mobility, digital nomads, impact of climate change, skills mobility, legal pathways, start-up competitions/hackathons for innovation and continuous engagement in the ITAC campaign. The GFMD Business Mechanism is looking for partners and invited SG members to connect with the focal point of the GFMD Business Mechanism.
43. The Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) outlined its achievements in engaging youth in the GFMD through Youth Forums and the Youth Innovation Award at the Summit. MYCP expressed its appreciation for the support of the previous Chair, UAE, and current Chair, France, to promote the meaningful engagement of youth in the Forum. It committed to continue bringing youth to the exciting space of the GFMD dialogue with at least 60 participants to the Youth Forum and a new edition of the Innovation Award at the Summit in 2024. More details will be provided during the FOF.
44. The Civil Society Mechanism is preparing to actively engage in all GFMD events and thematic areas. Its Steering Group has recently held strategic consultations and has established a dedicated sub-group to develop a workplan and ensure a significant participation of civil society to all work streams, bringing about 200 civil society representatives, including migrants and diaspora members, to the Summit. The Civil Society Mechanism asked for the support of Member States to finance the participation of civil society to the Summit and in particular of migrants and refugees.
45. The Chair thanked the mechanisms and Youth for their very substantive engagement in supporting the preparation of a successful GFMD Summit.

### **Update on Secretariat matters**

46. This session was reserved to Member States.