

“Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”

**Third Meeting of the Steering Group
La Salle XI, ILO Building, Geneva
10 September 2013**

Summary Report

1. The third meeting of the GFMD Steering Group was chaired by Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, GFMD 2013-2014 Chair. Joining the Chair at the podium was 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 Provisional Agenda was adopted, with some additional announcements from the Chair under Any Other Business.

The presentation of the GFMD Thematic Recollection at the High-level Dialogue on International migration

3. Following the submission of the GFMD Thematic Recollection to the UN Secretary General earlier this year, the GFMD Chair held discussions with UNDESA and the office of the President of the General Assembly to secure a slot for the GFMD to present the Thematic Recollection. It has now been confirmed that the Chair will be given a slot during the plenary session on Friday 4 October, between 9 to 10 am.
4. A draft statement based on the Thematic Recollection has been prepared and discussed at the Troika meeting held earlier in the day, which was attended by all past, present and future GFMD Chairs. The draft statement asserts that the GFMD is a major deliverable of the first High-level Dialogue in 2006 and that the Forum has been successful in enabling dialogue, building trust and sharing experiences. It closes by encouraging governments to maintain their ownership of the Forum, to support it, to engage actively through a broad range of ministries throughout the year and to continue strengthening the development focus of the Forum. Participants expressed their appreciation for the statement prepared by Sweden which they believed reflected the thematic recollection well. The statement will be finalized on the basis of some minor editorial comments offered by the past and future GFMD Chairs.
5. Ahead of the HLD, the Chair encourages all states and observers to include in their statements at the HLD an acknowledgement of the positive contribution that the GFMD has made and continues to do in the area of migration in development.
6. The Chair also announced that a side event will be held on Wednesday, 2 Oct 2013¹, from 3.00 to 4.30pm at Room 3 of the Conference Building, UN New York. It will feature a panel comprised of the SRSG and high level representatives from the past, present and future GFMD Chairs.
7. Mr. Sutherland urged the Steering Group members to help ensure that their capitals will send high-level representatives to the HLD, which he believed will be a rare opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of migrants. To this end, he rallied them to support on-going initiatives on protecting migrants in acute crises, the ratification of the Domestic Workers’ convention and the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 agenda. Mr Sutherland also emphasised the importance of cooperation between Geneva and NY leading up to the high level dialogue. Furthermore, he urged member states to come to the HLD with commitment and to focus on concrete actions.

¹ More details about the side event became known after the SG and FOF meetings on 10 September 2013.

8. A number of Steering Group members as well as Mr Sutherland expressed their support for the Chair's efforts to draw attention to the GFMD achievements at the HLD in October, underlining the fact that the GFMD is a concrete deliverable of the first HLD in 2006. A view was held that the HLD is an opportunity not only to recognize the achievements of the GFMD but also to send a political message that migration and development issues need long term attention and that countries should develop further mechanisms for cooperation in solving common migration-related challenges.
9. Delegates also praised the commitment and initiatives of the SRSG in moving forward the debate on migration and development. It was emphasized by a couple of delegations that the human rights of migrants should remain central to the discussions of the GFMD and the HLD.

Enhancing the working methods of the Steering Group

10. Ahead of the second meeting of the Steering Group, the Swedish Chair circulated a discussion paper dated August 2013, reflecting the results of the discussions in May and comments received by the Chair. By way of background information, the final GFMD Assessment Report includes the recommendation to "*ensure an appropriate regional balance and manageable size of the Steering Group*". Taking this recommendation forward, the Swedish Chair has as a key priority the promotion of a more dynamic Forum and one way of achieving this is by enhancing the working methods of the Steering Group.
11. In response to the Chair's request to SG members reconfirm interest to remain members, 20 out of its 37 member states answered positively, 2 expressed their wish to step down while 14 had not replied. With the point of departure in the comments received so far as well as the views expressed during the assessment phase, the Chair has proposed that a new set of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Steering Group be developed, according to the following principles: i) limit the size of the steering group to no more than 25 members, ii) introduce a rotating membership in some way for example in 3 year cycles (not all members will rotate off the SG at the same times, different cycles would be applied), iii) remodel the composition of the SG based on indication from SG members of their interest to continue as members and the following principles: ensuring regional balance, governments with different migration perspectives (receiving, transit and sending), commitment and active participation in the SG and the overall GFMD process, iv) clarify the expectations of the SG members, v) set up a clear process on how governments can indicate their interest in becoming members of the SG in the future and how this request would be handled and (vi) further defining the roles and responsibilities of the different GFMD supporting structures (i.e Troika and FoF).
12. Delegates welcomed the Chair's continued efforts to enhance the working methods of the GFMD Steering Group vis-à-vis other GFMD supporting structures. Many delegates voiced out their support for the Chair's proposal to take this work forward, including limiting the size of the Steering Group. There were some questions regarding the proposal of rotation system for the Steering Group. Many delegates echoed the need to clarify the expectations of the Steering Group members and at the same time define the different roles and responsibilities between and among the different GFMD structures – the Troika, SG and FOF.
13. Based on the comments received, the Chair promised to develop with the Troika a firmer proposal that will be submitted to the Steering Group at its next meeting in November, with the view of presenting a proposal to the Friends of the Forum in March 2014.

Long-term financing framework for the GFMD

14. A separate discussion paper on the "Long Term Financing of the GFMD" was likewise disseminated to the Steering Group on 13 August which summarises the discussions held to date and proposes some basic elements for a new funding framework for the GFMD, as well as a tentative timeline for next steps.
15. As outlined in the paper, the Chair has proposed the creation of a multi-annual funding mechanism based on a standardized budget with a clear governance and accountability framework. A pledging meeting in the beginning of each chairmanship would be a regular feature. The Chair emphasized the important contribution of the civil society to the GFMD. Based on earlier discussions in the SG, the proposal was to not include a general contribution to civil society in a GFMD standard budget. However, it was emphasised that countries should be strongly encouraged to contribute separately to the GFMD civil society process in order to ensure

that this important process continues. The GFMD pledging meeting could make room for the civil society to present their budget as an integral part of that meeting. The Chair will likewise explore further the possibility to have GFMD contributions considered as DAC contributions, to enable more countries to offer financial support to the process.

16. Several delegates took the floor to convey their unanimous support for the Chair's proposal for a multi-annual financing framework based on a standardized budget. One delegate urged the Chair to work with a budget that supports as accurately as possible the requirements of each Chairmanship, in order to avoid accumulating left-over amounts. At the same time, caution was made against applying left-over contributions towards pilot projects which may be supported by the GFMD in the future.
17. Concerning contribution to the civil society process, the proposal presented by the Swedish Chair was welcomed. The civil society was also encouraged to develop its own multi-annual work plan with corresponding multi-annual funding mechanism. The Chair intends to work with the Troika and other interested Steering Group members to develop the TORs/guidelines for a multi-annual funding framework for the GFMD. The aim is to present a proposal at the next Steering Group meeting to be held on 20 November.

Update on the GFMD 2013-2014 Financial Situation

18. The Chair shared a couple of good news concerning the financial situation of GFMD 2013-2014. First, overall budget went down by 9% from USD 3.2 Million presented in May to USD 2.92 Million. There were two reasons for this budget adjustment, i.e., 1) the limited actual costs incurred for the first GFMD thematic meeting held in May and 2) the delay in hiring the additional posts proposed by the Chair to reinforce the GFMD Support Unit.
19. Second, the Chair had received contributions and firm pledges to date amounting to around USD 1.6 Million. The Chair thanked and acknowledged the Governments of France, India, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the UAE and Turkey that have agreed to realign their left-over balances from GFMD 2012 towards the GFMD 2013-2014 budget. The Chair also thanked the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America that have offered fresh contributions.
20. The Chair drew attention to the remaining budget gap of about USD 1.3 Million and expressed the hope that more contributions will be offered by other Steering Group members in the next 8 months. The Chair invited interested members to address any questions regarding the budget to the Support Unit or the Chair's Secretariat.

Any Other Business

Presentation on "Migrants in Crises" initiative of the SRSG

21. The Chair announced that the SRSG, Mr Sutherland, would hold an informal presentation open to all on the Migrant in Crises initiative at Salle IV of the ILO Building. A simple lunch has been arranged to enable Steering Group members to attend this lunch meeting.

Attendance of the GFMD 2013-2014 Chair in International Meetings

22. Since the last Steering Group assembly in May, the Chair has participated in various meetings as Chair of the GFMD process. These included the HLD preparatory meeting in New York on 25 June, OHCHR's High-Level Meeting on Migration and Human Rights in Geneva in August, the Regional Consultative Meeting in Cairo for the HLD preparations, and the IOM Diaspora Ministerial Conference in Geneva in June. The Chair also took part in the preparations of the Caricom Dialogue on migration and development by delivering a statement to participants through a video link. All presentations/statements on these varied occasions are posted on the GFMD web portal.

Closing Remarks

23. The Chair thanked all the delegates for their active participation and for a very constructive meeting. She reminded the Steering Group that there will be two more meetings scheduled under the Swedish Chairmanship, i.e., on 19 November 2013 and 11 March 2014.

24. The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 hrs.

This summary report was prepared by the GFMD Support Unit.