

Friends of the Forum (FOF)

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

3:00 PM CET (hybrid)

Summary of Proceedings

I. Welcome Remarks

1. **Francois Vandeville, Deputy Ambassador for Migration of France** opened the meeting and welcomed the Friends of the Forum to the first GFMD Preparatory Meetings held under the French GFMD 2022-2023 Chairmanship.
2. **Ambassador Jérôme Bonnafont, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Geneva** emphasized the importance of addressing migration as a human phenomenon, considering the social and economic realities connected to it and paying particular attention to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation on human mobility. Recalling the outcomes of the COP 27, Ambassador Bonnafont stressed the need to find political, financial and human solutions as well as the importance of the GFMD as an inclusive dialogue to promote international cooperation among governments, with the engagement of key partners such as civil society, the private sector, local governments, youth and international organisations.
3. **Alia Ibrahim, Director of International Organization UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Administration** expressed support for the French Chair in office and highlighted the GFMD as an example of multilateralism and inclusive dialogue. The UAE called upon Member States and Friends of the Forum to support France and ensure that the 2022-2023 Chairmanship sets the foundation for the next 15 years of GFMD engagement and successful dialogue for partnerships.
4. **Eugenio Ambrosi, IOM (Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Director General)** emphasized that the GFMD is one of the building blocks on which the international community builds better cooperation and articulates solutions for the governance of migration. The GFMD is also a vital component for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration. IOM reiterated its commitment to support the GFMD and the French GFMD 2022-2023 Chairmanship.

II. Adoption of the meeting provisional agenda

5. The meeting agenda was adopted without any changes.

III. GFMD 2022-2023 Chairmanship

A. Updates on the GFMD 2022-2023 Program

6. **François Vandeville** thanked FOF members for the renewed engagement in these first preparatory meetings, noting that registrations received for the Government-led Roundtable Consultations indicate a high interest in the GFMD 2022-2023 program and in particular in the theme related to the impact of climate change on human mobility.
7. Deputy Ambassador Vandeville provided the FOF with an overview of the [GFMD Calendar of Events 2022-2023](#), invited the FOF to participate and co-sponsor the upcoming June events

and informed participants that the Chair welcomes proposals for additional events and workshops to be labelled as GFMD.

8. The Paris Summit will be held in early 2024 to avoid overlaps with the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) organized in December 2023 by UNHCR, of which France is also a convener.
9. France and the Steering Group have been working closely with IOM to set up a permanent secretariat for the GFMD, which will be established in the next weeks.

B. Updates on GFMD provisional budget and pledges for support to the GFMD 2022-2023 workplan

10. The [GFMD provisional budget 2022-2023](#) was presented to the FOF. Based on voluntary contributions from Member States, the GFMD provisional budget covers the operational costs of the secretariat and a solidarity mechanism to sponsor delegations of low-income countries to events.
11. **Canada:** For 2022-2023, Canada contributed 247.000 USD to the implementation of the 'It Takes a Community' (ITAC) campaign, a core activity of the Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration. Canada expressed appreciation for the complementing funding from the GFMD Mayors Mechanism. Canada will also renew its annual pledge of 25.000 USD to support the work of the GFMD secretariat.
12. **United Arab Emirates:** The UAE has authorized the use of its leftover contribution from the 2021 to the 2022 budget and is likely to make another contribution in 2023.
13. **The Philippines:** For the fiscal year 2022, the Philippines gave a voluntary contribution of 25.000 USD and will make a new contribution of the same amount for the fiscal year 2023. A proposal to scale this up is being considered.
14. **Germany** indicated that it will continue to support the GFMD with an annual voluntary contribution. Germany expressed support for the French Chair's program and particular appreciation for the emphasis on the dimension of culture related to migration.
15. **Switzerland** informed the FOF about its contribution to the GFMD interim support in 2022 and to the GFMD mechanisms, a vital component of the GFMD, and that a renewed voluntary contribution is being considered.
16. **France** informed the FOF that the overall GFMD budget for the 2022-2023 program is estimated just below 2.2 million Euro, of which around 800.000 have been raised. In addition to contributing 250.000 Euro to the GFMD budget, France has planned a 7 million Euro budget for organizing the Paris Summit in early 2024.

C. Preparatory Meetings and Government-led Roundtable Consultations

17. **France** thanked Member States that offered to co-lead roundtables and invited other Member States to come forward where co-chairing arrangements were still open. An updated overview of GRTs membership is attached separately.
18. France highlighted the importance of linkages between the GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration and invited the UN Network on Migration Secretariat to provide an update.

IV. UN Network on Migration Secretariat

19. **Jonathan Prentice, Head of the UN Network on Migration Secretariat** highlighted opportunities for synergies between the GFMD and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and called on the GFMD to continue providing an annual space for informal exchange on the GCM, reporting good practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF); nurturing synergies with the network capacity-building mechanism; considering engaging in the next regional reviews in 2024. Jonathan Prentice informed the

FOF that the next report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly is due in 2024; that participation in the regional reviews will promote inclusivity; and that in the following two mandates contributions are particularly welcome: 1) dialogue to develop indicators for GCM implementation; 2) operational guidelines to address situations of migrants in humanitarian distress and missing migrants. The GFMD also serves as a repository of practices and in several thematic areas there is a convergence of priorities. The UN Network on Migration Secretariat expressed the wish to work more intensively with the GFMD civil society, mayors, business mechanisms and youth.

V. Briefings and updates of GFMD Working Groups

20. The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc **Working Group on Covid-19 on Migrants, Migration and Sustainable Development**, Indonesia, Switzerland, and the GFMD Business Mechanism informed the FOF that this WG has concluded its mandate. [Statement of the Co-Chairs delivered by Switzerland](#)
21. The **Working Group on Sustainable Development and International Migration**, currently chaired by the UAE, is looking for a Co-Chair, especially in view of the traditional invitation to report to the HLPF (awaited in early 2023). The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism has offered to co-chair this WG with the UAE and another government (two Member States are required before one of the mechanisms can co-chair a working group). France invited other Member States to offer co-chairing this WG and gave its availability to assume this role should no other Member State come forward.
22. **Ad Hoc Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration: mandate extension, recent activities and prospective work plan** - This WG, which started its mandate in 2020 under the leadership of Canada, Ecuador and the GFMD Mayors' Mechanism to share experiences and identify concrete ways to balance the public narratives on migration, requested the Steering Group to extend the WG mandate for two years, based on a continuing need for this multi-actor exchange. As the GFMD France Chairmanship has put migration narratives on the GFMD program, the WG as an incubator for joint and multi-active partnerships, offered to contribute to this thematic area.
23. In 2021, the working group launched the "It Takes A Community," (ITAC) a global social media communications campaign that aims to balance the narrative on migration by inviting diverse stakeholders to share stories online about how migration can enrich communities. Throughout 2021, the campaign generated 12 million social media impressions. Because of this success, the Government of Canada has provided the funding to finance a second phase, which will start this December and last until May 2023. A concept note and a budget for the campaign to continue after May 2023 are being developed by the Co-Chairs, who called for the support of the GFMD community and extended an invitation for new members to join the WG. [Working Group Terms of Reference \(2023-2024\)](#)
24. The WG also participated in the Conference on Migration Narrative hosted by Morocco and organized by ICMPD in Rabat.
25. The Working Group Co-Chairs also organized a virtual event at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2022 with the support of the government of France.
26. **Canada** announced that it will be co-chairing the roundtable (RT) 5 on narratives and culture and will aim to bring some tangible outcomes to the summit in 2024, leveraging also the Working Group on Narratives to bring lessons learned to the GFMD roundtable discussions and proposing the development of a Global Migration Narratives Outlook (working title) - a snapshot of how the narrative landscape has evolved during the last years with many local and regional efforts.

VI. Update of the GFMD Mechanisms and Youth

27. The **Migration Youth and Children Platform Mechanism (MYCP)**, the Steering Group mandated stakeholder facilitating youth engagement in the GFMD, presented three avenues to ensure youth engagement in the GFMD and a draft budget to the attention of the FOF and will be circulated separately (estimated budget: 270,000 USD). ([Full statement here](#))
28. **The GFMD Civil Society Mechanism** informed the FOF that civil society is actively preparing itself for a robust and representative engagement in the GFMD process in all proposed activities and roundtables. The mechanism will foster the participation of up to 200 civil society delegates in the GFMD Summit, representing a broad cross-section of civil society networks from around the world. The draft budget for civil society engagement in GFMD chairmanship is estimated at 548.000 Euro. France has already expressed support to the mechanism. Given the resource gaps to ensure civil society participation from the global South and underrepresented communities, particularly women, migrant, and diaspora groups, the mechanism invited the FOF member states to consider investing to ensure a whole of society outcome in this GFMD chairmanship. ([Full statement here](#))
29. **GFMD Business mechanism** informed the FOF that last year the mechanism created 80 focal points in national business and employers' organizations that helped to promote migration within their national environment with member companies. With the support of the Swiss Government, the mechanism has trained more than 100 employers' organizations across the world on issues linked to the GFMD. It has brought the voice of business to the GFMD and has contributed to a start-up competition getting young people with their innovative ideas to the process. The mechanism will develop three papers to support the roundtables and would like to bring the start-up competition again to the GFMD summit in Paris to give innovative young people a chance to present ideas on how to tackle some pressing issues regarding migration. ([Full statement here](#))
30. **GFMD Mayors' Mechanism (MM)** stressed that the six priorities of the French Chair are all timely and connect to the Marrakesh Mayors' declaration. Through the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, the MM offered to feed in the discussion tangible and concrete solutions local governments spearhead. The mechanism will be prioritizing the engagement in three roundtables: 1. Climate change and migration - two elements of the contribution to this roundtable: the MMC-C40 Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration; and the Global Cities Fund for migrants and refugees. 2. Narratives and culture, bringing many examples as co-chairs or the ad hoc working group on narratives including through the "It Takes a Community" campaign. 3. The multi-level governance of migration, which can help center discussions on policy planning and how global goals, such as the GCM and SDGs, take root at the national and local levels. The mechanism has prepared a budget amounting to a little over 600.000 USD, about half of which has already been funded. Those who are interested in supporting this work can contact the mechanism. ([Full statement here](#))
31. **France:** The importance of mechanism and participation. France is funding part of the work of the mechanisms.
32. **The United Kingdom** asked to clarify if the budget of 7 million euros for the Summit included allocations for the mechanisms.
33. **France** clarified that there is a GFMD budget which is 2.2 million USD and an additional Chair's budget of about 7 million for the Summit. Financial support to the mechanisms will be provided through the Chair's budget.

Climate change and mobility at the COP27

34. Egypt stressed that Egypt strived to bring to the fore the voice of the global South as President of the African COP, mindful of the disproportionate impact of climate change on developing countries. It shared some data, stressing that Africa is witnessing increased weather and climate vulnerability, leading to disasters and disruption of economic, ecological, and social systems and that by 2030, it is estimated that up to 118 million extremely poor people living on less than two dollars a day will be exposed to droughts, floods, and extreme heat in Africa. An estimated 12% of all new population displacement worldwide occurred in the East and Horn of Africa region, with over 1,2 million new disaster-related displacements and over 500.000 new conflict-related displacements. All the facts mentioned above create drivers for migration for Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Egypt. Egypt called for urgent political efforts to mitigate climate change and the most devastating consequences of this crisis on people. Egypt's stressed the need for holistic, inclusive, and collaborative approaches at national, regional, and global levels. Among key take-aways, the adoption of the decision to establish the first Fund for Loss and Damage to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and the need for accelerated action based on scientific knowledge in the context of sustainable developments, and efforts to eradicate poverty. The GFMD summit could promote further discussions to advance the agenda.

Climate Mobility Pavilion – Findings and recommendations

- 35. The Global Center for Climate Mobility (GCCM)** works to promote a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on human mobility and nurture shared knowledge on migration, climate and sustainable development. The GCCM aims to foster political momentum and a common policy, agenda, and resources to advance comprehensive people-centered and community-based responses for climate mobility. The Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) is a regional initiative of the global center. GCCM ACMI hosted a pavilion at COP27 and at the end of the conference, migration and human mobility due to climate change were recognized in a more substantive form than ever before (in note 22 of the Sharm El Sheikh implementation plan).
- 36.** GCCM ACMI organized 62-panel events on climate mobility, bringing together four heads of state and heads of government, six head delegations, 14 ministers and climate in voice, and 207 panelists from expert organizations, civil society, youth and women representatives, including those from indigenous and small island State communities. The private sector, mayors, academia, philanthropic institutions, the African Union, the UN, and the World Bank all participated in the events. It released a report on “African Shifts: The Africa Climate Mobility Report: Addressing Climate-Forced Migration and Displacement,” which documents the current realities of climate and mobility in Africa and projections of climate, mobility for the continent up to 2050 under different climate scenarios. GCCM ACMI shares all that data on the website: (<https://africa.climate-mobility.org>) including storyline narratives and data.
- 37.** A “Greater Caribbean Climate Mobility Initiative” was launched to build on the model developed for the Africa initiative and the “Rising Nations Initiative” that focuses on protecting the sovereignty and heritage of the Pacific Atoll countries. GCCM ACMI expressed its willingness to collaborate with all GFMD Member States and stakeholders.
- 38. France** organized a side-event on ‘Building resilient cities in an age of migration and climate change: A Youth Perspective’ at the France Pavilion on Climate and Environmental Migration during COP27.