



4 March 2011

Concept Paper

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Switzerland 2011

Taking Action on Migration and Development - Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation

1. OBJECTIVES

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcomes-oriented dialogue. Over the past four years, the GFMD has sought to contribute to more policy *coherence* on migration and development at the national, regional and global levels, strengthen the *capacity* of States to address migration and development opportunities and challenges more effectively, and promote international *cooperation* among states and between states and other actors. Through its inclusive approach, ongoing consultations and follow-on activities it has also become more than just an annual conference.

In lieu of a full annual GFMD meeting, 2011 will provide space for a series of smaller, focused and action-oriented meetings around the world, with the flagship theme *Taking action on Migration and Development – Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation*. These thematic meetings will build on the content and key outcomes of previous GFMD meetings. They will also tap into the concrete experiences of practitioners on the ground and explore some of the practical applications of GFMD discussions at national, regional and international levels. The results and outcomes of these meetings will be drawn together and discussed in a final two-day extended Meeting of the Friends of the Forum in Geneva in early December 2011.

The Chair intends to involve governments in all regions, to maintain the global, voluntary and state-led character of the process, as well as other GFMD stakeholders, including the Global Migration Group (GMG), civil society and the private sector. Working in partnership with governments and other actors is in itself a key objective of GFMD 2011.

Another priority for the 2011 Chair will be to initiate and guide the first phase of the GFMD assessment process, as discussed and endorsed in the final report of the Chair. This version takes account of the principal comments received.

2. 2011 FORMAT

The Chair proposes an action-oriented and regionally-balanced program of substantive activity in 2011, in reflection of the 2011 GFMD theme: *Taking Action on Migration and Development - Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation*.

While preserving the global nature of the Forum, the Chair is promoting the organization of a series of smaller thematic meetings (workshops, seminars, etc.) around the world, dedicated to focused and

etc. This will continue in 2011 when governments, individually and jointly, would prepare, organize and co-chair thematic meetings in cooperation with the Chair. Furthermore, throughout the year, governments will play a key role in discussing and reviewing the outcomes of the various thematic meetings, both in the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum meetings.

International Organizations and Civil Society

Cooperation with and thematic input from relevant *international organizations*, in particular the Global Migration Group, would remain as in the past. Interested organizations may also be approached to co-organize, with the GFMD Chair and interested governments, thematic meetings relevant to the GFMD 2011 work plan.

Cooperation with *civil society* will largely depend on the format and themes of the 2011 work plan. A mutually reinforcing *modus operandi* will need to be discussed and defined jointly with both civil

Pulling the strings together Extended Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

The Chair will organize an extended Friends of the Forum meeting with all GFMD stakeholders at the end of 2011.¹ This two-day meeting will discuss the outcomes of the thematic meetings held during the year. Discussions would be held in break-out and plenary sessions and be structured along the three thematic clusters. This final meeting of the Friends of the Forum will also include a special session on the GFMD assessment, as well as a space for government-civil society interaction, possibly a panel. The meeting will take place in Geneva and is tentatively scheduled for 1/2 December 2011.

Timelines

The Chair will finalize the concept paper in February/March 2011, based on written inputs received from the Friends of the Forum and the Steering Group by 4 February, and consultations with the Steering Group during its meeting on 8 February. In the wake of this meeting, the Chair will engage in consultations with potential partners. The final paper will be shared with the Friends of the Forum for a meeting planned in mid March. The bulk of thematic meetings (workshops, seminars) should take place from April to September/October 2011. The details of each thematic meeting will be announced

temporary and circular migrants as a precondition for enhanced development outcomes. The specific situation of migrant women was examined through the example of the global care industry, where some of the most blatant forms of gender-based discrimination and disempowerment of migrants are occurring.

Under this cluster, the Chair would support thematic meetings on three practical strategies for making labour migration work better for countries of origin and destination and the migrants: engaging the private sector in labour market planning, lowering the costs of migration for development, and better

CLUSTER II

Addressing irregular migration through coherent migration and development strategies

The Puerto Vallarta session on irregular migration saw a deepening of this important debate since its first appearance in Manila in 2008 and a recommendation that it remains on the GFMD agenda. While the focus was on migrant vulnerability and protection, participants also addressed such issues as inter-state cooperation based on shared responsibility, the causes of irregular movements, the human rights of all migrants and the right not to migrate, the need for sustainable development and decent labour conditions in source countries, and the various effects of irregular migration on the human development of migrants and their families.

Irregular migration has a number of negative causes and consequences. In countries of origin, the absence of jobs and sustainable development has prompted many people to look for opportunities abroad, often in irregular ways, especially where there is inadequate information about the

impact of migration and development policies and to support capacity-building. A series of concrete initiatives and projects were developed in this context by GFMD stakeholders, and the Chair, in conjunction with the WGs, intends to promote active follow-up to test some of these activities.

Sub-themes and possible meetings

i) Handbook on ‘Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning’

The Handbook on ‘Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning’ recently published by the Global Migration Group and presented at Puerto Vallarta, is addressed to policy-makers and practitioners and contains detailed guidance for governments to define their migration and development policies and programs. The Handbook is already considered a major step forward for concrete action in this crucial field. One or more meeting/s would be convened with the support of the Working Groups to promote the use of the Handbook and test its initial implementation with governments, international agencies and experts. Partners would be relevant GMG agencies.

ii) Impact Assessments of Migration and Development Policies

Following the stated interest in Puerto Vallarta to pursue this issue, a workshop could be organized with experts, interested

Centre for Mediterranean Integration in Marseille would be sought to co-organize such a workshop as , jointly implemented with IOM. Such a meeting would also be related to work done at the EU/EC level

l to create a clearinghouse to include and share information on assessment indicators and methods of evaluation could be pursued in the same context. The Working Groups would support such a meeting.

iii) Implementing Migration Profiles

Puerto Vallarta generally endorsed the usefulness of Migration Profiles as a comprehensive data and information tool for evidence-based policy making on migration and development, to be supported by appropriate capacity building. Meetings could be held in different locations with governments, relevant agencies and experts to further promote Migration Profiles and to measure progress on implementation. With the support of the Working Groups, these meetings would be supported by relevant international agencies and bodies, such as the EC, UNITAR, IOM, other GMG agencies and ICMPD.

4. NATIONAL GFMD FOCAL POINTS SYSTEM

In view of the work-intensive and decentralized thematic program, and the need to also involve capitals in the assessment exercise, it will be necessary to communicate at short notice and throughout the year with GFMD governments in capitals. The Chair therefore plans to address a letter to the Friends of the Forum in order to reactivate the GFMD national focal points.

5. GFMD ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Chair will pay particular attention to the GFMD assessment and guide this process in 2011, following the endorsement, in November 2010 in Puerto Vallarta, of the Assessment Framework and the Terms of Reference of the Government Assessment Team. A first meeting of the Assessment Team was held in October 2010, chaired by the former Chair Mexico, followed by a second meeting on 14 December 2010, chaired by Switzerland.

At its second meeting, the Team reviewed the list of elements to be assessed and reaffirmed that Phase 1 of the assessment will be conducted in 2011. It also agreed that Phase 1 will look at past and current experiences and practices of the GFMD process, while at the same gathering information on those areas where the Forum can or should improve its future way of functioning. The evidence gained from phase 1 will feed into the 2012 strategic analysis by the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum on

should be neutral and will be developed with the assistance of one or two part-time assessment experts that will support the internal assessment Task Force. The assessment expert(s) should have a technical function only and be recruited from entities that have no vested governmental or institutional interest in matters relating to migration and development.

The Steering Group and Friends of the Forum will be informed on a regular basis about the GFMD assessment process, which will also be addressed at the final Friends of the Forum meeting.

6. FRIENDS OF THE FORUM AND STEERING GROUP

The Chair intends to convene regular meetings of the Friends of the Forum (FoF) and the Steering Group (SG) in Geneva in order to exchange and discuss relevant Forum-related developments, including the GFMD Assessment, the activities of the Working Groups and developments on the Platform for Partnerships. Meetings of the FoF and the SG will not necessarily be held back-to-back, and the FoF and the SG could be assigned separate roles in 2011, along the following lines:

The **Steering Group** meetings could be used to: (i) discuss work progress of the Assessment Team; (ii) review 2011 thematic Work Plan and present updates on its implementation; (iii) discuss the activities of the Working Groups and developments on the Platform for Partnerships; and (iv) discuss other dialogues on migration and development in the international arena, such as the 2011 Informal Thematic Debate in the UN General Assembly.

The **Friends of the Forum** meetings could be used to: (i) provide regular updates on the discussions of the SG; (ii) offer updates on the assessment exercise and raise awareness of the importance for **capitals** to contribute to the exercise; (iii) share the work plans of the Working Groups, including interest in concrete engagement in these groups, and (iv) share information on the PfP and convene side meetings where latest projects on the Platform for Partnerships could be presented and discussed.