

GFMD 2019 Second Meeting of the Friends of the Forum

Wednesday, 29 May
10h00 – 13h00
Room II, International Labour Organization (ILO) Building

Report of the Proceedings

I. Welcoming Remarks

1. The second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Friends of the Forum (FOF)¹ under the Ecuadorian Chairmanship was opened by **Ambassador Santiago Javier Chávez Pareja**, Vice Minister for Human Mobility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador, 2019 Chair-in-Office of the GFMD.
2. Joining the GFMD 2019 Chair at the podium were **Mr. Georg Klussmann**, representing the German Co-Chair of GFMD 2017-2018; **Mr. Tarik Sissou**, representing the Moroccan Co-Chair of GFMD 2017-2018; **Mr. Andres Montalvo**, Coordinator of Ecuadorian GFMD Task Force; **Mr. Maksim Roskin**, international adviser to the GFMD 2019 Chair; and **Ms. Marcia Porras**, advisor to the GFMD Chair on migration and refugees at Ecuador's Permanent Mission in Geneva; and **Ms. Estrella Lajom**, Head of the GFMD Support Unit.
3. In welcoming the delegates, the Chair commenced by taking stock of the progress that has been made since the first GFMD Preparatory Meetings in February:
 - a) In New York, a week after the first GFMD Preparatory Meetings, the Chair represented the GFMD in a series of high-level meetings and events at the Migration Week, namely: (1) Expert Symposium on International Migration and Development on 26 February; (2) High-Level debate on International Migration and Development on 27 February; (3) Side Event on Ensuring Fair Recruitment on 27 February; (4) International Dialogue on Migration 2019 on 28 February; (5) Reception to mark the launch of the 2019 GFMD on 27 February; (6) as well as bilateral meetings over the course of the week.
 - b) In Geneva, together with the Governments of the Philippines and Bahrain, the first GFMD Thematic Workshop was organized on March 21-22 which focused on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) at the national level. An informal consultation on the relationship between the GFMD and the GCM was also held on April 4, in view of the upcoming release of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Modalities Zero Draft.
 - c) In Washington DC, the Chair participated and presented the thematic priorities of Ecuador's Chairmanship in a side event organized by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) in the margins of the World Bank spring meetings.
 - d) In Latin America (Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, and Quito), the Chair organized and took part in a series of meetings to exchange views and forge strategic partnerships with various migration actors and promote the GFMD Chairmanship in the region.

II. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

4. The **Provisional Agenda** of the meeting, which was circulated on 13 May 2019, was adopted without any comment or reservation.

¹ The second FOF meeting of 2019 attracted 105 State Members, and 18 Observer organizations.

III. GFMD 2020 Chairmanship

5. Ambassador Chávez informed the FOF that the United Arab Emirates submitted their [candidacy for the GFMD 2020 Chairmanship](#). With the UAE's rich experience in managing migration, being home to fifth largest migrant population in the world, and being a staunch supporter of the GFMD since its inception, the GFMD Chair expressively welcomed UAE's bid, and informed that the Steering Group (SG) endorsed it the day before.
6. In addressing the FOF, **Ambassador Obaid Salem Saeed Al Zaabi**, Permanent Representative of UAE to the UNOG, conveyed his country's readiness to lead the GFMD at this critical juncture, when the GFMD has been called upon by the international community to play an important role in the GCM process. In his speech, he stressed that the UAE has been a strong supporter of the GFMD since its inception. The UAE has been a member of the Steering Group since 2008, and has consistently engaged in roundtable sessions, annual GFMD summits and GFMD working groups. He highlighted four areas that will be priorities for the UAE Chairmanship:
 - a) Further explore and test innovative formats and ways to engage Member States in the development of the 2020 thematic agenda.
 - b) Develop more inclusive relationship with the three GFMD mechanisms: GFMD Civil Society, Business Mechanism and Mayors Mechanism.
 - c) Strengthen the relationship between the GFMD and regional processes; and
 - d) Balance the role of the GFMD under the terms of GCM, giving due consideration to those Member States that have either opted out or abstained from adopting the Compact.
7. A number of Members States and Observers voiced their congratulations and extended their support for the UAE's GFMD 2020 Chairmanship. Many interveners cited the UAE's progressive approach in migration, as well as its active participation and leadership in the framework of the GFMD.

IV. GFMD 2019 Thematic Agenda and Work Plan

A. Update on the GFMD Calendar

8. The GFMD 2019 Chair Ecuador, in partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, will convene a GFMD Thematic Workshop entitled "[Narratives on Migration: Toward an evidence-based Communication](#)" on 4–5 July, at the Mohammed VI International Conference Center in Skhirat, Morocco. Representing the Moroccan co-convener, Mr. Tarik Sissou explained that the workshop aims to initiate an open discussion, allowing each of the stakeholders (governments, civil society, private sector, academia, media, etc.) to analyze in depth the mechanisms that shape public perceptions of migration issues. It will have the following objectives:
 - Exchange experiences of governments and other stakeholders about practices and lessons learned in communicating about migration, migration policies and their interconnection with sustainable development.
 - Understand the mechanisms of antagonistic discourse on migration and identify concrete recommendations to foster good perception of migration with a greater outreach and impact.
 - Identify the benefits of effective partnerships between research actors and communication actors in the digital age.
 - Reinforce the commitment of key actors to change negative public perception towards migration
9. In partnership with the Permanent Missions of Algeria, Guatemala, Madagascar and Philippines, and along with IFAD, IOM and UNDESA, the GFMD Chair will co-sponsor an Observance event for the "[International Day of Family Remittances: Supporting one billion people reach](#)

their own SDGs," to be held at the UNHQ in New York on 14 June. The Chair emphasized that the event is directly linked to the third thematic priority of their Chairmanship, which aims to highlight migrant contributions to sustainable development through remittances and investment. Mr. Mauro Martini of IFAD provided further elements on the event, which will gather all relevant stakeholders in global remittances market and will be an occasion to present concrete actions and develop practical solution for implementing the GCM objective 20, as well as gather insights related to RT 3.2.

B. Update on the GFMD 2019 Government-led Roundtables

10. The Chair thanked the Co-Chairs and members of the six roundtable sessions for their active involvement in the process of elaborating the roundtable papers. He also reminded that two specific roles are still to be filled in, specifically for the rapporteurs of RT 1.1 and RT 2.2 sessions. In order to ensure a more dynamic and action-oriented dialogue, the Chair explained that expert facilitators will support the RT Co-Chairs in facilitating the sessions at the Quito GFMD Summit. Furthermore, the RT Co-Chairs were invited to provide a short update on the status of preparations and the outcomes of the Second Roundtable Consultations, which were held the day before, June 28.

RT Session 1.1 -- Providing regular pathways from crisis to safety

Mexico, on behalf of RT Session 1.1 Co-Chair Nigeria, explained that the objective of the RT is to identify and share concrete measures to ensure safe passage for people who are forced or compelled to leave their homes. During the consultation, the Co-Chairs presented the draft outline, to be developed in close cooperation with OHCHR as the lead drafting agency. The draft outline will be distributed shortly, with a deadline for inputs on June 14.

RT Session 1.2 -- Facilitating social and economic inclusion

Norway, on behalf of RT Session 1.2 Co-Chair Thailand, emphasized that the main objective of the session is to identify models and practices that offer inclusive solutions and generate benefits for both migrants and host communities. With IOM as the lead drafting agency, a first outline has been prepared and relevant inputs were provided by other agencies, namely ICMPD, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP and UNDP. A zero draft will be ready by June, and written comments and best practices are expected to be shared, with a view to finalizing the first draft in early July.

RT 2.1 -- Shaping public narratives on migration and migrants

Canada, on behalf of RT 2.1 Session Co-Chair Morocco, stressed that the RT will explore various elements that shape public narratives on migration and synergies between evidence-based communication and migrants' success stories. The draft outline was presented during the RT consultation, with inputs from OHCHR and IOM. The RT session complements the upcoming Thematic Workshop on Migration Narratives in Skhirat in July. The Friends of the Forum are invited to take part in the workshop and encouraged several countries and organizations to submit their best practices related to the topic.

RT 2.2 -- Communicating effectively with migrants

The United Arab Emirates, on behalf of RT Session 2.2 Co-Chairs Gambia and Philippines, thanked the UNAOC for preparing the initial draft outline of the background paper, which was discussed at the last consultation. The RT session will attempt to explore the multiple dimensions of communication and the ways governments can communicate with migrants through various types of media and the migrant communities themselves. Inputs are requested to be submitted over the coming months, with a view to come up with an in-depth paper for the September RT consultation.

RT 3.1 -- Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships

Egypt, on behalf of RT Session 3.1 Co-Chair Switzerland, highlighted the main issues covered in the draft outline – i.e., recognizing the important role that local authorities play in managing migration and the opportunities and challenges arrival cities face. Zimbabwe recently offered to

serve as session rapporteur, while the Mayors Mechanism agreed to lead the drafting process. A first draft of the paper will be ready by September, when the RT team will also discuss the format of the actual session at the Quito Summit.

RT 3.2 -- Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development

Indonesia, on behalf of RT Session 3.2 Co-ChairJamaica, thanked theFAO for elaborating the annotated outline together with ILO, IFAD and UNDP. The outline underlines the fact that a large share of migrants comes from the rural areas and that migration is prompted by complex factors. The RT discussion will evolve around the issue of policy coherence between migration policies on agriculture and rural development policies. The paper will also be ready in early September.

C. Twelfth GFMD Summit (18-22 November 2019, Quito)

11. The Twelfth GFMD Summit will be held at the Quito Convention Center in the week of 18 to 22 November 2019. As the coordinator of the GFMD 2019 Task Force, Mr. Andres Montalvo shared the key features of the Summit, which will include: (1) a high-level inaugural ceremony; (2) Common Space organized by all GFMD stakeholders; (3) Government-led roundtable sessions; (4) GFMD Platform for Partnerships session; (5) Future of the Forum session; (6) GFMD Civil Society Days; (7) GFMD Business Meeting; (8) 6th Mayoral Forum; and (9) GFMD side events.
12. In the lead up to the Summit in Quito, Mr. Montalvo assured the Friends of the Forum that the arrangements in the Summit will allow for more interaction between participants on and off-sessions, as well as offer proper amenities and communications among the participants. The official invitation to the Summit is expected to go out by July.

D. Ten-Year Review Follow Up

13. The Chair updated the FOF on the work of the WG on Sustainable Development and International Migration, which has been tasked by the Steering Group to follow up on the recommendations laid out in the Ten-Year Review report. To this end, the WG has produced a document entitled “Key Features and Supporting Recommendations”, providing a framework for discussion of the recommendations contained within the Review report. It was thoroughly discussed during a retreat held on 6 May. The Chair informed that some of the concrete recommendations will already be implemented over the course of the Chairmanship. These include the diversification of the agenda of the SG and FOF, the introduction of state-of-the-art facilitation techniques and more dialogic formats, strengthening of the Support Unit, and more systematic involvement of policy-oriented research in the GFMD discussions.

V. GFMD Mechanisms

A. Civil Society Process

14. In his [presentation](#), **Mr. Stéphane Jaquemet** updated the Friends of the Forum on the latest development of the work undertaken by ICMC and the GFMD Civil Society International Steering Committee (ISC). He shared some thoughts and key points regarding the architecture of the GFMD and the Quito Summit:
 - Clear objectives, benchmarks and outcomes need to be set by the end of the Summit;
 - The Civil Society Days should be considered as a culmination of a year-long global process;
 - The number of civil society participants will be reduced to around 220 in the Quito Summit;
 - The Civil Society insists on a diverse participation, that involves grassroots and advocacy organizations from low-income countries;
 - The Civil Society Chair should come from the Latin American or Caribbean region;

- The Civil Society supports the interactivity of the Summit; and finally
 - The Committee of the People’s Global Action (PGA) is elaborating the modalities.
- In conclusion, Mr. Jaquemet reiterated his call for financial support and thanked the countries of Switzerland, Germany, the UAE and Canada for their contribution.

B. GFMD Business Mechanism

15. Ms. **Stephanie Winet** reported on the upcoming activities of the GFMD Business Mechanism. She congratulated the UAE government for the 2020 Chairmanship and thanked the Ecuadorian Chair for including the different mechanisms in the discussion to shape the agenda of the Quito Summit. Regarding the format of the Business Mechanism, a session will allow for interaction between government and business representatives. Furthermore, a “technology format” will be considered in order to showcase how the use of technology and innovation can support the management of migration. With regards to the next activities, a series of informal meetings are scheduled in Geneva on 19 June, in New York on 17 July, as well as regional workshops in Tunisia on 2-3 July, in Buenos Aires on 8-9 October and in the Middle East/South Asia next year.

C. Mayors Mechanism

16. In her statement, Ms. **Fatima Fernandez** of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), one of the Steering Committee members of the GFMD Mayors Mechanism (MM), reminded the meeting that the three objectives of the GFMD MM are to (1) incorporate the Mayoral Forum in the GFMD Summit as the MM’s main event; (2) increase the participation and geographical representation of mayors; and (3) create opportunities for local and regional governments to contribute to the GFMD discussions. Regarding the upcoming activities, the MM will specifically support the Thematic Workshop on Migration Narratives and the development of the Roundtable 3.1, together with the Swiss and Egyptian Co-Chairs. The 2019 Mayoral Forum expects a more regional participation. The Mayoral Forum concept is being prepared and will be shared with all the GFMD stakeholders in due course.

VI. GFMD and Related Process

A. High Level Political Forum 2019

17. For three years in a row, the GFMD has contributed a thematic input to the annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. As in 2017 and 2018, a GFMD side event will be organized on July 11 to present the findings of the GFMD Recommendations to 2019 HLPF to the migration and development community in New York. The planned side event will feature perspectives from all concerned stakeholders.
18. The ILO took the floor to express their interest to engage with the GFMD on labor related issues in the GFMD contribution to the HLPF (in reference to SDG 8.8), and to contribute to the discussion of SDGs 10.7 and 10.1.

B. UN Network on Migration

19. Ms. **Nyari Chari-Imbayago**, representing the UN Network on Migration Secretariat, provided an update on the Network’s activities:
 - a) The Start-Up Fund was launched on May 8 with an initial fundraising target of USD 25 million. Member States are invited to offer financial contribution or in-kind support, including publicizing the value of contributing to the Fund. An event on the margins of the 2019 HLPF is planned to generate momentum behind the Fund.

- b) There are ongoing efforts to operationalize the Network at the regional, national and local levels. A letter has been sent to all UN Resident Coordinators, highlighting the Network's role and support for the Resident Coordinator system.
- c) The Network will continue to provide secretariat support to the IMRF Co-Facilitators.
- d) The Network conducted a productive and constructive dialogue with the civil society on April 4. Its outcomes would be useful for the development of the Network's work plan.
- e) The annual consultation of the Network, aimed at reviewing its progress and exploring ways to enhance collaboration, is scheduled on December 11 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

C. International Migration Review Forum – Presentation by the IMRF Co-Facilitators

- 20. In view of the role accorded by the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) to the GFMD in the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM, the Chair held an informal consultation on 4 April 2019 in Geneva. Its objective was to share with the Co-Facilitators of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Modalities Resolution -- **Ambassador H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen**, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York and **Ambassador H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York -- the views and ideas of Member States and other GFMD actors on a number of key issues relating to GFMD's relationship to GCM, including on how the GFMD can provide a space for informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and relay information on best practices and innovative approaches to the IMRF. The Chair conveyed a letter with the summary report of the April 4 consultation to the Co-Facilitators on May 27.
- 21. To update the GFMD community on the status of the IMRF consultations in New York, the Chair invited the two Co-Facilitators to address the Friends of the Forum. During the meeting, Ambassador Bin Momen shared that they have held a series of consultations with Member States, civil society, private sector and local authorities in New York, as well as with the civil society in both Dhaka and Geneva. Recalling Bangladesh's Chairmanship of the GFMD in 2016, he emphasized the GFMD's unique character and the activities and experiences it has gathered over the years. He highlighted the GFMD's comparative advantage as a space for discussion between and among all stakeholders, including the Member States that have not signed on the GCM. In this sense, Ambassador Bin Momen expressed optimism that the GFMD's role will be well-entrenched in the Modalities Resolution.
- 22. Ambassador Agustin Santos Maraver, for his part, provided information on the negotiation process, timeline and initial insights of the text. According to him, the resolution will include the following elements:
 - a) An introductory chapter;
 - b) An introduction to the process for the General Assembly;
 - c) A definition of the functions, in line with the mandate of the Secretary General's ongoing reforms;
 - d) An explanation of the coordination process over a 4-year cycle, which is envisaged to have the following features --
 - (1) There would be inputs and prioritization by the Member States in the **first year**, with technical support from the UN Network on Migration;
 - (2) A regional dimension will be brought in the **second year**, with regional organizations taking the leadership within the Regional Economic Commissions.
 - (3) An intermediate report would be produced **halfway through**, focusing on convening the IMRF meeting and taking stock of the situations, challenges and political framework for the IMRF debate.
 - (4) The IMRF will be held in the **first half of the 4th year**. It would consist of a three-day meeting, combining plenary sessions, policy debates and conclusions. It would also include inputs from civil society and other stakeholders, in order to ensure

inclusiveness. In this regard, one day of informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings prior to the IMRF was being envisaged. A technical conclusion document would be drafted, highlighting the proceedings of the three days.

- e) After the technical conclusions and summary have been adopted, an inter-governmentally agreed Progress Declaration would be adopted. This would entail a negotiating process, led by co-facilitators appointed by the PGA. Inputs received ahead of the forum shall serve as a basis for the elaboration of the Progress Declaration.
 - f) The voluntary fund, managed by the Migration Network, would cover the needs and priorities in the 4-year cycle and serve for the implementation of concrete programs and fulfil the mandate as set out in the GCM.
23. Regarding the next steps, the Co-Facilitators intend to circulate the Zero Draft in the first week of June. Subsequent working meetings to negotiate the draft will take place on June 11, 20 and 26 in New York. Thereafter, the President of the General Assembly will circulate the Zero Draft to the Member States, to be adopted at a later stage either through consensus or by a vote.
24. In the open discussion that followed, intervening states welcomed the opportunity to discuss with the Co-Facilitators the GFMD's relationship with the IMRF. While recognizing the need for the GFMD to offer its space to support the GCM implementation, follow up and review process, they urged the GFMD to better define its role in the new international migration environment. They asserted that being an annual forum, the GFMD is an ideal space to stake stock of outcomes that could feed into the IMRF.
25. A few member states expressed some concerns about this relationship. A state representative stressed that this relationship should be guided by, and consistent with paragraphs 47, 51 and 52 of the GCM. In this regard, it was argued that the GFMD's contribution to the IMRF should be limited to reporting the findings, best practices and innovative approaches during GFMD informal exchanges. Another intervener held the view that the GFMD should not have a monitoring mandate related to the implementation or reporting on behalf of Member States. Some member states took the opportunity to put forward additional ideas and principles they would like to see included in the resolution: i.e., including the migrants' voice in the discussions, ensuring inclusiveness with the broadest participation of countries and all relevant stakeholders, and guaranteeing complementarity to avoid duplication of efforts.
26. A question was raised about the role of regional mechanisms in the implementation of the GCM, to which the Co-Facilitators replied that a clear and concrete role was envisaged for the Regional Economic Commissions and the Regional Consultative Processes. The Co-Facilitators likewise welcomed the GFMD's objective to foster a closer working relationship with the UN Network on Migration.

VII. Any Other Business

27. The Chair informed the Friends of the Forum that preparations for a publication are underway 1) compiling the history and background of the Forum; 2) centering around future perspectives of the Forum, including all GFMD mechanisms. The publication will be ready for the Quito Summit.
28. The meeting was adjourned at 13:00

Prepared by the GFMD Support Unit