

4 March 2013

Consolidated Civil Society Feedback on 1st draft GFMD 2012-2014 Concept Paper (dated 25 January 2013)

At the invitation of the Swedish Chair, the first draft of the GFMD concept paper was circulated to a network of 130 civil society partners (the so-called “Consultation Circle”) for a first round of feedback. Feedback from about 25 civil society partners was received, broadly positive and constructive, with express appreciation for the open consultation by the Swedish Chair.

Feedback received was largely along two lines: refining the thematic priorities suggested (see part A. below), and questions and suggestions around the process and organizing modalities towards the GFMD Meeting in 2014 (see part B. below).

A. On themes and roundtables

1. Appreciation for development focus and definition

Feedback expressed great appreciation for the focus on development, and the definition of it as *human development, “enlarging people’s choices and improving human capabilities”*.

At the same time, feedback also expressed concern that the Roundtable themes seem to focus too much on the positive development aspects of migration, and not sufficiently on eradicating negative aspects, taking into account the social and human costs of migration, such as broken families, human rights abuses in recruitment processes and at the work floor, the vulnerabilities of migrants, in particular those in irregular situations, discrimination and social cohesion of home and host societies. Although some of these situations are embedded in the context of “*Empowering migrants*” Roundtable (RT 3.1), a number of civil society respondents felt that eradicating “negative aspects” should be included in all roundtables whether addressing links between migration and the post-MDG framework, labour matching mechanisms, or diaspora engagement. (also see point 2. and 3. below)

2. To include a stronger focus on human rights, including attention for “Migrants in crisis”

In line with the suggestion to address the positive, as well as the negative aspects of migration and mobility, quite a number of civil society respondents asked for a more explicit embedding of the agenda in human rights frameworks. Civil society found this in particular important for discussions about mainstreaming and the post-2015 agenda (RT 1), as well as labour matching mechanisms (RT 2.1).

Overall, civil society respondents seem to be in agreement with the focus of the Roundtable themes suggested, albeit with some suggestions for refinement (see below point 3.) and with one exception: many civil society respondents felt that the focus on particular protection challenges for migrants

and families, which was high on the agenda in Mauritius 2012, and is one of the four themes for the HLD, should be found back in the agenda for GFMD 2014 in its own name. Respondents in particular suggested retaining a focus on migrants trapped in crisis situations - including migrant victims of violence or trauma in transit as well as “Libya-type” situations. The GFMD Civil Society Days 2012 suggested the following:

- ∞ A “migrants-in-crisis” Group including leaders from governments, civil society and international organizations, and under the leadership of the the UN Special Rapporteur on Migrants should develop a matrix of existing legal instruments, and guidance and practical examples on how states’ and other parties best respond in humanitarian crisis situations to protect migrants

3. Feedback on Roundtable themes

RT 1: Integrating migration in global, regional and national development agenda

Civil society respondents expressed the expectation that the roundtables on mainstreaming and the post-2015 agenda would not only look at migration as an *enabler* for development, but would also take into account viable alternatives and decent work at home to reduce migration out of necessity.

With regards to the post-MDG discussions, the hope was expressed that migration would also be looked at beyond population and urbanization dynamics, for example in the context of some of the other 11 themes for global consultations, e.g.: **inequalities & growth and employment** (looking at issues such as decent work at home, access to social benefits for migrants, equal pay, non-discrimination, etc); **health** (access to health care for migrants and families regardless of status, etc); **education** (access to education for migrant children regardless of status, “education for migration”, recognition of skills across borders, etc); **conflict and fragility** (displacement, diaspora in peace-building, etc), **governance**, etc. The GFMD Civil Society Days 2012 suggested some benchmarks relevant to the themes under RT 1:

- ∞ **National M&D policy**- Significant increase in countries (both of origin and destination) with a national migration and development policy paper, including national-level indicators and monitoring of the effect of migration on development, and of development on migration
- ∞ **Development actors**- increased participation of development NGO’s and agencies in the GFMD

RT 2: Migration as an enabler for inclusive economic development

Out of the three roundtable titles, most worries were expressed on the title for roundtable two. Not because respondents denied the importance of inclusive economic development, on the contrary, but because respondents felt that one cannot look at labour matching and recruitment, as well as diaspora engagement, from an economic perspective only, and one needs to immediately, and not separately, take into account social and human costs and benefits too.

In particular with regards to RT 2.1 on labour migration, civil society urged to take into account issues such as family unity, integration and eradication of abuses in the recruitment industry and on the work floor. With regards to RT 2.2 (and in part related to RT 3.2), some civil society respondents remarked that diaspora are not only economic and social investors, but can also be a force for positive political and policy change. The GFMD Civil Society Days 2012 suggested some benchmarks relevant to the themes under RT 2:

- ∞ **Ratification**- Significant increase in ratification and implementation of UN and ILO conventions, including the 1990 UN migrant workers convention, the ILO convention 181 regarding recruitment processes and the ILO convention 189 on domestic workers

- ∞ **Web portals and apps**- Creation of national, regional and international user-led systems, web portals and apps to promote good and reliable recruitment channels and expose bad practices
- ∞ **Freedom of association**-Increased freedom of association and migrant affiliations to workers organizations
- ∞ **Education harmonization**- Increased harmonization of education, qualification and training standards starting in sectors with many migrant workers such as health care, domestic care, engineering, agriculture, shipping, and more
- ∞ **Tied-visas**- Abolishment of migration regimes that tie migrant workers to one employer
- ∞ **Dual nationality**- Significant increase in countries allowing dual nationality
- ∞ **Diaspora services**- More countries of residence and origin have introduced specific services and funding mechanisms that support migrant and diaspora investments, including a 1-stop-portal for diaspora/migrants interesting in investing back home in business development and poverty alleviation

RT 3: Migration as an enabler for inclusive social development

The themes suggested under RT 3 received most support and the least refinement from civil society respondents, except that some would like to see included a specific roundtable on protecting migrants in crisis situations, as mentioned earlier.

B. On process and organizing

In general civil society respondents expressed appreciation for the long term vision of the draft concept paper, in particular the efforts to create a multi-annual work plan and to ensure a more sustainable funding mechanism. It is hoped the Swedish Chair will also work closely with civil society, and the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office to ensure sustainability and relevance of civil society engagement in the GFMD, and that this could be included explicitly in the concept paper. Some suggestions and questions around the process of organizing were:

4. To engage private sector representatives through multi-stakeholder dialogue(s)

Sharing the goal of increasing the involvement of the private sector in GFMD's work, some input expressed the concern that the private sector should be brought into discussion through *multi-stakeholder* dialogue, together *with* governments and broader civil society, taking care to avoid the pitfalls of entirely separate and compartmentalized processes. In the Civil Society evaluation survey 2012, a specific suggestion was made to partner with the UN Global Compact, and to rally business around a roundtable that would look at migration and the UN Guiding Principles for Business (the John Ruggie 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework with principles around human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption).

5. Support for national consultations in preparation and follow-up to the GFMD

Feedback of civil society was strongly positive on the concept paper's encouragement of national consultations between civil society and their governments. Civil society has found the small but growing number of such consultations to be key in "before and after" work and partnerships "on the ground" for achieving results from Global Forum activities. The GFMD Civil Society Days 2012 suggested:

- ∞ More countries have national consultative mechanisms that explicitly include migrants/diaspora communities in policy-making concerning them, including on development assistance and trade agreements with countries of origin

6. GFMD Government – Civil Society Relations

Some respondents had some questions with regards to the possibility of being engaged in the thematic meetings, as well as the Expert Network, and would welcome some clarity on the procedure of engagement. More generally, the role of civil society and the Civil Society Days as an integral part of the GFMD since 2007 could perhaps be made more explicit in the concept paper.

Some suggestions for alternative language include:

- **Thematic Meetings (p.5)** *“Individual academics, representatives of civil society and the private sector ~~could will~~ be invited to contribute with specific background information or presentations.”*
- **GFMD Summit Meeting (p.6):** *“A traditional GFMD Summit Meeting is planned to take place in mid-May 2014 in Stockholm. The Summit Meeting will be composed of plenary sessions, six Roundtables, a session on the Future of the Forum, and a PFP session. Discussions at the Common Space ~~will are likely to~~ include participants from Civil Society, the private sector, international organizations and governments. ~~A Civil Society Days meeting is expected to precede the government meeting.~~ As in previous years the GFMD Civil Society Days will take place the two days prior to the government meeting, and will present an outcome document with recommendations and benchmarks at the opening of the government Summit.”*
- **Relations between GFMD governments and GFMD Civil Society (p. 12)** *“The GFMD has established its value as a mechanism to develop trust and partnerships across national and functional boundaries. The Swedish Chair will continue to work closely with ~~the representatives of the GFMD Civil Society Days.~~ the GFMD Civil Society Coordination Office¹, which in collaboration with an International Advisory Committee (IAC) of global civil society leaders and a worldwide network of civil society organizations, will organize GFMD-related activities of international civil society prior to and including the 2014 GFMD Civil Society Days (CSD).”*
- **Annex 2 – Provisional Calendar**

12 – 16 May	7th GFMD Meeting
12-13 May	<i>GFMD Civil Society Days 2014 (Stockholm)</i>
14-16 May	<i>GFMD Summit Meeting 2014 (Stockholm)</i>

Lastly, the civil society evaluation survey 2012 made the following suggestion with regards to Common Space, and government-civil society interactions:

“to have more joint preparations and joint presentations between governments, civil society and private sector on best practices/examples to be showcased GFMD meetings; to link up selected civil society delegates with the national government delegation of their country prior to the Forum; and to provide more time for dynamic exchange in break-out groups between governments and civil society, preferably in a full day of interactions, which also allows for more informal exchanges.”



¹ A modest GFMD Civil Society Coordination Office was established in 2011, under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), upon the invitation of the Swiss Chair-in-Office and continued its work upon subsequent invitation by the Mauritius (2012) and Sweden (2013-2014). For further information see: www.gfmdcivilsociety.org