# Terms of Reference for the GFMD Platform for Partnerships and Policy and Practice Database

*Background and objectives of the Platform for Partnerships (PfP)*

The GFMD process has gradually sought to generate more concrete and policy-relevant outcomes. In order to provide a mechanism to facilitate partnerships and cooperation, the PfP was launched in 2010 under the Mexican GFMD Chairmanship.

The PfP was intended to provide more impetus to engage and a space for governments and other GFMD stakeholders to discuss and present concrete projects, initiatives and ideas that relate to GFMD outcomes and recommendations or the substantive work programme of the GFMD Chair-in-Office.

The PfP was enhanced during the Swiss GFMD Chairmanship in 2011 with the aim to achieve the following objectives:

- to showcase good practices (M&D Practices) undertaken by governments in the field of migration and development, which are related to GFMD themes, debates and outcomes (as may be determined by the Chair-in-Office and the Roundtable government teams);

- to provide a space for new and ongoing projects and partnerships (M&D Calls for Action) among governments and other GFMD stakeholders to make calls (for example, for partners in a common project, ideas, funding, etc);

- to provide a platform for communication and exchange  (M&D Networking) among governments and between governments and other non-state actors (civil society, international organizations, private sector, etc.) involved in the GFMD process; and

- to showcase products or policy tools (M&D Policy Toolkit) coming out of the GFMD (such as the Migration Profiles Repository, the Handbook on Engaging Diaspora for Development and Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning).

This framework has enabled the PfP to respond to governments' needs and interests in discussing, consulting, sharing experiences, and undertaking concrete actions during and in between GFMD Meetings. The added value in this sense has been to promote a sense of continuity and increase the visible outcomes of the GFMD process.  Moreover, the PfP offers a neutral space for governments and relevant stakeholders to consult with each other on how to take forward key GFMD recommendations and share their ideas with the rest of the international community.

However, more work could be done to develop further the functioning and use of the current PfP and clarify its added value and role for governments, international organizations, and other relevant

stakeholders in order to engage them. The idea is to expand the concept of the PfP. The PfP could become a complementary mechanism that facilitates concrete outcomes in addition to the exchange of information and discussions in the Government Teams and GFMD Roundtables. It could also become a stronger and more integral part of the GFMD process.

*A strengthened role of the PfP in the GFMD process*

The GFMD Assessment in 2012 affirmed the potential of the PfP in enhancing the Forum's impact on the global migration and development agenda. The PfP could support the GFMD Chairs' aspiration as outlined in the 2013-2014 Concept Paper and help achieve the long-term goal of making the GFMD a more evidence-based, dynamic and durable process.

The PfP could play a greater role in sharing the GFMD knowledge in a more systematic, effective and accessible manner. It could preserve, strengthen and showcase the evidence-base and outcome of the GFMD process based on identified policies and practices. It could facilitate voluntary follow up of outcomes and recommendations.

In order to strengthen and upgrade the role of the PfP in the GFMD process, the Swedish Chair suggests that it should become an integral part of the agenda of the Friends of the Forum Meetings, for instance allowing presentations and discussions about the PfP during FoF sessions in order to bring the attention of GFMD focal points to this tool.

 Also, the special PfP working session (started in 2010) during the annual GFMD Meetings should be organized in a way that enables also heads of delegations to attend the PfP sessions Regular communication, via email, with the GFMD focal points about the development of the PfP could also be considered. In addition it might be worth developing a short standard information booklet about the use of the PfP, which could facilitate for users. These measures would ensure higher visibility and engagement among GFMD stakeholders.

Since 2007, the GFMD process has generated a wealth of practices, policies, projects and programmes, GFMD-related outcomes and evaluations that could be showcased through the PfP. It is clear, however, that the PfP has not been used to its full potential. Currently, there are 17 M&D Practices, five Calls for Actions, and three Policy Tools made available on the PfP website. In 2012 alone, about 264 practices and 13 calls for action were mentioned in the GFMD Roundtable background papers and shared during the proceedings of the Roundtables, PfP and Common Space sessions.

The Swedish Chair, therefore, suggests that the PfP should record and make accessible more of the policy and practice reviewed and discussed in the GFMD. Governments are encouraged to offer their migration and development practices, calls for action and other initiatives that can be showcased through the PfP. Moreover, the PfP could invite governments to display examples from their national level consultations with civil society and private sector stakeholders on Forum-related issue areas.

In order to make this knowledge and evidence more accessible, the first steps to establish a searchable GFMD Database should be taken. Further steps could be outlined in the GFMD Multiannual Work Plan.

*A GFMD Policy and Practice Database*

The current PfP website should be gradually enhanced to form a solid and searchable GFMD *Policy and Practice Database*. The content of this Database would benefit from the following, existing and future sources:

- Current PfP website data (M&D Practices, Calls for Action, Policy Toolkit)
- GFMD Roundtable Background papers (2007-2012)
- GFMD Chair Reports with Recommendations and Outcomes (2007-)
- GFMD 2013 Survey (and future, annual Surveys)
- GFMD Background Papers (with new Annex format) 2014-
- Lists of GMG voluntary follow-up of GFMD Recommendations and Outcomes
- Recommendations coming out of the GFMD civil society process

It is important to underline that the Database would not make any judgement on "good", "best" or "bad" practice. It would simply make available existing practices supplied on a voluntary basis by interested parties (mainly governments, but also GFMD observers, Civil Society and private sector stakeholders). These practices could include not only those that governments found to be useful and effective, but also those that offer lessons learned and identify potential pitfalls for other policy-makers. The selected practices are not intended as a monitoring system but rather as an exchange of information.

Governments would have the option to screen and approve of information concerning their own policies, projects and programmes before these are displayed in the Database. In particular, the responses supplied by governments to the GFMD Survey and the Annexes from the new Background papers would form the basis of such information. In order to keep the Database manageable it would only contain limited amounts of data on each entry, while weblinks could facilitate further searches for additional information.

Management of the technical aspects and policy-oriented outreach and interaction with governments and other stakeholders will rely on the availability of specific resources. The setting up of the Database will require the input from a qualified database-manager and a policy adviser. As for the more technical side, comparable and standardized search terms and entries, type of information, categories and labels, references and links would need to be further developed. Existing technical staff within the Support Unit might be able to be used for this. As for the more substantive part, draft concept notes would need to be discussed and endorsed by the GFMD Steering Group and/or Friends of the Forum. Interaction with the Global Migration Group in terms of its potential contributions would also be of added value.

Improvements in the collection, storage and dissemination of GFMD-generated policies and practices through reinforcing the PfP and establishing the *Policy and Practice Database,* would thus necessitate adequate funding and a lasting reinforcement of the GFMD Support Unit (SU). There is a need to assess the staff requirements of the SU to support the implementation of this initiative.

The reinforcement of the SU could be implemented through secondments of staff by governments and international agencies as outlined in the Assessment Report. Alternatively, secondments to the Chair-in-Office could be placed in the SU. A stronger SU and PfP would ensure that the GFMD evidence-base and outcomes can be compiled, showcased and shared more systematically with the international community.

Stockholm, 13 May 2013