

## GFMD Dialogue on GCM Implementation

4 September 2018

Palais des Nations, Geneva

### Highlights of Proceedings

#### Introduction

As part of GFMD's efforts to accompany the evolving GCM process and encourage Member States to develop their perspectives on international cooperation on migration in the future, the 2017-2018 Co-Chairs, Germany and Morocco, convened a GFMD Dialogue on GCM implementation on 4 September, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. With the successful finalization of the intergovernmental negotiations on July 13, this Dialogue provided the first opportunity for over 200 representatives from member states, GFMD observers, civil society and private sector to reflect collectively on how the GFMD could help translate the GCM commitments into action. Concretely, the Dialogue aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- To promote a collective understanding of the implications, challenges and opportunities for the GFMD of the final GCM draft released on 11 July 2018
- To harness GFMD's multi-stakeholder space and innovative approaches to support Member States in the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM commitments
- To discuss how GFMD could foster institutional and thematic linkages with the proposed UN network on migration to be coordinated by IOM

#### Opening Session

During the opening session, **Moroccan GFMD Co-Chair, Mr. El Habib Nadir**, recalled the GFMD's engagement in promoting the migration-development nexus throughout the GCM-process. Correspondingly, he welcomed the reflections of GFMD's role as a platform to exchange experiences, share good policies and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships on the Compact's implementation in the final draft. In this sense, the Dialogue provided a timely opportunity to discuss how the GFMD could strengthen its links with the international community at large, thereby maximizing its contribution to the GCM envisaged International Migration Review Forum.

**IOM Director General Ambassador Swing** focused his opening keynote on conceiving the *Migration Week* in Marrakesh as "the end of the beginning", emphasizing the importance of maintaining the Global Compact's momentum in strengthening international cooperation. Describing the UN Migration Network as a "fresh start", he stressed IOM's readiness to take on its coordinating function of the Network in a spirit of partnership. In complementarity, the Dialogue's co-moderators, **Ms. Kathleen Newland and Gibril Faal**, framed the Network as a litmus test for inter-agency cooperation on migration and equally emphasized the GFMD's gradual evolution into a multi-stakeholder forum. Building on this development, Mr. Faal held that

the GFMD could, now more than ever, provide a safe space for exchange on concrete policies and practices that have worked or not.

### ***Session I - Building upon GFMD's Modalities to contribute to the UN Capacity-Building Mechanism on Migration (Lessons learned and good practices)***

Leading a diverse panel, **Ambassador Eduard Gnesa**, who co-chairs the GFMD ten-year Review Team, outlined the preliminary results derived from the Review's questionnaire, which summarize the added value of GFMD in a threefold formula – knowledge, implementation and networking. The GFMD offers these crucial aspects to support the GCM implementation and contribute to the UN capacity-building mechanism (CBM) on migration. **Ambassador Omar Hilale**, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the UN in New York, stressed that the Compact's credibility essentially depends on a holistic framework for follow-up, implementation and review. In this sense, GFMD's multi-stakeholder character might prove instrumental in ensuring that Marrakech will not be an end in itself but rather the beginning of a new era. **Ms. Roula Hamati**, representing the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants, called for an active involvement of civil society organizations as this would correspond to the GFMD's strength as an inclusive space for different stakeholders. **Mr. Chukwu Chikezie and Ms. Estrella Lajom**, in turn, informed on the evolvement of the Platform for Partnerships, whose policy and practice database was recently updated according to GCM thematic clusters and migration-related targets of the 2030 agenda. If the PfP should support the GCM implementation through the CBM, however, some further conceptualization of the PfP's usability for policy-makers might be required. As participants of the Migration Laboratory, **Ms. Athanassia Ioannou and Mr. Bikash Chowdhury Barua**, highlighted the Migration Laboratory's unique format in building a common understanding on migration and development issues among its participants from various sectors. Based on the participants' experience, the methodology of professional dialogue has helped to foster new ideas and solutions, which may also assist in the implementation of the GCM and the Agenda 2030 more broadly.

In the subsequent discussion, Member States, amongst others, advocated for better leveraging the GFMD as an open discussion platform that could support the GCM implementation/review, without confining the GFMD to aspects related to the GCM exclusively. Furthermore, the need for more targeted information and guidance on the PfP was highlighted with a view to improving its usability.

### **Keynote of the SRSG, Ms. Louise Arbour**

In her keynote speech, Ms. Louise Arbour, UNSG's Special Representative (SRSG) for International Migration and Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the GCM, called for the GFMD community to decide on how to best make use of the Forum's characteristics - broad participation, informality, and flexibility – in supporting the GCM implementation. At the same time, Ms. Arbour pointed out that the interplay between relevant institutions and processes mentioned in the GCM, including the CBM, the Migration Network, and the International Migration Review Forum as well as other state-led processes – is yet to be clarified. In procedural terms, she furthermore advocated for a close cooperation with the UN Migration Network, which should serve as the main linkage between the GFMD and the UN in the future. In particular, she suggested for the GFMD support to be focused on a few thematic issues, such as skills development or remittances, in order to maximize targeted policy outcomes

in the short-term. Finally, the SRSG urged Member States to generate concrete, actionable ideas for Marrakesh in order to energize the Compact's implementation right after its envisaged adoption.

In the ensuing debate, Member States commended the SRSG and her team for their tireless efforts throughout the GCM process. With the Compact providing a reinforced basis for international cooperation, delegations recommended to clarify the respective mandates and maximize the available resources of concerned stakeholders. In this sense, it was also suggested that the GFMD could function as a catalyst for implementation at the global level by sharing good practices and experiences. With a view to the upcoming framing meeting of the UN Migration Network in mid-October, further clarification as to the interface between the Network and other stakeholders such as the GFMD was requested. In responding, SRSG Arbour indicated that the interplay of the Network – both internally and externally - would be unraveled as an evolving exercise, beginning with the aforementioned framing meeting.

### ***Session II - Enhancing GFMD's Institutional Linkages – with the UN and beyond – to support the implementation, as well as follow up and review of the GCM.***

With regard to maximizing synergies with the UN and beyond, **Ambassador Esteban Conejos Jr.**, GFMD Review Team Co-Chair and 2008 GFMD Chair, focused his remarks on the preliminary results of the GFMD Review. He shared that participating Member States' responses were clear about the added value of the GFMD in terms of providing space, substance and multiple stakeholders in migration and development. While responses with regard to future perspectives were less clear, three core elements of the GFMD were emerging: 1) informal policy dialogue, 2) data, knowledge and learning, and 3) multi-stakeholder partnerships and projects. These elements would consequently be somehow reflected in the final report of the Review Team, to be presented during the Marrakesh Summit in December.

**Mr. Alex Zalami**, UAE Advisor to the Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization, highlighted that the GFMD's mandate should not be limited to supporting GCM implementation, while at the same time not precluding an evolution in terms of linking with the UN and other processes. In this context, he specifically stressed the importance of synergies with Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), which could benefit from the GFMD's acquired experiences, and vice-versa. From the perspective of civil society organizations, **Mr. Stephane Jaquemet**, Director of Policy at the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), pointed out that the GFMD should indeed not be conceived as a mere annex to the GCM but rather as a full-fledged house, forming a neighborhood with other UN agencies and processes. In this sense, the GCM was to provide the common soil on which these different houses may be restructured and expanded. Civil society, in turn, should be understood as an integral part of the whole architecture. **Ms. Akustina Morni**, Employment Adviser at the International Organization of Employers (IOE) highlighted that the GFMD, by way of including the civil society and the private sector in its discussions, is providing a critical space for multi-stakeholder cooperation on issues such as skills mobility and access to labour market.

Participants subsequently called upon Member States to exercise their ownership in shaping the GFMD's attitude towards the GCM, to clearly define its added value as part of a post-GCM architecture that is adaptable and works on multiple governance levels. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the interactions between the various governance levels should be perceived as a "network flow", decisively driven by decision-making at the national level. Based on the

recognition that global interconnectedness requires global approaches, it was also held that strengthened international cooperation somehow serves to reinforce national sovereignty.

## Closing Session

The closing session looked at the way forward after Marrakesh and beyond. As incoming GFMD Chair, **Ambassador Arturo Cabrera, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador** in Geneva, gave an outlook on 2019 as a watershed moment, with GFMD continuing to play a critical role for generating consensus. With a view to GFMD reporting to the International Migration Review Forum, he advocated for closer cooperation by the GFMD with the UN network and for leveraging existing mechanisms to ensure a systematic alignment with the GCM agenda. **Ms. Eva Åkerman Börje**, Senior Policy Advisor at the Office of the SRSG, encouraged all participants to recognize the GCM's implementation as an era of grit, requiring long-term perseverance and strategic thinking at multiple levels. With specific regard to the GFMD, she advocated for an incremental stabilization of the process both in terms of resources and structures. In this sense, the GFMD should build on its strengths, including flexible working methods, trust-building and informality. **Ms. Michele Klein Solomon**, Director for the GCM at the International Organization for Migration, equally encouraged the GFMD to further develop in identifying the whole spectrum of practices and lessons learned in a state-led and inclusive manner. As to the UN Migration Network, she highlighted that there was a need for a flexible architecture that is relevant and responsive to the needs of member states and migrants alike in making a positive impact on the ground. **Mr. Lars Hartenstein**, Associate Principal at McKinsey & Company, shared about an ongoing project of developing a value lens on the GCM's implementation in cooperation with IOM and the SRSG's office. In doing so, the project team aims to foster a fact based, largely economic perspective on the benefits of implementing the GCM, while also shedding light on the costs of non-action. Mr. Hartenstein furthermore invited Member States to champion this initiative as a forward-looking input to Marrakesh and beyond.

Finally, in closing the Dialogue, **Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme**, German GFMD Co-Chair, re-emphasized the GFMD's nature as a safe space, a laboratory to openly address controversial topics and provide for a realistic perspective on migration. He encouraged all participants to support Ecuador on the road beyond Marrakesh and to already consider steps to be taken with a view to the 2020 GFMD Chairmanship.