

THIRD MEETING OF THE GFMD STEERING GROUP

*“Partnerships for migration and human development – shared prosperity,
shared responsibility”*

Palais des Nations, Geneva

21 July 2010

Report of the Proceedings

Chair: Ambassador Juan José Gomèz Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico in Geneva

Steering Group Members¹: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America

I. Welcoming remarks

Ambassador Juan Jose Gómez Camacho chaired the third meeting of the GFMD Steering Group in which over 50 delegates from 30 Member States participated. He acknowledged the presence of Senator Martha Leticia Sosa, Senator Ludivina Menchaca and Deputy Jesus Zambrano from the Mexican government, and announced that their presence showed the level of commitment and involvement of Mexico's legislative branch in foreign policy on migration, and Mexico's participation in international politics and dialogue on migration.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked the Steering Group to approve the Provisional Agenda, which was adopted without any comment.

III. GFMD 2011 Chair-in-Office

The Chair reported that Spain had decided not to retain the presidency for 2011 for reasons that all countries both understood and respected. The Chair stressed the need to identify another country for the GFMD 2011 Chairmanship. For this reason, the Chair had been actively consulting with Member States, particularly with a couple of countries that had expressed interest in assuming the 2011 Chair. However, consultations were still ongoing. The Chair had wished to identify a substitute before the meeting, but to no avail. He stated that these were not easy times and the Chair would continue with consultations. He was hopeful that a decision would be reached soon. He invited interested countries to come forward and assume the next presidency.

Six delegates offered the following comments on this issue:

1. All of them highlighted the importance of promoting stability and keeping the momentum of the GFMD, and supported the view that identifying a Chair for 2011 would be the best option. At least two delegates commended the Chair's efforts in looking for another Chair for 2011.
2. The delegate from Sweden expressed openness to exploring other possible solutions, including not holding a GFMD meeting in 2011 in case a Chair could not be found soon. This would not unduly harm the GFMD process and could leave some space for the work on the GFMD assessment, issues of global

¹ The Steering Group is currently comprised of 35 Member Countries. See <http://www.gfmd.org/en/gfmd-supporting-framework/steering-group.html>

governance on migration and the upcoming High Level Dialogue (HLD). It might also be possible for Morocco to host the event earlier in 2012. But there was also a need to discuss the financing of the Forum, which had been the reason for two countries already to step down from the Chairmanship. Lastly, Sweden announced that it was seriously considering offering to host the GFMD meeting in 2014, after the HLD.

3. A future Chair, Morocco, clarified that they would host the GFMD in 2012, not earlier and not later than planned. The preparation of a Global Forum is a very serious matter that entails a lot of work and consultations, both in Geneva and in the capital. Morocco would like to ensure the success of GFMD 2012, especially because it will precede the HLD in 2013. Morocco believed that finding the next Chair is a collective responsibility of the Steering Group, and a vacuum in 2011 should not be allowed. Hence, holding further consultations on this issue was encouraged, and Morocco was ready to help in facilitating and reaching a compromise for a solution.
4. One delegate cautioned against hasty preparations of a global process, and opined that the occasion has risen to consider holding biennial instead of annual meetings of the GFMD.
5. One delegate expressed regret for the withdrawal of Spain, but was optimistic that a good solution could be found in due time, given the high level of commitment of states and other stakeholders to the GFMD process. In view of the upcoming GFMD assessment and the September HLD in 2013, it was very important to hold another two GFMD meetings before the HLD, but not necessarily in 2011 and 2012, respectively.
6. Another delegate emphasized the need to maintain the dialogue on a number of issues relating to migration in general, and to the specific formations and internal dynamics of the Forum in particular. These would include the GFMD assessment, the whole set of global governance issues that have come up in various fora and how the GFMD connects to those processes, including the role of IOM. Hence, as a possible contingency measure, holding a set of smaller-scale informal meetings in Geneva, in lieu of a full annual GFMD meeting, was also a possibility.
7. Two delegates welcomed the offer of Sweden to host GFMD 2014.

The Chair welcomed the suggestions that were put forward. However, Mexico was focused on pursuing the option for a new Chair in 2011. He expressed the hope that with the help of the Steering Group, a new Chair would already be in place by the time of the next SG meeting.

IV. Update on Roundtable preparations

The Chair called upon the RT Coordinators and Co-chairs to provide an update on the status of preparations of the three Roundtables of Mexico GFMD.

Roundtable session 1.1 : Partnerships for More Regular and Protected Migration

Dr. Jorge Durand, RT 1 Coordinator, reported that RT 1.1 is co-chaired by France and Brazil, with 11 Government team members (Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, USA). It also draws support from 2 international organizations (IOM and OECD). Roundtable 1.1 is forward-looking, towards global and bilateral partnerships for more regular and protected migration. It recognizes the fact that regular does not necessarily mean protected. The roundtable also looks at the geographical and historical context and connections for migration. It is being hoped that the background paper will be ready by mid-August.

Co-Chair Brazil thanked the team members for the inputs that were submitted so far and encouraged other countries to provide best practices that demonstrate their partnerships with other countries and within their countries -- with civil society, NGOs, and other stakeholders -- for more regular and protected migration. **Co-Chair France** then announced that they were preparing a national contribution by submitting some examples and good practices that will illustrate the multifaceted partnerships for more regular and protected migration. He cited as a best practice example the 2006 Agreement on concerted management of migratory flows, which had three complements -- legal migration, illegal migration control, and mutually supportive development or co-development projects.

Roundtable session 1.2 : Joint strategies to address irregular migration

Dr. Durand announced that the team is co-chaired by Ecuador and the Netherlands, with 9 Government team members (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Philippines, and Republic of Moldova), drawing support from the IOM. The Roundtable looks at the present and takes note of the fact that irregular migration exists and is a big and polemical issue in some countries of destination and transit. This is the first GFMD roundtable that will discuss irregular migration in a straightforward manner; hence, the team believes that more work on this issue will have to be done in the future. The team met the day before and decided to finish the background paper by mid-August.

Co-Chair Netherlands reiterated the importance of an interactive roundtable and the need to share information and learn from each other and their experiences in dealing with migration. **Co-Chair Ecuador** mentioned that it recently presented a paper that held the consensual opinion of South American countries on the issue of irregular migration. He was hopeful that the Roundtable will have a very constructive and positive agenda that will not put any blame or bad marks on the migrants.

An RT 1.2 team member intervened and recalled that their team highlighted the issue of irregular migration as relevant not only to transit and destination countries, but also countries of origin. Thus, discussions on this issue could lead to a common understanding of the nature of irregular migration, as seen from different perspectives. Also, the team hopes that some partnerships among countries on how to tackle irregular migration will be identified.

Roundtable 2.1 : Labor Mobility: strategies for human development

Dr. Irena Omelaniuk, RT 2 Coordinator, mentioned that Co-Chairs, UAE, Sweden, and Sri Lanka, have re-titled the Roundtable as "*Reducing the cost of migration and maximizing human development*". The team is relatively big, comprising, in addition to the co-chairs, 14 Governments, namely Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Germany, Greece, Kenya, Japan, Mauritius, Moldova, Mexico, South Africa, and Spain. It also draws support from the IOM, ILO, WHO, and the EU.

The Roundtable will continue some of the previous years' work on labor mobility, with a particular focus on temporary and circular labor migration. It will explore some specific national and transnational initiatives by government and civil society, and where possible, partnerships between the two, to ensure that such kinds of human mobility across borders occur in a manner supportive of human development of the migrants, their families, and the home and host communities. The Roundtable will discuss how improving the prospects for migrants through labor market opportunities, health, education and training support can enhance their integration and reintegration potential, as well as increase their capacity to secure their well-being and the growth of their families and communities.

Dr. Omelaniuk also drew attention to this year's work plan of the ad hoc Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Migrants for Development, which includes some studies in support of the discussions of Roundtable 2.1, namely: a) an inter-country comparative study on end-of service and social protection systems for different types of migrants across the permanent, temporary and circular spectrum; b) testing a scheme to provide low-cost migrant loans and engage bank partners in reintegration support programs within the framework of the Abu Dhabi dialogue partnership among Asian countries of origin and destination; and c) a study on the experience of Argentina's National Social Forum of Migrants to detect and combat xenophobic attitudes against foreign workers present in the country.

Co-Chair UAE added that two other pertinent activities will be undertaken by the UAE whose outcomes, either preliminary or final, will have a bearing on Roundtable 2.1. First, a study will be launched in August to focus on the impact of working in the UAE on the welfare of migrants and their families in sending countries. The study will involve a sample of between 4,000 and 5,000 Indian workers and their households from Kerala State in India. It will compare the situation of households of workers whose jobs were cancelled due to the global economic downturn with those who were able to work in the UAE.

Second, the UAE will also organize an international seminar on overseas labor recruitment practices in December this year. The seminar will bring together a select number of governments from Asian countries of

origin, the governments of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as labor-receiving or host countries, multilateral organizations engaged in migration issues, and Asian NGOs and/or NGO networks who will consider an international or regional framework of collaboration to ensure transparent and fair recruitment practices.

UAE encouraged any other governments interested in learning more about what is being done and/or participating in these activities to express their interest through the GFMD Support Unit.

Co-Chair Sweden, reported that their preparations were progressing very well, and that the draft background paper was already sent to all the team members for comments. A second meeting of the team was scheduled the following day to discuss the draft paper and the format of the Roundtable.

Roundtable 2.2: Migration, Gender and Family

Dr. Omelaniuk advised that the team is chaired by Mexico, and includes the Governments of Armenia, Chile, Ecuador, Greece, Israel, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom as team members. International organizations assisting this Roundtable are IFAD, ILO, IOM, WHO, and UNIFEM. For the first time, this Roundtable will tackle the issues of migration, gender, and family in a central and focused way, giving due regard to the whole area of social policies to support family and women as important and significant agents for development within the migration and development discourse. It is being led by a very professional team from the Instituto Nacional de Migracion in Mexico City, whose key author, Dr. Salvador Berumen, was present in the meeting. She then handed the floor to Mr, Hugo Rodriguez, representative of Roundtable Chair Mexico.

Before giving the floor to Mr. Rodriguez, the Chair clarified that Greece was previously their co-Chair, but the latter withdrew for well-understood and respected reasons. Mexico would like to have a co-Chair for this session, and had been consulting with other Governments for this purpose.

Mr. Rodriguez reiterated the Chair's call for a partner in order to have a much more enriched and interesting debate. The session's main objective is to recognize the importance of focusing on family rather than solely on the individual as a unit of analysis in migration studies and public policies. Such focus will show that gender roles and family structures can be greatly affected by and greatly affect migration patterns, outcomes for development, and vice versa. These new lenses can assist public policy-makers on issues such as human development, human rights, health, and education, which are all fundamental to the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals. The family is a significant force for social cohesion and social development, and the lack of focus on it has also left out such important issues as family fragmentation and social policies and practices that can assist and further enhance development practices, both in countries of origin and destination.

Roundtable 3.1 : Policy and institutional coherence to address the relationship between migration and development

RT 3 Coordinator, **Dr. Rolph Jenny**, called on Roundtable 3.1 **Co-Chair Switzerland** to give an update. Switzerland first thanked co-chairs Argentina and Kenya for a very good and smooth cooperation. The preparatory work for the background paper of RT 3.1 is well advanced. Two experts are drafting the background paper, i.e., Dr. Khalid Koser and Ms. Laura Gianelli. The team met on 08 July to discuss the first draft outline of the background paper. This will be followed by a second meeting in early August to discuss a more detailed draft of the background paper. The 3 co-chairs are confident that the final draft can be sent to the Mexican Chair by mid-August. The preparatory work of RT 3.1 also benefits from the results and insights gained from a recent seminar held in Vienna on assessing the impact of migration and development policies, organized by the ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research which is co-chaired by Switzerland and Morocco. **Co-chair Kenya** seconded the Swiss intervention.

Morocco then informed the Steering Group about the latest activity of the ad-hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, which was a 2-day seminar on assessing the impacts of migration and development policies, funded by the government of Switzerland and organized by Dr. Jenny and the ICMPD. The seminar was held on 30 June and 1 July 2010 pursuant to the Working Group's meeting on 4 December 2009, and in response to calls made during previous GFMD meetings to assess policies and practices on migration and development. The Vienna seminar gathered representatives of over ten governments from

different regions, representing origin and destination countries with different migration policy and development perspectives. A number of international agencies and academia also lent crucial support and provided useful insights. The seminar participants reviewed current, past and planned government and other assessments of the migration impact on development and the development impacts on migration.

Participants also sought to identify relevant key indicators for policy assessments and then discussed the issue of Migration Profiles to further develop a process that would meet the specific needs of countries interested in developing their own profiles. Thorough discussions were also held on the issue of integrating migration into development planning, taking into consideration relevant poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs), as well as national adaptation plans of action concerning climate change (NAPAs). The many ideas and outcomes of the seminar will also feed into the preparatory documents of Mexico GFMD, particularly for RT 3.1. A comprehensive report on the seminar will be forwarded to the Chair shortly.

Two delegates who participated in the seminar took the floor. One found the two-day seminar to be most productive for two reasons: Firstly, it discussed the issue of assessment of the impact of migration on development and the Migration Profiles, two topics that are deemed very important but largely neglected by most countries. The meeting showed that most countries have no assessment programs or yardsticks, and very few countries have in fact developed their own migration profiles. Secondly, the meeting also served as a platform for partnerships in some way, as it opened the doors for common projects that can be pursued with other governments, resulting from the discussions of the meeting. He thus urged the GFMD to support further activities of the ad-hoc Working Group which are much highly appreciated and valued by governments.

The second delegate added that a key message that came out of the meeting was the importance of ownership of the Migration Profiles by the governments, and the need to use internationally accepted definitions when developing such country profiles.

Dr. Jenny added that the seminar was a useful exercise both for the government and non-government participants with a presence of over 50 colleagues, with equal representation of both sectors. In preparation of the seminar, an informal inquiry on policy impact assessments was carried out with GFMD participating governments. The inquiry responses pointed to the fact that most governments, with a few exceptions, do not have assessment mechanisms in place that would enable them to evaluate the longer term impact of certain migration policies. The seminar confirmed this fact. The seminar also tackled another important issue which was recommended in Athens -- the Migration Profiles as a comprehensive tool for information-gathering in migration source countries, relating to all aspects that are of relevance for coherent policies on migration and development. A short document on progress made with the Migration Profiles will be presented in Puerto Vallarta, together with the overall seminar report.

The Roundtable 3.1 background paper will also deal more specifically with migration policy impacts assessment, including such areas as migrant integration, return and reintegration, effects of migration on the economic and social development in host countries and in destination countries, etc. The paper will certainly make reference to the difficulty for many governments to create mechanisms for assessing the longer-term consequences and impacts of government policies on migration and development..

Roundtable 3.2 : Assessing the impact of climate change on migration and development.

Co-chair United Kingdom reported that the draft background paper was already circulated for comments and that the next Roundtable team meeting would be held at the UK mission on the 11th of August. He thanked the Bangladesh co-chair for the excellent cooperation and passed the floor to Dr. Jenny, who recalled that previous Steering Group meetings had discussed whether it was appropriate to address the issue of climate change and migration in the GFMD context. After the initial preparations for such a session he was convinced that governments were right to focus on this complex matter. The session will *inter alia* seek to contextualize the international debate that is going on between the so-called “alarmists”, i.e., those who consider that climate change will result in massive movements and forced displacements, and the others that take a more cautious approach and consider climate change, and in particular environmental degradation, as one among other factors that throughout history has pushed people to move to another place.

Roundtable 3.3 : Regional consultative processes and inter-regional fora

This Roundtable is co-chaired by Indonesia, Morocco and Spain. **Co-chair Spain** observed that the team had a very wide range of geographic diversity, which was very good. The team had already met twice. A very good background paper was drafted by IOM. The Roundtable focuses not only on the activities of different regional processes, but more so on how these regional processes can contribute to the migration and development nexus. It also looks into the obstacles of promoting coherence among the regional processes, such as the lack of whole-of-government approach. It stresses the need for more integrated views on migration and development and other policies, in order to analyze what are the positive linkages between migration and development and how to foster these linkages.

The Chair thanked all the RT Coordinators and Co-Chairs for the wonderful update on the status of the Roundtable preparations. He then invited Mr. Chukwu Emeka Chikezie to summarize the results of the experts meeting in Mexico City, which was convened to ensure coherence between civil society and governments on the roundtables and sub-theme issues.

V. Highlights of the CSD-Taskforce Experts Meeting

Mr. Chikezie reported that an experts meeting took place on 12-13 July in Mexico city, gathering together the paper writers of the GFMD 2010 Civil Society Days, GFMD government days roundtable coordinators, Mexican government representatives, members of the GFMD taskforce, the MacArthur Foundation who funded the meeting, staff of the Fundacion BBVA Bancomer, members of the CSD Organizing Committee, and some members of the international advisory committee.

There were two notable differences between this year's experts meeting and similar meetings that took place in the last two years. Firstly (compared with 2009), it was held much earlier in the GFMD planning process to enable the discussants to synergize their points much more closely. Secondly, for the first time, the CSD international advisory committee took part in the meeting. Hopefully, this would engender a much more focused and policy-relevant discussion and feedback to governments during the GFMD meeting itself.

The discussions also benefited from the participation of the Roundtable Coordinators, which was very useful in enabling a fruitful, two-way interaction. The Coordinators shared the issues that governments were trying to address and how governments were framing these issues. Conversely, the civil society participants talked about the kinds of issues they were dealing with. It was particularly useful in honing policy-relevant messages that civil society would like to send to governments. The Civil Society organizers recognized and became sensitized to the opportunity to stock-take on the civil society side of the GFMD process, in order to better understand how Civil Society participants in previous GFMD meetings had actually informed and enhanced their own part as a result of their participating in the GFMD, how useful governments found the recommendations that Civil Society participants had made to governments, and what role Civil Society actors might have played in the implementation of recommendations that governments themselves had implemented. Lastly, the two-day interaction offered some enriching ideas for the Common Space concept.

VI. Common Space

After thanking Mr. Chikezie for his excellent report and hearing no comments from the floor, the Chair proceeded to discuss the Common Space. He outlined Mexico's idea, as follows:

- 1) The first day of the government segment will have a brief opening ceremony and hopefully three hours of common space. All civil society and government representatives will be present together in the opening session.
- 2) The common space will have two back-to-back and dynamic panel discussions. The Taskforce is currently working on possible topics for the two panels.
- 3) Each panel will have 6 panellists plus one moderator. Three of the panellists will come from governments and the other three from Civil Society. They will exchange views under the guidance of

the moderator, and in a very conversational and non-confrontational setting. After the panel discussion, some time will be allowed for Qs and As.

The Chair explained that the main objective is to create a common space in which governments and Civil Society, and governments from different sides of the migration spectrum can have meaningful, interesting, and dynamic exchanges of views.

The Chair stated that the Taskforce is now working on identifying suitable moderators and panellists from both governments and Civil Society. Mexico had been explaining carefully to Civil Society the nature and spirit of this exercise, and they understood clearly that it would be an opportunity for positive and constructive engagement, instead of challenging, finger-pointing, or blaming governments.

The Chair expressed openness to receiving any suggestions for the government panellists. Ministers who will go to Puerto Vallarta could be considered for this role.

The Chair's proposal elicited comments from 12 delegates.

1. Many saw merit in the proposal and agreed that it could improve the communication and linkages between governments and Civil Society. They commended the Chair for its creativity in looking for new ways to expand the engagement between Civil Society and governments while maintaining the integrity of the government space. One thought the idea of a panel was an excellent format for such an exercise. Another thought it was an elegant compromise to give additional time to the Civil Society in the government-led GFMD process.
2. Two delegates believed that the Chair has conducted an open and consensual process from the very beginning, and that the proposal was consistent with the discussions held at the last Steering Group meeting.
3. One delegate immediately announced that their Minister for Migration Issues would be interested in joining the government panel. He also informed the Steering Group that a Global Forum for Civil Society on Migration will take place in Ecuador in October, just a few days before the Puerto Vallarta meeting.
4. Three raised practical questions:
 - a) One delegate asked if the topics for discussion had already been identified, to which the Chair responded that the topics were still under discussion.
 - b) Another delegate asked what would be the criteria for participation in case there was limited space, and whether or not the private sector would also be invited to the common space. The Chair gave the assurance that all governments would be allowed to participate in the common space, together with about 250 civil society representatives. Concerning the private sector, the Chair will participate in a large international event for and among businessmen or private sector that will take place in Mexico the weekend before the Forum. The Chair will explore the possibility of the private sector joining in the common space.
 - c) Another delegate inquired if the interface on the second day of the Civil Society where governments and civil society will discuss the roundtable themes together would be retained, and if the Civil Society would be invited to submit their recommendations to the governments the following day. The Chair responded in the affirmative to both questions.
5. One delegate expressed the view that it was the prerogative of the Chair to find the right way to organize the common space, given the informal nature of the GFMD. Networking and good and productive interface between government and civil society must be encouraged during the common space. The NGO's do the practical work on the ground, and the common space could be an opportunity for governments to listen to, and learn best practices from NGOs and other partners in migration and development work. He suggested giving two to three minutes each to all NGOs present to talk about these best practices.
6. Three delegates voiced some reservations:
 - a) One delegate cautioned that the proposed format would reduce the time allocated for governments and suggested instead to hold the common space in the afternoon or evening of the second day of the CSD.

This delegate also suggested either discussing the Roundtable issues which were common to governments and Civil Society, instead of having a couple of new themes for the panels, or at least having both the RT discussions together and the panels. The interface between governments and Civil Society held in Athens could be improved by ensuring that all countries involved in the different roundtable sessions will be present in the discussion with the civil society, and by holding the CSD and government meetings in the same place.

- b) Another delegate stressed the importance of maintaining a balance of usefulness when giving space to the Civil Society in order to guarantee the state-led character of the GFMD. This means engaging with Civil Society in a fruitful manner and ensuring governments have enough time and space to engage with one another. Also, the topics for the panel discussion should be carefully chosen by the Taskforce in order to strike the right balance between governmental and Civil Society aims.
- c) A third delegate appreciated the Chair's initiative to cut down on protocol and ceremonials, in order to yield additional time for real work for the Global Forum. However, he believed that the saved time could also be used for additional interaction among governments. He suggested looking at the previous interface sessions in order to improve them and make sure that there will be better interaction between governments and Civil Society this year, instead of holding the governments as a rather captive audience during the common space.

In response to the above issues, the Chair offered some clarification:

- 1. The time for the government segment will not be reduced. As in the past GFMD meetings, the governments will be allotted a full one-and-a-half days for their meeting. The first morning of the two-day Government meeting has always been used for the opening ceremony and the General Debate.
- 2. The topics of the panels will indeed relate to the outcomes of the Civil Society Days, but also allow for new issues that are of common interest to the governments and the civil society.
- 3. The Chair believed that it would be difficult to gather the governments together during the afternoon or evening of the second Civil Society day, and therefore it would not be the ideal time to do the common space.
- 4. Holding the common space during the opening day of the government meeting sends a strong political message to the Civil Society about governments' renewed and heightened interest to engage them in the process.

The Chair thanked all delegates who expressed support for the proposal and gave assurance to those who raised some concerns and suggestions that they would be further consulted about the details of the plan. But he reminded all delegates that the ideas he outlined concerning the common space were nothing new, but were in fact lengthily discussed during the meeting of the Steering Group in April. More importantly, these ideas were a result of an open, transparent, and consensual consultation process undertaken by the Chair.

The Chair then requested Mr. Chikezie to report on the developments of the Platform for Partnership (PfP).

VII. Platform for Partnerships

Mr. Chikezie reminded the Steering Group that the main objective of the PfP was to serve as another tool to help governments extract maximum benefit from their participation in the GFMD, particularly by showcasing and highlighting initiatives in relation to migration and development, and for which partnerships are sought.

He then highlighted the following developments since the last SG meeting in April:

- 1. The Chair developed and circulated the PfP operating guidelines in May, which received some satisfactory responses from governments. As outlined in these guidelines, the idea of the PfP is to enable a stronger and sharper focus on priority areas in relation to previous GFMD Roundtable outcomes, Working Group priorities or current Roundtable issues and sub-themes.

2. The Government of Switzerland has signalled its willingness to provide six months support for the initial operation of the PfP. The funding would cover the cost of hiring a PfP administrator who would sit within the GFMD Support Unit with the prime responsibility of operationalizing the Platform, plus other related administrative costs.
3. The PfP is now ready for formal and final launch. There are three proposals that are being considered, which actually and interestingly relate to the different aspects of the GFMD process: a) one is an outcome from Roundtable 1.2 in Athens – to develop a diaspora handbook; b) one relates to a Working Group priority which is Migration Profiles; c) a third one relates to Roundtable 2 and involves the work of the Mexican government on migration of unaccompanied minors.

VIII. Future of the Forum

The Chair made available a draft document paper on the special session on the Future of the Forum to discuss a possible framework for the GFMD assessment. The Chair deemed that it would be best to wait with the discussion of the paper until after the Chair has consulted with the Troika. Thereafter, a newer version will be circulated to the Steering Group for comments. The Chair committed to carry out thorough consultations with governments on this matter, as it has done in the past on other issues.

The Chair underscored some points regarding the assessment process: a) it would be an ongoing and evolving process to be led by the Chair and the Troika with the help of some states; b) it would not undermine the work plans of future Chairs; c) initial discussions among Heads of Delegations will begin in Puerto Vallarta, but the assessment process will be completed under the Moroccan Presidency; and d) the preparations for the Special Session on the assessment process will be organized in the same way as in the other RT sessions, with a government team leading the discussions.

Five delegates offered some comments on the Future of the Forum issue:

1. Morocco considered that the Future of the Forum session and the assessment exercise were two different exercises. The former will focus on the technical aspects of the GFMD process, such as the funding issue. On the other hand, the assessment will focus more on the political dimension of the Forum. As such, it should be left to the governments to further deepen the discussion on the assessment in the lead up to the 2012 GFMD and the 2013 UNHLD.
2. One delegate supported the intervention of Morocco and the preliminary overview of the Chair that the assessment process would be an ongoing and evolving process to be led by the Chair, the Troika and some interested countries, and that it would not pre-empt the work of the future Chairs. The delegate finally added that the Future of the Forum discussions should aim at enhancing the interconnection between migration and development.
3. Two delegates reiterated their interest to join the government team that would organize the special session on the future of the Forum. One of them believed that there was no distinction between the future of the Forum and the assessment process in the sense that the two run in parallel, and they feed into each other.
4. One delegate inquired when and how the Chair would set up the government team. Another delegate underlined the importance of clarifying the question as to where the discussions of the assessment exercise would take place, and where the decisions as regards the future of the Forum will be taken. The Chair said that he had no ready answers, and that further consultations will be done on these issues.

The Chair then called upon Mr. Hugo Rodriguez to discuss the last agenda item.

IX. Organizational matters

Mr. Rodriguez first acknowledged and expressed gratitude to the 13 Member States, 2 International Organizations and 1 international foundation that have provided financial and in-kind contributions to Mexico GFMD. He echoed the Chair's call to all remaining states to contribute to the Mexican GFMD budget in order

to promote a broader ownership of the process. In accordance with the budget previously sent to all Friends of the Forum, most of these international funds will cover the participation of least developed countries and lower income countries delegates at the Puerto Vallarta meeting. Information about how this process will be conducted will soon be posted on the official website of Mexico GFMD, and will be disseminated alongside the official invitation to be distributed to delegates in early August.

So far, international contributions have amounted to about 700.000 Euros. The host country would shoulder almost sixty percent of total expenditures due mainly to the high costs of organizing a global event. As such, the Mexican Chair in Office is making a tremendous effort to reduce all costs that were not really contributing to the development of the Forum, and has made a call for un-earmarked contributions in order to also fund the operational expanses of the Forum, thereby creating a more balanced budget not only for the Mexico Meeting, but also for future meetings.

With the assistance of the Support Unit, an online registration system has been created which will be fully functional soon. The Support Unit will send the respective usernames and passwords to all focal points by the end of the month. These security codes will enable the focal points not only to register for Puerto Vallarta, but also to access the other functionalities of the GFMD web portal, such as the Platform for Partnerships, the member / country profiles, and focal points directory.

Lastly, concerning the visa requirements for Puerto Vallarta, all relevant information will be posted on the Mexican website in French, English and Spanish languages. Likewise, a provisional consulate will be established at the Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva to assist the delegates with their visa requirements. Finally, it was announced that an arrangement had been reached with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to assist visa procedures for delegates that live in countries where Mexico does not have any consular or any diplomatic representation.

II. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed. The Chair thanked everyone for a very good meeting which closed at 13.00 hours.

Prepared by:
GFMD Support Unit