

Terms of Reference

Ad hoc working group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In September 2015 World Leaders committed to an ambitious global agenda, *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The 2030 Agenda, with the overarching goal to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development while leaving no one behind, recognizes the role of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The GFMD has played a crucial role in achieving this important milestone.

The attention is now on our respective responsibility to implement this Agenda. In this context, the Governments have underscored that a “robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation”. Paragraph 85 of the Agenda furthermore specifies that thematic reviews by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be supported by reviews by the ECOSOC functional commissions and *other inter-governmental bodies and forums*. In light of the above, the 8th GFMD in Istanbul called for an important role by the GFMD in the implementation of the Agenda and endorsed the proposal of an Ad hoc Working Group according to the operating modalities of the Forum.

A. Scope of work

The ad hoc working group will consider the best ways for the GFMD to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to contribute to the follow-up and review process. The Group will also make recommendations on promoting a cross-cutting understanding of the significant interlinkages between migration and various goals and targets and indicators. The Group will therefore base its recommendations mainly on possible mechanisms existing within the working methods of the GFMD with a view to:

- i. *Provide a platform for voluntary sharing of experiences, progress and evidence on migration aspects of the 2030 agenda.*

The GFMD is a unique platform for sharing experiences on migration among governments and other stakeholders. Specific efforts and mechanisms could be explored to facilitate sharing of progress made and experiences of good practice for a) including migrants in the efforts to reach SDG and targets; b) on addressing the migration-specific commitments in the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; as well as on c) how countries have drawn pilot initiatives on migration or migrants in order to deliver on other SDGs and targets. Effective evidence generation should be sought for all of these aspects.

- ii. *Facilitate voluntary action by building partnerships on migration-related aspects of the 2030 agenda.*

In this regard, the ad hoc working group will explore how government teams, roundtables preparations, the Platform for Partnerships including its calls to action etc., could facilitate such action. Particular attention will be given to multi-stakeholder partnerships that will facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national level. Mechanisms to enhance partnerships with the GMG members and other observers of the GFMD, the private sector and civil society and engagement with the critical actors relevant for the follow-up and review process will also be explored.

iii. *Inform Member States and relevant organizations of migration-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda and provide inputs to the formal follow-up and review mechanisms of the United Nations*

Recalling the invitation to *other inter-governmental forums* to provide input to the thematic follow-up and review, the ad hoc working group will explore how the work of the GFMD can be geared towards supporting Participating States and the HLPF in “addressing achievements and progress, gaps and challenges, and emerging trends” in the area of migration.¹ This will include considering how the timing and thematic focus of the GFMD deliberations on migration aspects of the 2030 Agenda could be adjusted to the thematic focus of HLPF thematic reporting². The group could furthermore explore and provide recommendations on how to engage with the indicators for follow-up and review, the functional committees of ECOSOC, the HLPF as well as the Secretary-General’s annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the preparations of the Global Sustainable Development Report, which is meant to strengthen the science-policy interface.

The GFMD’s participation in the follow-up and review process of the Agenda, including by providing inputs to the HLPF, does not imply or create a formal reporting link to the HLPF or modify the forums’ mandate or governance.

B. Output

The Group will summarize its work and provide recommendations in a report to be provided to the Troika, Steering Group members and the Friends of the Forum for consideration in advance of the 9th GFMD Summit to be held in Dhaka in December 2016. The report will give consideration to the GFMD’s role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

C. Composition of the Group

The membership of the Group is on a voluntary basis and will be limited to approximately 12 members. It should be regionally balanced, allow for perspectives from high-, middle- and low-income countries as well as those of countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General will be invited to attend the meetings.

The Group will be co-chaired by the Governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh.

The co-chairs maintain the flexibility to invite members of the Global Migration Group or any other expert on a needs basis.

D. Duration of the work

The group will operate on a voluntary basis and for a limited time, until the GFMD 2016 Summit Meeting in Dhaka, in keeping with the established practice within GFMD.

E. Funding

Costs incidental to the group’s meetings are assumed voluntarily by the Co-Chairs and other members, as may be required.

F. Work-plan

The following workplan has been tentatively established by the ad hoc working group at its first meeting on April 5th 2016:

2nd meeting – mid-May 2016 (identifying key questions and assemble initial ideas for further consideration)

¹ Report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level

² Compare e.g. the illustrative examples for possible sequencing of broad cross-cutting themes at the HLPF in the aforementioned Secretary-General’s report

3rd meeting – end of June (possibility of initial exchange with external experts to collect additional inputs)

4th meeting – September (Discussion on first preliminary draft of recommendations)

5th meeting – October on the margin of SG/FoF meeting (presentation of consolidated draft to the SG and FoF / additional consultation of revised version including possibly with external experts)

6th meeting – November (finalization of recommendations based on reactions from SG/FoF and external experts)

The ad hoc working group will remain engaged between official meetings through written consultations and exchanges.