

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

Mauritius 2012

First Draft Concept Paper

FOR COMMENTS BY 16 December 2011

Securing development through achievable improvement of migrants' wellbeing

1. Suggested approach to building consensus on the Objectives of GFMD 2012

In its capacity as GFMD 2012 Chair-in-Office, the Government of Mauritius is embarking on a consensual and collective thinking process, to build on the outcomes and achievements of previous meetings with a view to securing achievable development outcomes linked to improving migrants' wellbeing. This first Concept Paper sets out a proposed thematic focus and format for the GFMD 2012 and canvasses comments and suggestions from the Friends of the Forum on possible themes for the GFMD 2012 Roundtables.

Under government leadership of the process and in collaboration with the GFMD working groups, the 2012 Forum will build on the results of 2011, whilst providing stronger emphasis on:

1. An explicit focus on outcomes that can be achieved in the coming years to guide the thematic work programme;
2. A close coordination with Civil Society and International Organizations to jointly work with Governments in achieving agreed outcomes; and
3. A close coordination with the Private Sector and international institutions as appropriate to support Governments in achieving agreed outcomes.

Accordingly, we wish to propose, subject to feedback from the Friends of the Forum (FOF), that the overarching theme for GFMD 2012 be ***Securing development through achievable improvement of migrants' wellbeing***.

2. Proposed methodology and survey on possible themes for GFMD 2012

The Mauritian Chair will seek consensus on the work programme for 2012 from the **Steering Group and Friends of the Forum at meetings proposed for Monday 06 February and Tuesday 07 February 2012**, respectively. At these meetings, Governments will also be invited to volunteer to take the lead in preparing the Roundtables, where required in partnership with non-state organizations expert in the theme.

To develop the Chair's proposals for the February meetings, Mauritius is **proposing a brainstorming event in Port Louis, Mauritius, on Wednesday and Thursday, 18 and 19 January 2012**. Mauritius invites the participation of all FOF Governments in the 18 January meeting.

On 19 January, we will also consult other interested GFMD partners. Interested Governments may also wish to attend these consultations. The views of those who are unable to attend will be sought via a dedicated email MauritiusChair2012@gfmd.org.

The brainstorming process in Port Louis will focus on two related issues:

- Possible themes for the Roundtable Work Programme
- Identification of achievable outcomes that would improve the wellbeing of migrants

For the January brainstorming, **we are requesting input on this Concept Paper and the Survey form by Friday 16 December**. This feedback will be integrated into an updated version of the draft Concept Paper and the annexed Survey Form, which will be posted on the GFMD website with a request to submit further proposals to the revised concept paper by 15 January 2012 as a basis for the brainstorming at the January meetings.

The Survey Form annexed to this note proposes some possible themes for the Roundtables, but also leaves room for outcome-focused proposals. Governments and Organizations that wish to take part in achieving desired outcomes, and are willing to contribute at least some resources towards these are encouraged to fill in the **Survey Form** and submit proposals by **Sunday 15 January** to MauritiusChair2012@gfmd.org.

Drawing on all feedback sent by Sunday 15 January 2012, we will identify (i) Roundtable themes that are of general interest and (ii) related outcomes that seek to improve the well-being of migrants and can be achieved within the next few years

In considering the thematic proposals from the Survey, the Chair will build on progress made to date, including by the Swiss Chair, but will be open to suggestions for other or new topics. However, such topics should be linked to clear outcomes and, preferably, with a Government or organization taking responsibility for working with relevant partners to achieve the outcomes.

We understand that **Civil Society** would continue to develop its own agenda. However, we are open to at least some themes and outcomes being jointly pursued by Governments and Civil Society, as a possible means of strengthening the inter-action with Civil Society and the Common Space approach.

The Private Sector and International Organisations are also encouraged to identify areas where they could provide support to Governments.

The GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting will be held **from 21 to 22 November 2012 in Mauritius**.

3. Assessment of the GFMD

The Mauritian Chair will work with the two previous Chairs and the next Chair to shepherd the GFMD assessment process through its second phase in 2012, and direct and chair the deliberations of the 14-Government Assessment Team. The Chair will also work closely with the Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration.

As reflected in the Special Session of the 2011 Concluding Debate, the strategic and political analysis of possible options for the Forum's future will be of critical importance for all Friends of the Forum. The 'Work Plan for the Assessment Team in 2012', adopted at the 2011 Concluding Debate, will guide these activities. The analysis of the Forum's future will be based on the findings of the 2011 Assessment Report, but will also consist of a strategic and political discussion by all governments. A final report on the GFMD assessment will be prepared by the end of 2012.

4. Proposed format of GFMD 2012

GFMD 2012 will basically follow the traditional format used between 2007 and 2010, namely a summit meeting at the end of the year, comprising informal Roundtables (RT) prepared by teams of governments around the themes agreed by the Friends of the Forum. Responsibility for the Roundtables would be shared among the governments forming the RT teams. In each Roundtable session, 1-2 countries may coordinate the preparation of the background papers and the conduct of the session, where appropriate, in collaboration or partnership with non-state partners. We will aim to ensure that about half the countries are from Africa.

At the proposed 6-7 February 2012 Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meetings in Geneva, Governments will be requested to volunteer to co-chair and form teams around the Roundtable sessions. Coordination with the 2011 Swiss Chair will be useful, for the lessons learned in 2012 and with the next Chair to ensure continuity of approach. This modus was already anticipated at the 7 September 2011 FOF meeting. The Government teams for 2012 would be formed during the month of February following agreements reached at the Geneva meeting.

However, the Forum will also seek to benefit substantively from other events or research activities in 2012 that are relevant to the GFMD 2012 themes. Some of these may be organized by the GFMD Working Groups, or form part of the Working Groups' work plan in support of GFMD 2012. Others will be organized by international organizations (e.g. the World Bank meeting on diaspora in Mauritius in February 2012) or regional entities, such as the African Union, COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC. It is expected that the governments or other partners organizing such meetings take full responsibility for the events and any follow-up actions.

The Mauritian Chair will be receptive for any relevant outcomes from such meetings to be shared with the GFMD, and fed into the Roundtable preparations; but does not intend to fund or in any substantial way become involved in the organization of the events, except for those planned to be held in Mauritius.

6. Civil Society

The Mauritian Government proposes to work with the current Civil Society coordinator, ICMC, and a Mauritian-based civil society partner in 2012. As in the past, the local Civil Society agency will take the lead for the Civil Society component of GFMD 2012. Due regard will be given to the increasingly successful "Common Space" arrangements developed in 2010 and 2011. Fundraising will commence to help cover the costs of the Mauritian Civil Society partner, also with the EU in Brussels.

Mauritius would also encourage Civil Society to organize itself and formulate proposals for achieving, in partnership with Governments, concrete outcomes that improve the wellbeing of migrants. Once such proposals have been formulated and are the subject of consensus with Governments, Mauritius will assist in mobilising multi-annual funding for implementation.

05 December 2011

ANNEX 1: SURVEY FORM

SURVEY FORM PART A: POSSIBLE ROUNDTABLE THEMES

Please consider the following possible list of Roundtable themes for 2012, and indicate the sequence of priority of these themes for your Government or organization from 1-11. Please add any explanations you deem essential to clarifying the rationale for this priority rating.

You may also provide additional feedback on the Survey form below, which seeks input to identify achievable outcomes to improve the wellbeing of migrants. To assist in this process, we have also annexed an illustrative listing of possible outcomes related to one of the themes coming from the 2011 Working Groups.

Possible list of 2012 Roundtable themes:

- 1. Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development.*
- 2. Supporting Diaspora as Agents of Socioeconomic Change.*
- 3. Factoring Migration into Development Planning.*
- 4. Public Perceptions of Migrants.*
- 5. Engaging Business in Migration for Development.*
- 6. Leveraging Remittances for Development.*
- 7. Gendering the Migration and Development debate.*
- 8. Migration Health and Development.*
- 9. Policy Coherence, Data and Research (Migration Mainstreaming into Development Planning- Migration Profiles - Policy Impact Assessments; Institutional Coherence)*
- 10. Climate Change, Migration and Development.*
- 11. Migration and Poverty Alleviation.*

SURVEY FORM PART B:

PROPOSAL FORM to guide selection of topics and work agenda for 2012

Guidance: Please use one form for each issue and outcome to be proposed. If an issue has several outcomes, please use one form for each outcome but flag that this is an outcome related to the same issue (e.g. Outcome 1, Outcome 2, Outcome 3) and group under the Issue. Please email to MauritiusChair2012@gfmd.org

Annex 3 has some illustrative examples of possible outcomes emerging from the recommendations of the Working Groups in 2011.

ORGANISATION:

Main person responsible for outcome in organization:

Title and Contact details:

Issue

Proposed outcome

Time frame in years to achieve outcome:

Resources in kind being provided by the organization (including Human Resources in person months per year): person months

Resources in Cash per year being provided by the organization: US\$....

Main elements of implementation plan

Total Human resources required per year (including from other partners): ... person months

Total Cash resources required per year (including from other partners): US\$...

Possible partners from Governments, Civil Society, Private Sector, International Community (regional organizations, international organizations, private foundations, international financial institutions and all entities that are not purely national in scope of action or control)¹

Relevant meetings in 2012 where decisions could be taken to support the achievement of the proposed outcome (including Regional meetings)²

¹ Governments and Organisations should, to the extent possible, identify in the feedback form partners who may be interested in working with them towards the proposed outcome. This would contribute to linking topics to Governments at the January brainstorming meeting, but decisions will only be taken at the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum meeting in Geneva on 06 and 07 February 2012.

² Governments and Organisations could, to the extent possible, identify planned meetings of Regional Organisations or other bodies where key decisions relating to the desired outcomes for improving the wellbeing of migrants may be taken. For Africa, it would be particularly useful to identify relevant meetings of COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC which between them cover almost all of Africa and all have a mandate that would allow concrete actions by Governments to improve the wellbeing of working migrants in Africa.

ANNEX 3: ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF SOME OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2011 Working Groups

ISSUE: More effective Government Mechanisms to ease cross-border mobility and facilitate international recruitment efforts

ILLUSTRATIVE Proposed outcome	Time frame in years to achieve the outcome
Grant of permits quasi-automatically within 3 days for workers paid above a limit set by each receiving Government. Replacement of complex procedures for visas, taxes and wage adjustments with a simple application and fixed application fee set by each receiving Government	3
Development of training with placement programmes for both migrants and nationals of source countries	3
Levy on private sector to finance workforce training (for both prospective workers and those in the workforce)	3
Expand bi-lateral migration agreements to multi-lateral (perhaps regional) agreements	5
Ensure intra-regional portability of social benefits	2
Ensure intra-regional recognition of qualifications	2

ANNEX 4: The GFMD Context and the roles of the Mauritian Chair and other GFMD entities

The GFMD is a voluntary, inter-governmental, non-binding and informal consultative process open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations. It was created with the majority agreement of UN States Members at the 2006 General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). Today, the GFMD is the largest, state-led global forum dealing with migration and development. It is helping to shift the debate on these two issues at national and international levels, and is changing the way governments deal with today's human mobility challenges.

The Mauritian chairmanship follows a series of successful GFMD meetings hosted by Belgium (2007), the Philippines (2008), Greece (2009), Mexico (2010) and Switzerland (2011).

To ensure broad government ownership and inclusion in the process, the Chair's preparatory work would be assisted by the following GFMD supporting structures and offices:

The Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration and Development who is usually invited to the Troika, Steering Group and FOF meetings, and co-chairs the Special session on the future of the Forum (in 2011 on the GFMD assessment (likely similar in 2012)).

The Troika, which includes the outgoing Chair, the Chair-in-Office, and the forthcoming Chair of the Forum. The Co-chairs will assist the Chair-in-Office.

The Steering Group, comprising a regional balance of governments firmly committed to offer sustained political and conceptual support to the Forum process and the Chair-in-Office, and ensure continuity of the process. The Troika governments are ex-officio members. SG members represent different migration perspectives and interests of governments, including those that contribute substantially to the migration and development debate and are prepared to provide concrete input to the thematic preparation of Forum meetings. SG members and the Chair-in Office are also called upon to brief other governments, as appropriate, on Forum-related developments, including through the National Forum Focal Points.

The Friends of the Forum, which is open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations. Specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations may be invited as observers. The FOF acts as a sounding board, ensures that all Members and Observers are kept abreast of Forum-related developments, and advises on the agenda, structure and format of each Forum meeting. All FoF meetings are chaired by the Chair-in-office. There will be at least 2 FOF meetings in 2012, at a venue to be determined by the Chair-in-Office.

The Mauritian **Chair-in-Office** has assumed responsibility for the preparatory process, implementation of the Forum, chairing of all sessions related to Forum preparations and chairing of the concluding GFMD debate. The Chair has established a Taskforce to help with preparatory activities, comprising officials from all relevant Mauritian Departments/Ministries and some international advisers, who will mostly be funded by other governments, GMG agencies or other partner agencies. The Chair-in-Office will be assisted in strategic matters by the previous Forum Chair (Switzerland) and the Chair to come (Troika); and with administrative services (logistics, finances, website) by the Support Unit based in Geneva.