

Stockholm, 13 May 2013

Dear Steering Group members and Friends of the Forum,

The Swedish Chair presented a draft budget proposal for the GFMD 2013-2014 at our last meetings in February this year. After taking into consideration all comments received, the Chair is pleased to present to you an updated budget proposal, enclosed herewith.

We would like to highlight the changes that have been done:

- The costs have been further specified looking at the model of a standardized GFMD budget.
- The costs of preparatory activities as well as the final meeting went down by 6% and 2%, respectively, after adjusting estimates based on the IOM travel facilitation proposal.
- The operational budget of the Support Unit went down by 5%, because we were unable to hire the positions earlier proposed.
- Contingency has been adjusted to 3%, from only 2.5% of the overall budget in February 2013.

All these changes resulted in a reduction of 3% in the overall budget from USD 3.306M to USD 3.203M.

The Swedish Chair would like to underline the fact that instead of the usual 12-14 month period of the GFMD Chairmanships, Sweden will chair the Forum for 18 months, until 30 June 2014. This extended period creates some extraordinary challenges when it comes to the GFMD budget. While the annual Forum meeting will take place in May 2014, a considerable number of regular GFMD meetings and thematic meetings will take place already during 2013. Financial contributions will therefore be necessary from early 2013, *inter alia*, to cover the running costs for maintaining the GFMD Support Unit and to make possible the scheduled preparatory Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meetings and suggested thematic meetings.

The Swedish Chair is very grateful to the countries who have already indicated their financial support to the GFMD 2013-2014 budget, and also to the donor countries that have been able to carry over their left-over contributions from the GFMD 2012 to the 2013-2014 budget. The Chair would greatly appreciate additional financial contributions, either as earmarked or non-earmarked contributions. We would welcome any kind of financial contributions, even smaller contributions so as to broaden the donor base and strengthen the engagement and ownership by all GFMD member states. Early announcements of pledges and contributions would be highly appreciated. This would not only facilitate the work of the Support Unit but also support the preparatory meetings and thematic meetings scheduled throughout the Swedish Chairmanship.

The Swedish Chair is also working on the issue of a more predictable funding structure for the GFMD based on the recommendation in the Assessment Report and the SRSG's and Swiss proposal on the future GFMD budget. We will have a first discussion on this issue at our meeting on 21 May.

The Chair sincerely appreciates your commitment to the GFMD process and hopes for your support in implementing the GFMD process for 2013-2014.

For any further information on the budget, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sofia Östmark, at the Swedish GFMD Task Force (sofia.ostmark@gov.se) and/or Ms. Estrella Lajom, GFMD Support Unit (supportunit@gfmd.org).

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Eva Åkerman Börje
Ambassador
Secretariat for the Swedish
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