



Assessment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) (Phase 1)

Results of the Survey

Final report of the Assessment Team

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Executive Summary

At the GFMD 2010 Puerto Vallarta Special Session on the Future of the Forum, GFMD participating governments agreed to undertake an overall assessment of the GFMD process in light of the GFMD's evolving practices and experiences made from 2007 until 2010.

The assessment entails two parts:

- Part 1 examines the way the GFMD operates as a process, including its structures; it examines the impact and relevance of its outcomes in terms of substantive policy discussion, lessons learned and policy changes; and it addresses the relationship of the state-led GFMD with other stakeholders. These issues are examined on the basis of the objectives stated in the 2007 GFMD Operating Modalities and the evolving practice of the GFMD process.
- Part 2, to be carried out in 2012, will be dedicated to a strategic and political discussion among the GFMD participating governments on possible options for the future of the GFMD, based on the results of part 1.

An Assessment Team comprised of 14 governments¹ and chaired by the GFMD Chair-in-Office Switzerland was responsible for carrying out Part 1 of the assessment in 2011. The Assessment Team was supported by an independent external assessment expert providing technical assistance. Part 1 was implemented by means of a comprehensive questionnaire addressed to all 192 member states of the United Nations who were invited to share their opinions on various elements of the GFMD process. 66 member states completed the questionnaire designed for this purpose. Considering that an average of some 140 governments has actively participated in the GFMD process since 2007, this corresponds to a turnout of some 47%.

To complement the survey, a shorter and partially adapted version of the questionnaire was sent out to the 44 international organizations registered as observers. They were invited to give an assessment on those elements of the GFMD they are involved with. 10 of these observers submitted their responses, which resulted in a survey turnout of 22%.

The principal results of the government survey can be summarized as follows:

General impression of the GFMD process and its impacts:

- The overall satisfaction with the GFMD process is high. An overwhelming majority of the responding governments believe that the GFMD offers added value compared to other fora, institutions or processes that deal with the same issues, essentially because it is considered as the only global platform for dialogue on migration and development. A number of governments regret a lack of practical policy outcomes and a certain bias towards migration issues in contrast to development issues.

¹ Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland and United Arab Emirates. Mauritius joined the Assessment Team as of its 7th meeting on 27 September 2011.

- The main impacts of the GFMD are its contribution to the international debate on migration and development and the fostering of exchange of policies and practices at the international level. In comparison, its impact at the national level is considered to be weaker.

Preparation, format and implementation of GFMD meetings:

- The standard process of government teams preparing roundtable breakout sessions is supported by a vast majority of governments. The roundtable background papers are considered highly useful.
- The roundtable breakout sessions are mostly assessed as appropriate, but 13 governments perceive the number of session participants as too high.
- A majority of governments assess thematic continuity as important for the GFMD process and agree with the way the annual overarching theme and agenda is currently set. At the same time, a majority of responding governments are in favor of a multiple-year thematic agenda.
- The frequency and general structure of the GFMD main meeting are found to be appropriate by a large majority of governments. However, there is no consensus as to whether there should be a standard format of the GFMD main event or not.

GFMD outcomes and follow-up:

- So far, the main outcomes of the GFMD process are dialogue and bilateral contacts, exchange of good practices and policy models between participating governments, and improved consultations on migration and development between different ministries within governments. Specific projects and/or processes initiated or influenced by the GFMD are reported by half of the responding governments.

Organization of the GFMD: supporting structures, functioning and funding:

- The current chairing arrangements, including the principle to let the GFMD chair rotate between a developed and a developing country, the GFMD Support Unit and the GFMD website, the flow and degree of information about GFMD related-developments, and the system of national GFMD focal points are all assessed positively by a majority of governments.
- A clear majority of governments consider the Steering Group's composition, i.e. its size and regional balance, and its functioning as appropriate. At the same time, almost half of the responding governments are in favor of a rotation system for the governments participating in the Steering Group.
- The functioning of the Friends of the Forum is perceived as appropriate by more than half of the responding governments. About a third of the responding governments raise doubts concerning the degree of involvement in developing the Chair's concept and thematic agenda.

- On the questions of whether or not the respective responsibilities and activities of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum are sufficiently distinct, and if their respective roles and functions should be redefined, the responses are divided and do not allow to draw a clear conclusion.
- A clear majority of responding governments are in favor of a mechanism that would allow more predictable funding. 25 governments see financial constraints as a possible obstacle for countries to participate in the GFMD process.

Role of and relationship with international organizations:

- A clear majority of governments consider the GFMD's current relationship with international organizations to be appropriate or highly appropriate. Many governments consider their thematic contributions to the GFMD discussions as crucial.
- The Secretary-General's Special Representative on Migration and Development is considered as a key person in the GFMD process. The current relationship with the United Nations is assessed as appropriate or highly appropriate by a clear majority of the responding governments.

Role of and relationship with civil society:

- Participation of civil society actors in the GFMD process by means of current arrangements (participation of governments in Civil Society Days, Interface during Civil Society Days, and Common Space during Government Days) is assessed appropriate or highly appropriate by a majority of the responding governments.
- The views on the question of how and to what degree the GFMD should interact with civil society do not allow for clear inferences as to new forms of interaction.

1 Context and objectives of the survey

At the GFMD 2010 Puerto Vallarta Special Session on the Future of the Forum, GFMD participating governments agreed to undertake an overall assessment of the GFMD process in light of the GFMD's evolving practices and experiences made from 2007 until 2010.

The assessment entails two parts:

- Part 1 examines the way the GFMD operates as a process, including its structures; it examines the impact and relevance of its outcomes in terms of substantive policy discussion, lessons learned and policy changes; and it addresses the relationship of the state-led GFMD with other stakeholders. These issues are examined in an objective and comprehensive manner, on the basis of the objectives stated in the 2007 GFMD Operating Modalities and the evolving practice of the GFMD process.
- Part 2, to be carried out in 2012, will be dedicated to a strategic and political discussion among the GFMD participating governments on possible options for the future of the GFMD, based on the results of part 1.

In order to conceive and carry out the assessment, an Assessment Team comprised of 14 governments² was created. In 2011, the Assessment Team was chaired by the current GFMD Chair Switzerland. An independent external expert provided technical assistance to the Assessment Team. This assistance included drafting a questionnaire for the survey, analysing the data and responses gathered, and preparing the report on the survey's results. The overall assessment framework, the questionnaire and the report presented herewith were all discussed and approved by the Assessment Team.

2 Survey method

2.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire was elaborated based on the list of elements to be assessed in phase 1, which the Assessment Team adopted at its second meeting on 14 December 2010. Based on this list, a questionnaire was drafted, which was divided into six sections:

1. General impressions of the GFMD process and its impacts
2. Preparation, format and implementation of GFMD meetings
3. GFMD outcomes and follow-up
4. Organization of the GFMD: supporting structures, functioning and funding
5. Role and relationship with international organizations

² Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. The Republic of Mauritius joined the Assessment Team as of its 7th meeting on 27 September 2011.

6. Role and relationship with civil society

Most questions asked for a closed answer (yes/no) or a judgment based on a scale with four items. In addition, the questionnaire asked for explanations and comments to each question. All of the questions provided the option to respond ‘cannot judge’.

2.2 Survey turnout

The questionnaire was sent to the government focal points of the 192 member states of the United Nations. Since all UN member states were invited to participate in the survey, it assumes the character of an inventory or a consultation. Statistical generalization on the basis of a representative sample or a differentiated analysis in the sense of comparing different groups or categories of states with each other, were not the stated objectives of this survey.

As of August 18 (final deadline), 66 governments had submitted their responses, which resulted in a survey turnout of 34%. Considering that an average of some 140 governments has actively participated in the GFMD process since 2007, this corresponds to a turnout of some 47%. An overview of the governments participating in the survey is provided in Appendix A. Governments who submitted their completed questionnaires after the final deadline are also listed. All the questionnaires were uploaded on a restricted area of the GFMD web portal which is accessible for governments only.

Data quality is high, as there are only few missing or unclear answers. On average, half of the participating governments answered open questions with a written comment. Governments made more than 2100 explanatory comments.

As a number of international organizations participate in the GFMD as Observers, they were invited to give an assessment on those elements of the GFMD they are involved with. A shorter and partially adapted version of the questionnaire addressed to the governments was sent out to the 44 international organizations considered as GFMD Observers. As of August 28 (final deadline), 10 of them submitted their responses, which resulted in a survey turnout of 22%. The results are reported in appendix C.

2.3 Data analysis

All the answers were transferred into an excel sheet which allowed for a rapid analysis of the quantitative data. The response statistics to the closed questions are reported in tables and figures, grouped along the various elements examined.

The quantitative data need to be interpreted cautiously. The qualitative comments reveal that not all governments interpreted the given scales and answered categories the same way. However, this does not generally affect the results, as the distribution of the answers in most cases shows clear patterns. Where this is not the case, either due to different interpretation of the answer scales or due to a high number of governments answering ‘cannot judge’, it is indicated so in the report.

The qualitative data collated from more than 2100 comments were analyzed according to the principle of inductive qualitative content analysis. The comments to each question were treated separately. To get an overview, the main issues addressed were identified. Clearly, these main issues vary from question to question. As a second step, the comments were grouped according to these main issues. Then, the various comments to each main issue within a particular group were, if necessary, regrouped again according to their distinct meaning and sense. Finally, the number of governments commenting similarly on a certain issue was counted. As single statements were counted as one unit, a comment by a particular government could be counted several times, thus, the total number of statements reported below might in some cases exceed the actual number of comments to a certain question.

When grouping the comments, attention was paid to distinguishing between different types of statements. Generally, a distinction was made between factual observations, i.e. statements on a fact or assessing a fact referring to a current state or situation, and normative statements, i.e. referring to the future and to a desired situation. The comments thus allow for an assessment of the current or the past situation, but also give indications as to desired modifications or make specific proposals for such modifications.

Comments that do not relate to the question they addressed were not considered in the analysis.

3 Results

The following sections report and discuss the results of the survey along the general structure of the questionnaire. Where appropriate, the sections are subdivided along the individual elements assessed. Section 3.1 deals with the general impressions of the GFMD process and the impacts it has had so far, section 3.2 covers the preparation, format and implementation of GFMD meetings, and section 3.3 relates to the outcomes of these meetings. Section 3.4 addresses the organization of the GFMD, whereas the last two sections focus on the GFMD's relationship with international organizations (section 3.5) and with civil society (section 3.6).

In each section or subsection, after a general overview and description of the quantitative turnout (closed questions), a summary of the different comments is presented.

3.1 General impression of the GFMD process and its impacts

The overview of the results in table 1 and figure 1 shows that the governments participating in the survey assess the GFMD process and its impact for the most part positively. Most items are judged 'somewhat' positive. The highest average score is attributed to the GFMD's contribution to the international debate on migration and development (question 1-6). The lowest scoring items are the GFMD's contribution to fostering exchange of policies and practices at the national level (question 1-2b) and to establishing partnerships between governments and other stakeholders (question 1-3c). Almost 30% of the responding governments are not able to judge the GFMD's impact on the rights of migrants.

Figure 1: Questions on general impression on GFMD process – response statistics

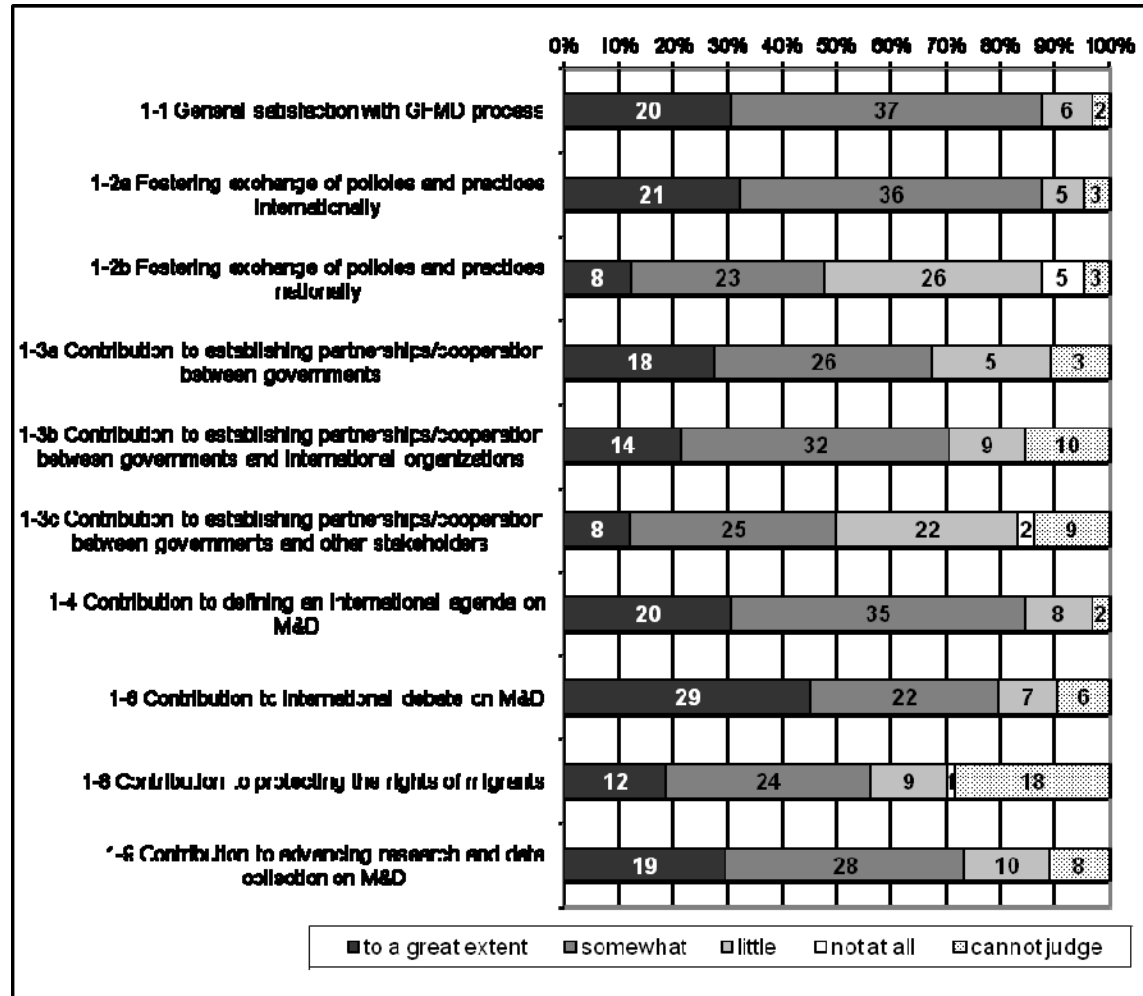


Table 1: Questions on general impression on GFMD process – response statistics

Question			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
1-1	In general, how satisfied are you with the GFMD process so far?	N	20	37	6	0	2
		%	30.8	56.9	9.2	0.0	3.1
1-2	To what extent has the GFMD fostered exchange of policies and practices with regard to the links between M&D...						
1-2a	...at the international level?	N	21	36	5	0	3
		%	32.3	55.4	7.7	0.0	4.6
1-2b	...at the national level?	N	8	23	26	5	3
		%	12.3	35.4	40.0	7.7	4.6
1-3	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to establishing partnerships and/or cooperation on M&D...						
1-3a	...between governments?	N	18	26	14	0	7
		%	27.7	40.0	21.5	0.0	10.8
1-3b	...between governments and international organizations?	N	14	32	9	0	10
		%	21.5	49.2	13.8	0.0	15.4
1-3c	...between governments and other stakeholders, such as non governmental organizations, diaspora, migrants, academia etc.?	N	8	25	22	2	9
		%	12.1	37.9	33.3	3.0	13.6
1-4	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to defining an international agenda and priorities on M&D?	N	20	35	8	0	2
		%	30.8	53.8	12.3	0.0	3.1
1-6	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to the international debate on M&D?	N	29	22	7	0	6
		%	45.3	34.4	10.9	0.0	9.4
1-8	To what extent has the sharing of practices within the GFMD contributed to protecting the rights of migrants?	N	12	24	9	1	18
		%	18.8	37.5	14.1	1.6	28.1
1-9	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to advancing research and data collection on M&D linkages?	N	19	28	10	0	8
		%	29.7	43.8	15.6	0.0	10.9
Question			++	Yes	No	--	Cannot judge
1-5	Does the GFMD as a global process offer value added compared to other fora, institutions or processes that also discuss migration and development issues?	N		53	1		11
		%		81.5	1.5		16.9
1-7	Have the development-related aspects of the link between migration and development sufficiently been covered in the GFMD process?	N		29	20		13
		%		46.8	32.3		21.0

The **general satisfaction with the GFMD process** (question 1-1) is high: 20 governments (30.8%) answer ‘to a great extent’ and 37 (56.9%) ‘somewhat’ satisfied. 6 governments (9.2%) indicate a low degree of satisfaction.

The numerous comments given on this question show that the main reason for the reported satisfaction is that the GFMD is seen as the only global platform for dialogue and discussions on issues related to migration and development and the link between these two areas. 36 comments reflect this view. Some governments especially appreciate that the GFMD gathers countries of origin, transit and destination of migration and thus allows not only an exchange of the different experiences and perspectives, but also enables them to learn from each other and to gain a deeper understanding of the issues at stake. 4 governments state that the GFMD has inspired national policy processes and projects (see also section 3.3 of this report), and 2 governments especially stress the usefulness of the open and informal nature of the GFMD process.

Some of the governments that are generally satisfied with the GFMD process point to some aspects they consider unsatisfactory and which should be improved. Most of these comments concern the limited impact the process has had so far. 8 governments mention this. Some of them also plead for more practical policy outcomes in the future, and a stronger focus on follow-up and implementation of recommendations resulting from the GFMD discussions. According to 3 governments, the GFMD process is somewhat biased towards the issue of migration and does not sufficiently consider development-related aspects and the link between migration and development.

Those governments with a more critical view draw attention to the lack of agreement on the GFMD’s objectives, the lack of concrete results so far, the observation that similar international processes on a regional level have progressed beyond the GFMD, and the lack of visibility and recognition of the process (one government each). One government proposes to think about measures to actively promote and communicate the process.

36 governments (55.4%) believe that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ **fostered exchange of policies and practices with regard to the links between migration and development at the international level** (question 1-2a); 21 (32.3%) think this has been the case ‘to a great extent’. 5 governments (7.7%) think that the GFMD has only ‘little’ contributed to such international exchange.

The various comments given on this question mainly illustrate and confirm the individual governments’ assessment. Few remarks provide additional information. For example, a number of governments highlight the various useful occasions the GFMD process offers for exchange of policies and practices. Others say the GFMD provides a global platform for such exchange and has raised awareness on the link between migration and development. Particular mention is made of personal contacts at meetings and the discussions in the working groups. 3 governments point out that the GFMD is the only global process of its kind and thus offers a wider reach than other processes. Some governments stress that, after a successful first phase, the process now needs to be taken forward by focusing on practical results and promoting the exchange of policies and practices.

Among the more critical voices, 5 governments remark that there has been a shift from the debate on migration and development to mainly migration-related issues. While one government mentions that the GFMD has thereby lost some of its added value, another identifies a lack of engagement on the part of the development community. One government considers the great diversity among the states participating in the process as a challenge. Another government says it has gained only limited new knowledge by participating in the GFMD and that it could easily have gained this knowledge through other channels.

According to the responding governments, the GFMD has been less effective in fostering the **exchange of policies and practices with regard to the links between migration and development at the national level** (question 1-2b). 26 (40%) of the governments believe this has only been the case to a small extent ('little'); 23 (35.4%) of them see it to be the case to some extent ('somewhat'). While still 8 governments (12.3%) rate this item 'to a great extent', 5 (7.7%) believe that the GFMD has not fostered such exchange at all.

The few comments given to this question indicate that at the national level, exchange of policies and practices on the migration and development link takes place in different stages and degrees. The most frequent specific comment (by 7 governments) is that the GFMD process has fostered coherence between migration and development policies, especially through the joint preparation of GFMD meetings by government agencies. 4 governments say that the discussions in the GFMD process have been a factor influencing national policy making in the field of migration, while one government explicitly mentions that this has been the case in the field of development. 2 governments report that as a consequence of their GFMD-related activities, entities such as committees, working groups and the like have been created which contribute to enhancing the administrative capacity in dealing with the two issues. In another country, enhanced coordination is not a direct consequence of the GFMD process, but the result of efforts made by the national focal point.

While a little more than two thirds of the responding governments think that the GFMD has to 'a great extent' or 'somewhat' contributed to **establishing partnerships and/or cooperation on migration and development between governments** (question 1-3a) and **between governments and international organizations** (question 1-3b), only half of the governments find this to be true in the case of **partnerships and/or cooperation between governments and other stakeholders** (NGOs, diaspora, migrants, academia etc.; question 1-3c).

Most of the comments concerning **partnerships and/or cooperation between governments** (question 1-3a) illustrate the channels and occasions which in some cases have fostered such cooperation, i.e. the preparation and co-chairing of a roundtable session, the ad-hoc working groups, the Platform for Partnerships, and according to one government also the network of national Focal Points. These tools seem to be used mainly for sharing information and experiences, but in some cases have also led to specific project initiatives, such as common research activities, seminars or the conclusion of bilateral migration partnerships. In this respect, the GFMD is seen as a platform that brings together government representatives from all over

the world and provides the opportunity to establish and deepen contacts between different governments in an informal setting. If, in what form and to what extent such contacts are established and where they lead depends, however, largely on each government's needs, preferences and interest.

Much of what is said above can be applied to **partnerships and/or cooperation between governments and international organizations** (question 1-3b). 5 governments consider that the structure and format of the GFMD have allowed intensifying and strengthening the interaction between governments and international organizations, according to their particular needs and interests. In some cases, such partnerships have developed beyond the GFMD and evolved into specific programs. Examples for such cooperation are frequently found in the comments given (9 governments). However, it is not always clear if the examples cited are the result of a governments' participation in the GFMD or if these contacts and partnerships were established without connection to the GFMD. 5 governments point out that international organizations have substantially contributed their expertise and knowledge to the GFMD process in general, as well as to some of the government teams preparing roundtable sessions.

The comments on question 1-3c concerning **partnerships and/or cooperation between governments and other stakeholders** (NGOs, academia, diaspora, migrants etc.) are rather heterogeneous and thus difficult to summarize. A considerable number of governments point out that the GFMD with its particular structure has provided opportunities for consultation between governments and civil society actors, namely through joint preparatory meetings at national levels ahead of the GFMD main meeting or roundtable sessions, or on the occasion of the Civil Society Days. These contacts have allowed civil society actors to share their views and experiences with governments which can thus define more informed policy positions on the issues discussed within the GFMD. In some countries, such contacts and consultation have been triggered by the GFMD process, while in other countries such contacts already existed before and were not influenced by the GFMD.

Some governments report that concrete projects and partnerships between governments and other stakeholders have been established due to closer interaction in the GFMD process, while others mention fruitful learning and exchange of knowledge in this context. One government mentions that through their engagement in the GFMD process, NGOs have been able to build their capacity and that their interest in the domains of migration and development has increased. 2 governments believe that non-governmental stakeholders are not aware of, or sufficiently informed about the GFMD process and its results.

For most of the responding governments, the GFMD has to a considerable degree contributed to **defining an international agenda and priorities on migration and development** (question 1-4). 35 governments (53.8%) believe this has 'somewhat' been the case, 20 (30.8%) 'to a great extent'. 8 governments (12.3%) say that the GFMD has only 'little' contributed. In their comments, 15 governments explicitly state that they believe the GFMD has been important in

putting the issue of migration and development on the international agenda. Various governments illustrate in what respect this has been the case. 5 governments mention that the discussions within the GFMD have contributed to raising awareness on these issues and highlighting them at the international level. The GFMD has acted as a catalyst, making specific topics more prominent on the international agenda than before. Due to the GFMD discussions, several countries seem to have realized the importance of migration and development. In this respect, 2 governments believe that the GFMD has enhanced the link between migration and development. Some governments point out that other international actors, such as working groups of the European Union or the OECD, have taken note of the discussions in the GFMD and that the GFMD has already inspired the agenda of the UN High Level Dialogue planned in 2013. For 3 governments, the GFMD has filled a gap in the international architecture. 7 governments point out that the high degree of participation in the Forum's meetings illustrates the high interest in the GFMD.

2 governments indicate that the GFMD is not the only and not the most influencing actor in the international agenda setting. According to them, other actors' and national governments' interests are more important in defining the international agenda on migration and development.

There are also some critical comments on this question. 2 governments feel that the GFMD is losing momentum and needs to focus more on practical outcomes. One government proposes to develop a communication strategy in order to enhance the promotion of the GFMD's outcomes. 2 governments identify two shortcomings of the otherwise successful GFMD process: it has not set a clear thematic focus and it is not a focal point for the various international processes in the field of migration and development.

53 governments (81.5%) believe that the **GFMD offers an added value** compared to other fora, institutions or processes dealing with the same issues (question 1-5). Only one government indicates that it sees no added value, while 11 governments (16%) cannot judge.

48 governments explain what they consider as the GFMD's value added. While the governments stress different features of the process, the comments basically all address the same set of aspects. 20 governments mention the opportunity for dialogue and sharing experiences and best practices among different countries and other stakeholders. 16 governments especially appreciate the format and distinct nature of the GFMD process, namely that it is informal, state-led, open and flexible and allows discussion of difficult issues. It thus contrasts with other international fora or processes which are perceived to be more political and confrontational. 13 governments see the global nature of the GFMD as a specific added value, 8 governments recognize the fact that the GFMD deals with migration and development and promotes the link between the two. 8 governments explicitly state that due to these various features, they value the GFMD as a unique process at the international level.

One government sees no value added by the GFMD compared to other fora because it thinks the GFMD avoids debating the main issues related to migration.

In their comments, 7 governments indicate where they see room for improvement in the GFMD's future. 2 of them would like to see more practical and useful outcomes and less

theoretical discussions. To this end, another government proposes to ensure the participation of senior policy officials and to streamline the agenda. Yet another government suggests improving the organizational set-up of the GFMD. One government wishes to prevent it from becoming a sounding board for minority views and positions on migration, and another government prefers to integrate the forum into the United Nations system to ensure constant and global participation.

For 29 governments (45.3%), the GFMD has ‘to a great extent’ contributed to **the international debate on migration and development** (question 1-6). For 22 (34.4%), it has ‘somewhat’ contributed, and for 7 (10.9%) it has only contributed ‘little’ to the international debate. 6 governments (9.4%) cannot judge.

Numerous governments assessing this item positively mention that they regard the GFMD as the only informal and at the same time global platform for discussing migration and development issues, which has raised the awareness for these issues and the link between them. Some governments mention that in their view the GFMD has changed the perception of migration and its relation with development. It has thus helped to shape the international debate on these issues, stimulated momentum in international discussions, and boosted discussions in regional and interregional fora. According to some governments, the GFMD has contributed to the international debate in terms of government work and inspiration for international organizations and think tanks.

Some comment that the GFMD’s annual agenda should be more selective, and that a closer relationship with other instruments and regional platforms or processes should be sought in order to avoid duplication, save resources and raise the GFMD’s efficiency.

The governments seeing little impact on the international debate on migration and development offer only few comments regarding their position. One government believes that the Forum has avoided raising sensitive political issues; another thinks that the Forum has so far failed to define and develop the link between migration and development in a meaningful way. One government thinks that the Global Migration Group (GMG) contributes more in terms of generating new practices and knowledge.

29 governments (46.8%) think that the **development-related aspects** of the link between migration and development have **sufficiently been covered** in the GFMD process (question 1-7), while 20 (32.3%) believe this has not been the case. However, since 13 governments cannot judge (21%), the result is somewhat ambiguous.

Among those governments that regard development issues as sufficiently considered, 8 confirm this in a comment. Some point out that the GFMD has raised awareness on the link between migration and development and promoted discussions on it. 2 governments give specific examples for such discussions. 3 governments acknowledge that in the discussions, migration-related issues have somewhat dominated over development-related issues, but point out that in their view this reflects the concerns and priorities of the governments participating in those discussion.

On the other hand, 8 governments regret that in their view development-related concerns have received too little attention. According to them, discussions should be rebalanced and more emphasis should be given to development issues. 6 governments believe that discussions should focus more on the link between migration and development and that the GFMD should do more to clearly define and develop this link. 5 other governments comment that the topics discussed have not been of interest to them or have not been those with the highest priority. 3 governments suggest a shift of paradigm in the general approach under which migration and development issues are discussed. 3 more governments believe that the limited discussion on development-related issues is due to weak involvement or engagement of the development community in the GFMD process so far.

Question 1-8 concerning the GFMD's impact on the **protection of the rights of migrants** could not be assessed by 18 of the responding governments (28.1%). Among those giving an opinion, the majority (24; 37.5%) believe that the GFMD has 'somewhat' contributed to this objective, while another 12 governments (18.8%) think it has contributed 'to a great extent'.

Many of those governments assessing the GFMD's impact on the protection of migrants' rights stress that the discussion of the issue and the sharing of experiences have raised awareness on migrants' rights and the existing mechanisms to protect them. While they point out that the GFMD has produced certain results, some governments say that concrete actions and impacts at state-level leading to an improved situation of migrants depend largely on the individual states' situation and readiness to make use of the outputs provided by the GFMD. While a number of governments insist on the necessity to do more with respect to protecting the rights of migrants, one government remarks that this is not the Forum's primary purpose.

10 governments which see only little impact with respect to the protection of migrants' rights offered some comments. Among them, 6 acknowledge that the issue of migrants' rights has been discussed, but 4 governments regret that these discussions have not led to specific action and that no progress has been made in this field. One government thinks that the issue has been neglected since it is a highly sensitive topic. Another government also sees a risk of politicizing the process if discussions on a potentially divisive topic were intensified. Yet another government sees the non-binding nature of the GFMD process as an explanation of why recommendations might not be translated into action at the national level.

Among those governments not able to assess the question, 4 comment that they lack sufficient information or that it is too early to judge. 2 governments believe that although the impact cannot yet be assessed, the discussions in the GFMD might at least have raised awareness on the existing legal frameworks and practices for protecting the rights of migrants.

According to the governments' responses to question 1-9, the GFMD has to some extent contributed to **advancing research and data collection on migration and development linkages**. 28 (43.8%) think that this has 'somewhat' been the case, 19 (29.7%) think that it has contributed 'to a great extent'. 10 governments (15.6%) see 'little' contribution by the GFMD.

11 governments mention the ad-hoc working group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research as the main GFMD body concerned with research. While most of these governments assess this group’s work as active and useful, 2 consider its output with regard to research and data collection as rather modest. 6 governments mention background papers as an important source of research and data. While 2 governments consider them as thoroughly researched, 2 others observe a significant disparity in the quality of these papers. Specific research outputs fostered by the GFMD process are the migration profiles that have been elaborated in some countries, mentioned by 5 governments, and the IOM-handbook on engaging diaspora in development activities, mentioned by 4 governments.

3.2 Preparation, format and implementation of GFMD meetings

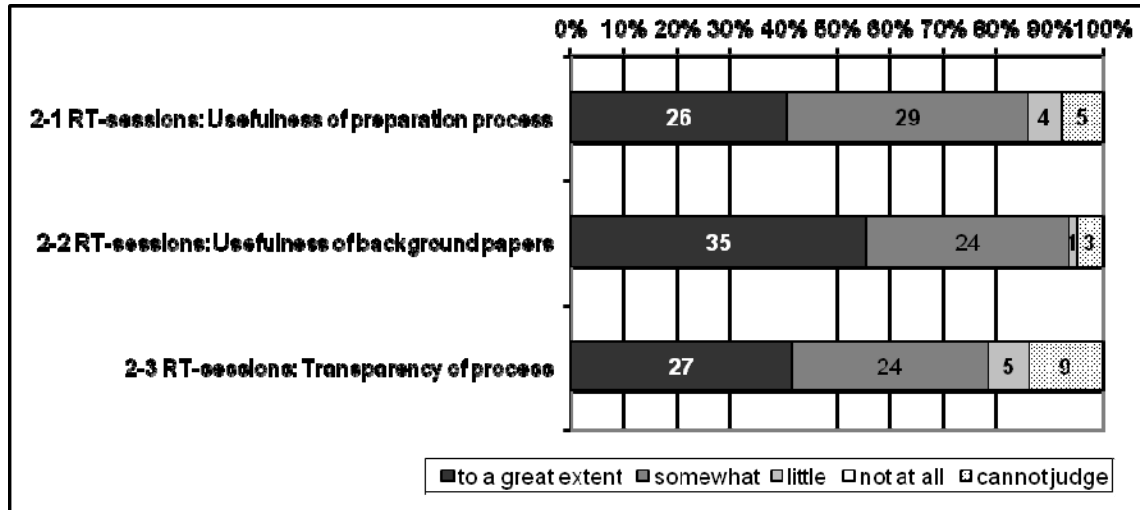
3.2.1 Preparatory process leading to roundtable breakout sessions

The standard preparatory process leading to roundtable breakout sessions is supported by the majority of governments giving their opinion on this subject (table 2, figure 2).

Table 2: Questions on preparatory process leading to roundtable sessions– response statistics

Question			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
2-1	Does the usual process of government teams preparing the roundtable breakout sessions in the lead up to the annual GFMD meetings result in useful discussions among participating governments?	N	26	29	4	0	5
		%	40.6	45.3	6.3	0.0	7.8
2-2	Are the government team background papers useful for stimulating the discussions at the roundtable breakout sessions during the GMFD main meeting?	N	35	24	1	0	3
		%	55.6	38.1	1.6	0.0	4.8
2-3	Is the process of government teams preparing the roundtable breakout sessions and background papers in the lead up to the annual GFMD meetings transparent?	N	27	24	5	0	9
		%	41.5	36.9	7.7	0.0	13.8
				Yes	No		Cannot judge
2-4	Should this preparatory process, including the government teams in the lead up to the annual GFMD meetings, be organized in a different way?	N		13	32		18
		%		20.6	50.8		28.6

Figure 2: Questions on preparatory process leading to roundtable sessions – response statistics



The **government team-led preparatory process** is considered to result ‘somewhat’ in useful discussions (question 2-1) by 29 governments (45.3%) and ‘to a great extent’ by another 26 (40.6%). 4 governments (6.3%) perceive the process to be ‘little’ useful. 5 governments (7.8%) cannot judge.

In the analysis, only 19 comments clearly concerning the preparatory process under question were considered. 4 governments comment on the actual roundtable sessions, and 16 comments are not clear as to whether they refer to the preparatory process or to the roundtable sessions.

7 governments giving a highly or somewhat positive assessment appreciate the preparatory process because it provides the opportunity for in-depth, focused, interactive and substantive discussion at the roundtable sessions. Government team meetings are seen as an opportunity to go beyond the general scope of the main meeting, to share practices and experiences, to brainstorm and to initiate further collaboration. One government, however, states that discussions in team meetings are more concerned with preparing the roundtable session than about exploring the theme.

3 governments believe that the preparation work is dominated by the co-chairs or some key governments. One government states a lack of sufficiently interactive, substantial discussion. Another government thinks that the preparation process relies too much on the background of Geneva-based diplomatic staff instead of government experts from the capitals. Another issue raised is the balance of the government teams. While 2 governments find the composition of the government teams to be adequately balanced between developing and developed countries or with respect to geography, one government opines that this balance is not observed.

The **government team background papers** (question 2-2) are considered useful ‘to a great extent’ by 35 governments (55.6%) and ‘somewhat’ useful by 24 governments (38.1%). Only one government sees ‘little’ use in these papers.

The comments are mainly illustrative in what respect they are perceived to be useful. According to most of these comments, the papers give an overview of the topics to be discussed and help in shaping the discussions by framing the topics and asking questions.

The quality of the papers is assessed very positively by most governments. However, some governments claim that the quality of these papers differs greatly and that some papers are more useful than others. Short, concise papers with a clear focus and containing some key questions to stimulate discussion seem to be preferred. Although examples of best practices or specific situations are found to be interesting, they are not perceived as indispensable key elements for the background papers. 3 governments raise the issue of a standard format for the background papers to ensure that they contain the aforementioned elements.

5 governments mention the importance of the chair's role in shaping the discussions at the roundtable sessions and in assuring the nexus between the content of these papers and the discussions.

2 governments make concrete proposals with regard to the background papers. One insists that they be made accessible online, in the sense of a knowledge base. Another regrets the lack of French translations of these papers, which can limit the participation of certain governments.³

The **transparency of the preparatory process** (question 2-3) is also mostly considered to be granted (27 or 41.5% 'to a great extent'; 24 or 36.9% 'somewhat'), while 5 governments (7.7%) consider the process as 'little' transparent. 9 governments cannot judge.

The comments illustrate that the responding governments' perceptions differ to some extent. On a general level, 11 governments consider the process to be transparent; 4 governments state that they see room for improvement.

One aspect of transparency is inclusiveness. In this specific respect, 3 governments mention that only few governments are actually involved in the preparation of roundtable sessions. 3 other governments believe that the background papers do not reflect the diversity of views since not all perspectives are taken into account. This opinion is contested by 7 governments which comment that the preparatory process is voluntary and open to all governments. 2 of them state that participation depends to a certain degree on a governments' interest in a specific topic. 3 other governments see practical difficulties in involving everybody.

Another aspect of transparency is consultation and timely information. 3 governments assess this aspect positively and remark that information on the progress of the preparatory work is openly available, e.g. via the GFMD website. 2 governments point out that all relevant information, e.g. the agenda, are communicated and circulated well in advance, allowing all governments to inform themselves and get involved when desired. On the other hand, one government feels that lead time for information is insufficient, and 4 governments see room for improvement with respect to the dissemination and availability of documents concerning the work of the government teams.

³ It is to be noted that as a standard practice, all background papers on roundtable sessions are made available online at the GFMD-website in English, French and Spanish.

While one government explicitly mentions the exchange among the government teams to be positive, 2 governments identify a lack of exchange between them.

As for the question of whether or not the **preparatory process should be organized in a different way** (question 2-4), 32 governments (50.8%) wish no modification, while 13 (20.6%) are in favor of changes. The number of governments who are not able to judge this question is rather high (18; 28.6%).

12 governments state that the process works efficiently enough and that no modification is needed. 2 governments stress that governments should continue to be the leaders of the preparatory process. 2 other governments see a need to pay attention to the adequate representation of different perspectives and/or geographical regions in the process; one government proposes to do more to ensure participation by possibly all governments involved in the process, without further specifying how this could be done.

Among those governments commenting on why and how they would organize the preparatory process differently, 5 address the issue of participation. 4 of them see a need to broaden participation and to include more governments in the preparatory process, especially from countries of origin of migration.

2 governments propose to have less physical meetings and more online discussions or video conferences.

3 governments make suggestions on the location of meetings. While 2 governments propose to have preparatory meetings at one central location, e.g. in Geneva, another one proposes to organize government team meetings in different regions rather than in Geneva only.

One government refers to the general order of events in the GFMD process which could be reversed: instead of having the annual meeting at the end of each year, and having preparatory meetings leading up to it, the main meeting could be defined as the starting point at which key action points would be decided following discussions on main topics. The rest of the year would be devoted to implementing cooperation projects and following up on outcomes which would be reported at the following annual GFMD. Government teams could be formed with specific outputs in mind, and not just for preparatory work.

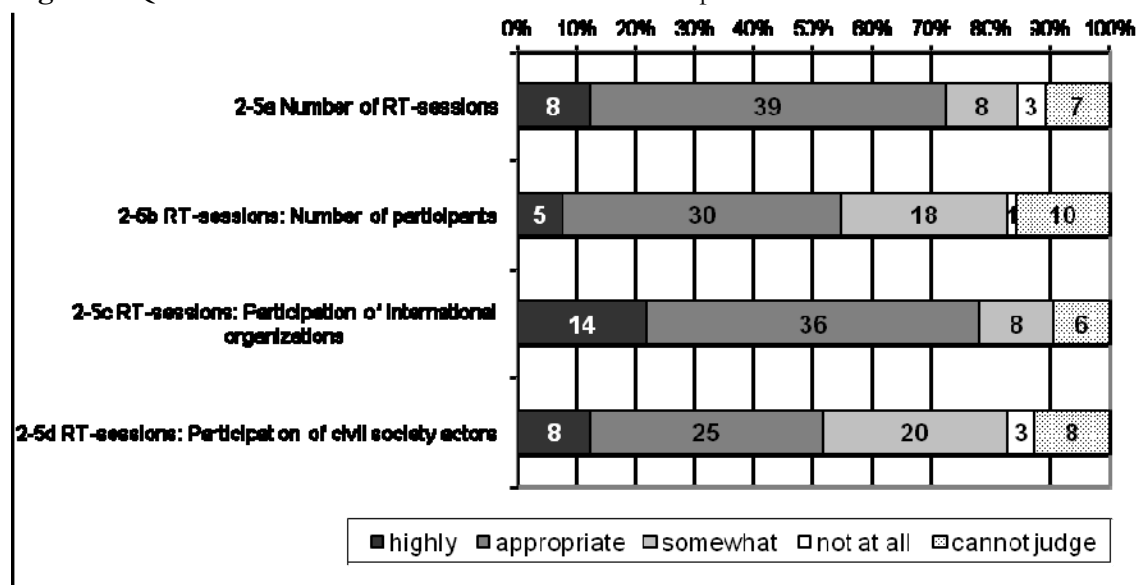
3.2.2 Roundtable breakout sessions

The roundtable sessions themselves are mostly assessed as appropriate (table 3, figure 3). Most governments consider the various aspects under examination as appropriate, and a few as highly appropriate. A limited number of governments offer critical opinions. Two aspects are rated somewhat low in comparison with others: The **number of the participants** per roundtable session (question 2-5b) and the **participation of civil society actors** in those sessions (question 2-5d).

Table 3: Questions on roundtable breakout sessions – response statistics

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge
		++	+	-	--	
2-5 Are the following aspects of the roundtable breakout sessions appropriate to allow for interactive and frank exchange among governments and with other stakeholders:						
2-5a Number of roundtable breakout sessions	N	8	39	8	3	7
	%	12.3	60.0	12.3	4.6	10.8
2-5b Size/number of participants	N	5	30	18	1	10
	%	7.8	46.9	28.1	1.6	15.6
2-5c Participation of international organizations	N	14	36	8	0	6
	%	21.9	56.3	12.5	0.0	9.4
2-5d Participation of civil society actors	N	8	25	20	3	8
	%	12.5	39.1	31.3	4.7	12.5

Figure 3: Questions on roundtable breakout sessions – response statistics



The majority (39; 60.0%) of responding governments assess the **number of roundtable breakout sessions** (question 2-5a) as ‘appropriate’, 8 (12.3%) as ‘highly appropriate’. 8 governments (12.3%) consider the number ‘somewhat’ appropriate, and 3 (4.6%) ‘not appropriate at all’.

The comments allow for a more differentiated analysis of this element. 7 governments explicitly or implicitly state that they judge the number of sessions to be adequate. 4 governments propose to reduce the number of sessions; 5 governments suggest increasing their number. 2 governments state that this question depends on the general format of the GFMD.

Various governments argue that increasing the number of sessions would facilitate smaller sessions, which would lead to more focused discussions and an increased level of interaction. On the other hand, 4 governments explicitly see a problem in having too many parallel and overlapping sessions since this restricts the number of sessions that can be attended by smaller delegations with a limited number of government representatives. According to them, reducing the number of roundtable sessions would increase the possibility for smaller delegations to attend most of the sessions.

4 governments think that the roundtable sessions should have a clearer thematic focus. They believe that increasing the number and reducing the size of the sessions might be helpful in this regard. However, one of them states that a lack of focus is not a function of the number of participants, but rather due to a broad definition of the topics of discussion.

30 governments (46.9%) assess the **number of participants in roundtable breakout sessions** (question 2-5b) as ‘appropriate’, 5 (7.8%) as ‘highly appropriate’. 18 governments (28.1%) consider the number of participants as ‘somewhat’ appropriate, and 1 (1.6%) ‘not appropriate at all’. 10 governments (15.6%) cannot judge.

Many of the commenting governments (13) believe that there are too many attendees. According to some of them, the large number of participants hinders an open and interactive debate and reduces the chance of participants to actively contribute to the discussions. Other comments concerning the quality of the discussions in the roundtable breakout sessions are put forward: 3 governments mention time management and effectiveness of the chair as essential; and one government identifies the expertise of the participants as a key factor affecting the quality of the discussions. Another government regrets that due to the formal arrangements, i.e. the necessity to announce interventions to the Chair in advance, it is not always possible to directly react to comments.

Various proposals to modify the setting of the roundtable sessions were made. 4 governments raise the issue of time constraints and suggest prolonging the sessions; 3 governments propose increasing the number of sessions (see above). While 2 governments are in favour of limiting the number of participants per session to 50 or 60, another government proposes to limit the delegation size per country to three. Yet another proposal is to limit the number of statements per participant in a session, and one government puts forward the idea to split up roundtable sessions into smaller subgroups, debating in parallel on the same topic.

6 commenting governments think that the current size of the roundtable sessions is appropriate. 3 of them believe that there should be no limit to participation. 3 other governments state that participation reflects the participants' interest in a specific topic. Some point out that a strict time management and an effective chair ought to allow for substantial discussions even if there are many participants in a session.

36 governments (56.3%) assess the **participation of international organizations at the roundtable sessions** (question 2-5c) as 'appropriate', 14 (21.9%) as 'highly appropriate'. 8 governments (12.5%) consider it as 'somewhat' appropriate. 6 governments (9.4%) cannot judge. The comments illustrate that a significant number of governments (28, among them also governments with a skeptical opinion) consider the current practice of letting international organizations participate at the roundtable sessions as useful, enriching and important. According to those comments, international organizations contribute with specific knowledge and data, specialized expertise and valuable inputs to these sessions. One government thinks that it is helpful if international organizations strengthen the debate when states are not able to contribute to it. 6 governments are in favor of further enhancing the interaction with international organizations, while preserving the state-led nature of the process.

On the other hand, 2 governments are of the opinion that in some roundtable sessions, the presence of international organizations has been too dominant, marginalizing the role of states.

11 governments stress that the GFMD process be state/government led and that international organizations should not be involved in defining the GFMD's agenda. One government believes that international organizations should not co-chair roundtable sessions.

The **participation of civil society actors at the roundtable sessions** (question 2-5d) is assessed as 'appropriate' by 36 governments (39.1%) and as 'highly appropriate' by 8 governments (12.5%). 20 governments (31.3%) consider it as 'somewhat' appropriate, 3 (4.7%) 'not appropriate at all'. 8 governments (12.5%) cannot judge.

As currently civil society actors do not participate at roundtable sessions, the comments help to interpret these response statistics. In their comments, 12 governments explicitly support the current practice. They wish to keep government events and civil society events separate. Most of them refer to the Civil Society Days and/or the Common Space as the adequate formats of interaction. These elements are discussed in section 3.6 of this report.

11 governments state that interaction with civil society actors is valuable especially because their practical experience and specific perspective enrich the state-led GFMD process. Their comments do not imply a modification of the current practice.

10 governments wish to enhance the involvement of civil society actors in the GFMD process and support stronger consultation with them. 2 of those governments explicitly propose to include civil society actors in the preparatory phase, the others refer rather to the general involvement of civil society in the GFMD process.

One government proposes to consider participation of trade unions, while another sees the need for more involvement of “the private sector”. These proposals are not specified further. Two governments wish that when consulting with governments, civil society actors present clearer information and consolidated views.

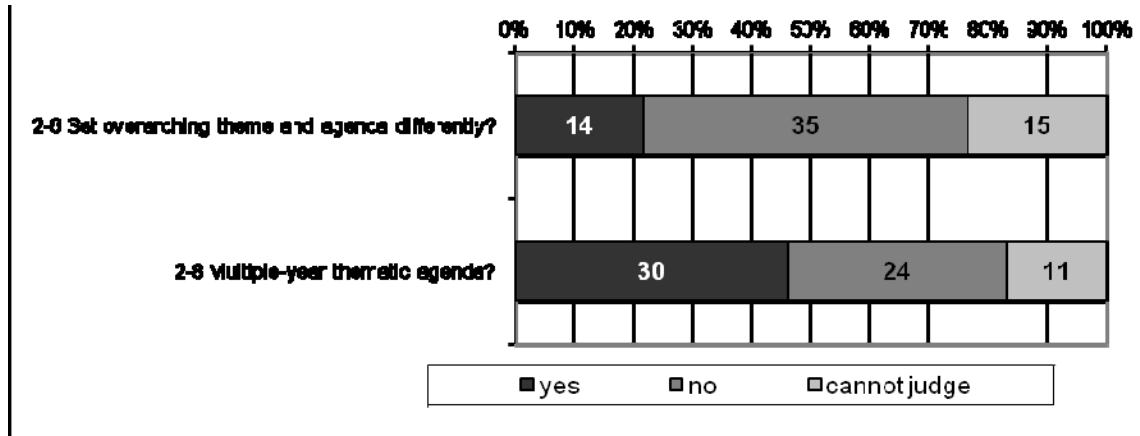
3.2.3 Thematic agenda and continuity

As the results in table 4 and figure 4 demonstrate, **thematic continuity** is considered as an ‘important’ (by 32 governments; 49.2%) or ‘very important’ (by 25 governments; 38.5%) feature of the GFMD process (question 2-7). Only 5 governments (7.7%) view this aspect as ‘little important’ or even ‘unimportant’. A majority of the responding governments (35; 54.7%) is reluctant towards **changing the way the overarching theme and agenda of the process is set** (question 2-6), while 14 (21.9%) think the opposite. An almost equal number of 15 governments (23.4%) cannot judge this question. The views expressed on the question of a **multiple-year thematic agenda** (question 2-8) show a positive tendency with 30 governments (46.2%) approving and 24 governments (36.9%) declining it. However, given that the number of governments not able to judge the question is higher (11; 16.9%) than the difference between the number of governments answering ‘yes’ or ‘no’ (6), the responses do not allow to draw a clear picture.

Table 4: Questions on thematic continuity and agenda – response statistics

Question			Very important	Important	Little important	Unimportant	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
2-7	How important do you believe thematic continuity is for the GFMD process?	N	25	32	3	2	3
		%	38.5	49.2	4.6	3.1	4.6
				Yes	No		Cannot judge
2-6	Should the overarching theme and agenda of the GFMD be set in a different way from the practice today?	N		14	35		15
		%		21.9	54.7		23.4
2-8	Should the GFMD decide a multiple-year thematic agenda (i. e. pre-determine the overarching themes a certain number of years in advance)?	N		30	24		11
		%		46.2	36.9		16.9

Figure 4: Questions on thematic continuity and agenda – response statistics



14 governments comment on **why and how they support modifying the practice of setting the overarching theme and agenda of the GFMD** (question 2-6). The comments can be summarized as follows:

- 5 governments suggest reducing the scope of the theme, streamlining the agenda, and/or discussing only a small number of specific questions. In their view, this would foster real policy discussion as well as practical solutions to policy challenges, give room for more follow-up on previous Forum outcomes, and make the Forum more affordable.
- 3 governments see a need to better reflect the concerns and priorities of the participating countries and react to current events in international migration.
- One government believes that a closer relationship with other instruments and regional processes should be developed, in order to avoid duplication and save resources.
- One government thinks that modifying the practice of setting the agenda would enhance the predictability and thematic stability of the process.
- One government sees some repetition and recurring themes in past agendas.

There are some specific proposals by 4 governments as to who should decide on the overarching agenda. One suggests that the Friends of the Forum should decide on a multi-year work plan based on a proposal of the Steering Group. According to one government, the Troika together with the Steering Group should decide on the agenda after consultations with the Chair. Yet another government thinks the Steering Group or the Friends of the Forum should decide.

26 governments briefly explain why the overarching theme and agenda of the GFMD should not be set differently: Most of these governments simply see the current practice as adequate. 6 governments also stress the thematic openness and flexibility of the process; one government sees flexibility as a factor that can motivate countries to assume the chairmanship of the GFMD. 3 governments insist on the possibility to have broad consultations and discussion on a variety of issues. 5 governments find it appropriate that the Chair proposes a general theme and sets the

agenda in consultation with the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. Consultation on the agenda is explicitly perceived important by 9 governments.

The governments' comments regarding the question on the perceived **importance of thematic continuity** (question 2-7) illustrate the variety of views on that issue. Four main arguments for thematic continuity can be derived from these comments:

- 9 governments are of the opinion that thematic continuity – for some in combination with a clearer thematic focus – allows to study and discuss certain issues in depth and continuously.
- Closely related to this aspect, 8 governments indicate that thematic continuity is needed to allow the process to build and evolve, to watch progress, promote learning and develop coherent and comprehensive knowledge of migration and development issues and their nexus.
- 8 other governments point out that they favour thematic continuity because it gives orientation and structure, allows to have focussed discussions, and helps avoid thematic fragmentation.
- 6 governments argue that thematic continuity allows for a better follow-up on specific topics and projects, to evaluate the results and impacts achieved in the past and to redirect or further develop the process.

14 governments think that flexibility in the definition of the thematic agenda is an important element of the GFMD process. According to these opinions, the Forum should be able to react to trends and changing circumstances in order to discuss topics of current interest. 6 governments see a risk of thematic repetition and dwindling interest in the GFMD if thematic continuity was interpreted too narrowly. 3 governments insist on some variation in the thematic agenda, which they see as relevant in order to keep as many countries as possible interested in the Forum.

34 governments comment on the **multiple-year thematic agenda**, i.e. pre-determine the overarching themes a certain number of years in advance (question 2-8). As for the reasons and benefits, 4 governments see a potential for more thematic predictability, which allows longer and more focused preparation for the chair, the participating governments and other stakeholders involved. 3 governments believe that the process would become more focused on specific topics within the broad overarching theme of migration and development. 2 governments refer to increased coherence and continuity as another advantage of a multiple-year thematic agenda. 2 governments propose to better align the GFMD's agenda with that of other regional and inter-regional processes or with the ILO. Another government thinks that a multiple-year thematic agenda would allow for better coordination and interaction with regional consultative processes (RCPs). 8 governments state that if such a multi-year agenda were adopted, flexibility will be needed to allow for the incorporation of recent developments and trends.

There are specific proposals as to how a multiple-year thematic agenda could look like. 2 governments suggest deciding on a fixed core agenda, clearly defining some themes in advance, but leaving room for adjustments and further development (one government), according to countries' priorities (one government). 3 governments propose introducing a two- or three-year rolling agenda.

12 governments make different proposals concerning the possible decision-making process on a multiple-year thematic agenda:

- 5 governments think that the thematic agenda needs to be endorsed by the Friends of the Forum. Each one suggests that it be proposed by either the Chair, the Steering Group, in a preparatory session, or by the working groups.
- 3 governments mention consultations with GFMD participating states as the key mechanism, allowing them to indicate the issues of their primary interest.
- 2 governments see the Steering Group as the decision making body.
- 2 governments suggest that the Troika adopt the thematic agenda based on a proposal by the Steering Group and possibly the Friends of the Forum.

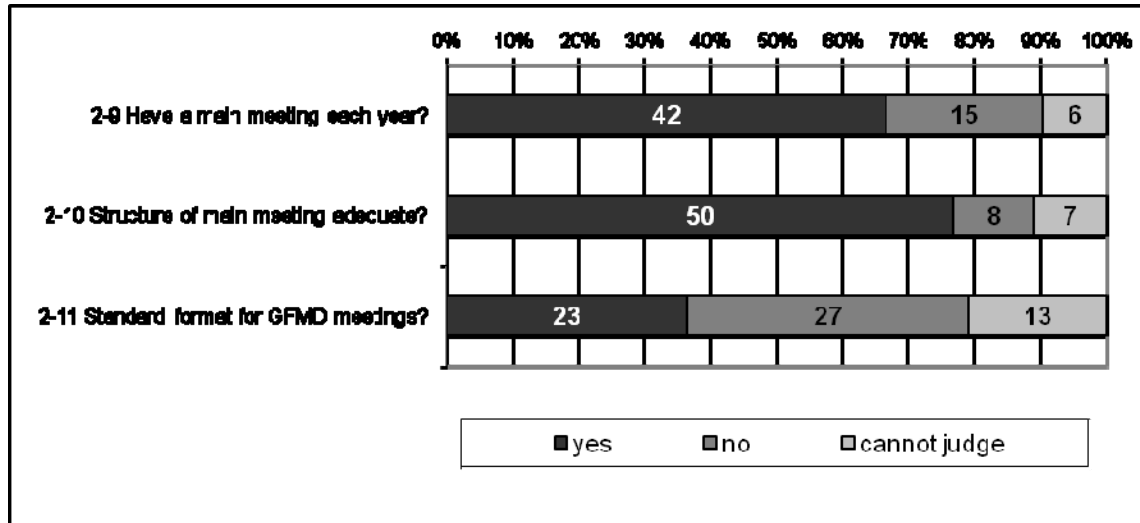
3.2.4 GFMD main meeting

The general format of the annual GFMD main meeting practiced until 2010 is well received among the responding governments. 42 (66.7) of them consider **having a GFMD main meeting each year** as appropriate (question 2-9), while 15 (23.8%) do not. 50 governments (76.9%) consider the **general structure of the GFMD main meeting** (question 2-10) as adequate, only 8 (12.3%) do not. However, governments' views differ with regard to the question if there should be a **standard or uniform format** (question 2-11). 23 governments (36.5%) favor such standardization, while 27 (42.9%) oppose it and 13 (20.6%) are not able to judge the question. Due to this response pattern, there is no clear answer to this question.

Table 5: Questions on GFMD main meeting – response statistics

Question		Yes	No	Cannot judge
2-9 Is it appropriate to have a GFMD main meeting each year?	N	42	15	6
	%	66.7	23.8	9.5
2-10 Is the general structure of the GFMD main meeting (i. e. opening and closing ceremonies, roundtables and roundtable sessions, special session on future of the forum) adequate?	N	50	8	7
	%	76.9	12.3	10.8
2-11 Should there be a standard or uniform format of the GFMD main meetings?	N	23	27	13
	%	36.5	42.9	20.6

Figure 5: Questions on GFMD main meeting – response statistics



37 governments provide comments explaining why they believe having an **annual GFMD main meeting** is appropriate (question 2-9). Some 14 governments argue that an annual meeting is needed to maintain the momentum and continuity of the process, to ensure exchange of information among states and action-oriented debate. Another 11 governments argue that an annual meeting allows the GFMD process to keep up with the dynamic evolution of the worldwide migration processes and to ensure its topicality. A further 8 governments argue that a meeting each year is needed in order to have an opportunity for regular discussions, to consolidate the results and review the process, including realigning its thematic agenda. 3 governments think that the visibility of the process at the international level is better warranted if there is an annual meeting. 6 governments favor an annual meeting but would prefer the format to be streamlined with respect to the agenda and the size of the event.

Various governments propose another frequency of GFMD main meetings: 5 governments could imagine having such a meeting only every second year, on the condition that the work program between the main meetings be strengthened.

Most governments (15) proposing another frequency of the main meeting are in favor of one meeting every two years, one vows for a meeting every three years. 9 of them believe that such a modification would allow reducing both the administrative burden for organizing countries as well as the costs for all participants. Some think that reduced costs would help to find more countries willing to chair the GFMD. 2 governments believe that having less frequent meetings would give more room for substantial discussions. They perceive the agenda of the current annual meeting as too often being dominated by administrative discussions.

On the other hand, one government proposes to arrange GFMD meetings twice a year.

4 governments state that if it should be decided to have main meetings every two years in the future, there should be other events in between to ensure the continuity of the work stream. They propose to organize annual focused regional thematic discussions and/or working group

meetings in order to ensure information sharing between those meetings and the main conference.

Although most of the responding governments assess the **general structure of the GFMD main meeting** as adequate (question 2-10), the comments reveal some suggestions for possible modifications. 11 governments appreciate that this structure allows for exchange, discussions and debate; 4 of them wish to strengthen this aspect in the future. 7 governments suggest to reconsider the ceremonial aspects of the conference and to reduce them to a minimum in order to give more room for substantive dialogue.

6 of those governments assessing the general structure as inadequate offer the following views: 4 of them suggest to reduce the time for ceremonial elements and to enhance thematic, work-oriented discussions, namely the roundtable sessions. One of these 4 believes that prepared statements and speeches should not be permitted. One government thinks that the agenda should be more focused and the number of participants reduced. Another government assesses the roundtable sessions to be too academic in nature, not leaving enough space for intergovernmental exchange.

Among the 27 governments opposing a **standard or uniform format of the GFMD main meetings** (question 2-11) almost all of them (22) appreciate the current flexibility which allows sufficient openness to innovation and variation, avoids routine and allows adapting the format according to the evolution and dynamics of the overarching theme. This flexibility corresponds also to the informal nature of the GFMD process, which some governments regard as one of its essential features. 11 governments explicitly feel that a standard format would restrict the Chair's freedom of choice and creativity. 4 governments take a more nuanced view. According to them, a certain degree of standardization might be useful, e.g. on the level of the general format, but room for flexibility is still needed. Another 4 governments perceive the GFMD as an evolving process which has yet to find its ideal format.

19 of the governments in favor of a standard format make specific comments. Among them, 6 prefer the current format, 3 of them pointing to the need for some flexibility in order to be able to adapt to changing circumstances. 6 other governments propose a somewhat streamlined format focusing on work-oriented thematic sessions or possibly regional sessions and a reduced main meeting. 3 governments see an advantage in a standard format in the enhanced predictability for the participants, which facilitates planning and preparation.

3.3 GFMD outcomes and follow-up

The overview of the results to the questions concerning GFMD outcomes and follow-up in table 6 and figure 6 leads to some distinct findings:

- The response patterns (more than 90% of governments giving an assessment) allow ranking four items according to the degree to which the GFMD contributed to them: The highest scoring outcome relates to dialogue and bilateral contacts (question 3-3b),

followed by exchange of good practices and policy models of other countries (question 3-3a) and improved consultations on migration and development between different ministries within governments (question 3-4). The fourth ranking outcome among these items is the promotion of new policies on migration and development at the domestic level (question 3-1).

- Half of the responding governments report that in their country, specific projects and/or processes have been initiated or influenced by the GFMD. Almost a third of the governments report that this has not been the case in their country, while 17% do not know.
- Only few governments identify other elements of the GFMD that have been of use to their government or give a view on the ad-hoc working groups.

Figure 6: Questions on GFMD outcomes and follow-up – response statistics

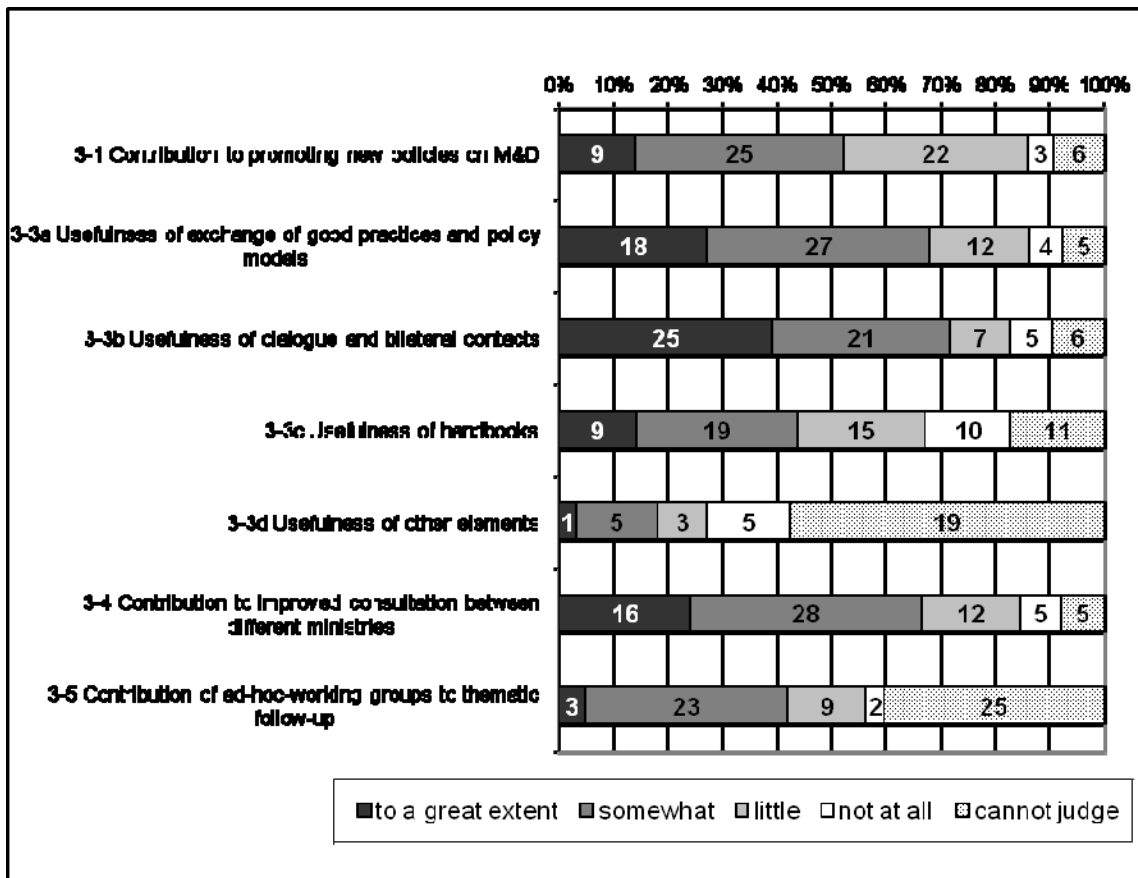


Table 6: Questions on GFMD outcomes and follow-up – response statistics

Question			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
3-1	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to promoting new policies on migration and development in your country?	N	9	25	22	3	6
		%	13.8	38.5	33.8	4.6	9.2
				Yes	No		Cannot judge
3-2	Are there any specific projects and/or processes that have been initiated or influenced by the GFMD in your country?	N		33	20		11
		%		51.6	31.3		17.2
			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
3-3	To what extent have the following elements of the GFMD process been of use for your government?						
3-3a	Exchange of good practices and policy models of other countries	N	18	27	12	4	5
		%	27.3	40.9	18.2	6.1	7.6
3-3b	Dialogue and bilateral contacts	N	25	21	7	5	6
		%	39.1	32.8	10.9	7.8	9.4
3-3c	Handbooks	N	9	19	15	10	11
		%	14.1	29.7	23.4	15.6	17.2
3-3d	Other	N	1	5	3	5	19
		%	3.0	15.2	9.1	15.2	57.6
3-4	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to achieving or launching improved consultations on migration and development between different ministries involved within your government?	N	16	28	12	5	5
		%	24.2	42.4	18.2	7.6	7.6
3-5	To what extent have the ad-hoc working groups contributed to thematic follow-up to GFMD outcomes?	N	3	23	9	2	25
		%	4.8	37.1	14.5	3.2	40.3

The comments on the various questions provide deeper insight in the outcomes reflected above. When interpreting and summarizing the comments it must be taken into account that the way a government perceives the impact or utility of different elements of the GFMD process depends largely on the country's specific situation and background, its previous experiences and practices in the areas of migration and development, the mechanisms and dynamics of policy processes at domestic level as well as its degree of integration in international networks. As these situations or "points of departure" vary considerably among the countries participating in the GFMD process, the different comments cannot really be compared and only to a certain extent be grouped. They serve more to illustrate the individual situations.

25 governments (38.5%) believe that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed to the **promotion of new policies on migration and development at the domestic level** (question 3-1), another 9 (13.8%) that it has ‘to a great extent’ contributed. According to 22 governments (33.8%) the GFMD has only ‘little’ contributed in this respect, and 3 (4.6%) say that this has ‘not at all’ been the case. 6 governments (9.2%) cannot judge.

The following comments on this question were made:

- 8 governments report that so far, their participation in the GFMD has not directly led to changes in policies and programs, or to the development thereof.
- 8 governments report no specific policy processes, but mention that GFMD discussions or examples of best practices have generated learning effects and generally informed or inspired policy making in their country. One comment explicitly mentions the impact of capacity building which changes policy makers’ perception of the migration phenomenon and has led to a strategic shift in policy making.
- 7 governments indicate that specific policy processes in their country have partly or completely been inspired by discussions held in the GFMD process. Among them, mainly policies on labor migration or diaspora policies are mentioned.
- 6 governments point out that as a consequence of their participation in the GFMD process the link between migration and development has been strengthened in strategies and policy concepts.
- At the institutional level, 5 governments report measures to ensure or improve coordination between government services responsible for migration, on the one hand, and development on the other, and/or to strengthen policy coherence between the two domains. 3 governments mention having created specific institutions to this purpose.
- For 5 governments, participation in the GFMD process has inspired or facilitated participation in bilateral or international institutions dealing with migration and/or development.
- 3 governments see a need for increasing the visibility of the GFMD process and for better advocating its policy in the international scene in order to be heard and taken into consideration by national policy makers.

33 governments (51.6%) report that in their country, **specific projects and/or processes** have been initiated or influenced by the GFMD (question 3-2). 20 governments (31.3%) report that this has not been the case; 11 (17.2%) cannot judge.

In their comments, 28 governments give examples of such projects or processes. They can be characterized as follows:

- Most frequent are comments who mention various specific policy projects that directly result from GFMD activities or recommendations or have been inspired by them. 10 governments report such projects.

- General policy development and learning is identified by 6 governments as a consequence of their participation in the GFMD.
- Governments report various types of internal institutional processes that are inspired by GFMD outcomes:
 - In 7 countries, internal consultation and/or coordination procedures have been established in order to enhance coherence between migration and development agencies and policies.
 - Another type of internal process that is explicitly mentioned by 4 governments is the creation of entities, e.g. government services or offices, networks and the like, that serve to implement GFMD recommendations or to enhance coherence between migration and development policies at the national level.
 - A third type of internal process mentioned by 2 governments is capacity building of government officials.
 - A final type of internal process is the independent evaluation of a specific project. One government reports having initiated such an evaluation.

6 governments have concluded international partnerships on migration and/or development. International collaboration or enhanced international integration (e.g. affiliation with international organizations such as the IOM) can be considered as another type of process triggered by participation in the GFMD.

As the responses to question 3-3a show, the **exchange of good practices and policy models of other countries** is considered useful ‘to a great extent’ by 18 governments (27.3%) and ‘somewhat’ useful by 27 governments (40.9%). 12 governments (18.2%) report that this exchange has been ‘little’ useful to them, and 4 governments (6.1%) report that it has not been useful at all.

The individual comments related to this question illustrate the following: First, a number of governments have generally been inspired or have learned from other countries’ experiences which led, for example, to a greater awareness of migration and development issues, to a better understanding of other countries’ concerns, or demonstrated the universal character of certain migration-related themes, etc. Second, the exchange has not only been inspiring, but has concretely led to specific projects, processes or policy changes (see also above). 8 governments mention this and give examples, while 2 governments explicitly state that this has not been the case in their country. 6 governments point out that they see value in actively sharing and promoting their own practices and experiences.

As already mentioned in the introductory section, **dialogue and bilateral contacts** (question 3-3b) turn out to be elements which governments most often consider as highly useful. 25 governments (39.1%) say it has been ‘to a great extent’ useful to them, for 21 (32.8%) it has been ‘somewhat’ useful. 7 governments (10.9%) report that dialogue and bilateral contacts have been ‘little’ useful to them and 5 governments (7.8%) claim not to have profited from this opportunity. The comments to this subject do not offer much additional information. They give examples of

contacts and subsequent bilateral activities that resulted from GFMD meetings. According to most of the commenting governments, their participation in the GFMD has enhanced their opportunities for networking, establishing bilateral contacts and launching new partnerships that in some cases go beyond GFMD-related activities and can thus be seen as spillovers of the GFMD process.

Handbooks (question 3-3c), are assessed ‘somewhat’ useful by 19 governments (29.7%) and ‘to a great extent’ useful by 9 (14.1%). 15 governments (23.4%) see ‘little’ use in them, and to 10 governments (15.6%) they are ‘not useful at all’. 11 governments (17.2%) cannot judge the question.

In their comments, 14 governments – mainly but not exclusively of African and Asian countries – illustrate in what respect **handbooks** have been of use to them. They are mainly used as an information resource for policy processes and specific projects at the domestic level, e.g. for learning from other experiences and staff training, and as a resource for elaborating policy documents or guidelines. 3 governments explicitly or implicitly propose to intensify promotion, marketing and distribution of the handbooks. Some governments assessing the handbooks as little useful or not useful at all comment that they are either not using them (2 governments) or that it is too early to evaluate their usefulness because they have only recently been published (3 governments).

As already mentioned in the introduction to this section, only few governments indicate **other elements** of the GFMD process that have been of use to them (question 3-3d).

- 3 governments consider the thematic meetings and conferences, the materials distributed in these meetings and the background papers as useful outcomes, adding value to their knowledge and practices.
- One government mentions its active contribution to GFMD roundtables as co-chair and by preparing background papers as a useful opportunity to explore migration and development linkages based on its own experience.
- Three other elements were cited separately by other governments: the GFMD address list⁴ as a valuable resource for establishing contacts, the GFMD website as source of information, and a Migration Profile that is being implemented through IOM/EU.

The launching of **improved consultations on migration and development between different ministries** within a government (question 3-4) is another important effect that, according to two thirds of the responding governments, can be partly attributed to their participation in the GFMD process. 28 governments (42.4%) state that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed to such consultations, 16 governments (24.2%) think that it has ‘to a great extent’ contributed. 12

⁴ The comment refers verbally to an “address list of destination countries”.

governments (18.2%) see ‘little’ contribution to internal consultation, and 5 governments (7.6%) report no such effect at all.

Most of the governments providing an illustrative comment acknowledge that their activities within GFMD have led to intensified consultation between the various ministries dealing with migration and development matters. A frequently reported pattern is that the necessity to coordinate GFMD-related activities between different ministries, e.g. to prepare for a GFMD meeting, has been the impulse to establish regular consultation processes and to intensify collaboration and coordination between these agencies. In some countries, specific entities were created, such as platforms on migration and development, working groups, national focal points, or informal networks. Other governments state that due to their participation in the GFMD, awareness of the potential of inter-ministerial dialogue has increased.

Some governments report that consultation between different ministries happens mainly with regard to specific GFMD-related activities, but does not go beyond that and does not affect policy making outside the GFMD process.

However, there are a few governments commenting that such internal coordination mechanisms were established independently of the GFMD and some which report no such effect at all.

Relatively few governments were able to assess the **ad-hoc working groups’ contribution to thematic follow-up to GFMD outcomes** (question 3-5). 25 (40.3%) cannot judge the question. 23 governments (37.1%) think the working groups have ‘somewhat’ contributed to follow-up, 3 (4.8%) believe they have contributed ‘to a great extent’. 9 governments (14.5%) assess the working group’s contribution to follow-up as ‘little’, and 2 (3.2%) see no such contribution at all.

12 governments offer details on this aspect, mentioning various reasons for which they value the working groups: The groups provide a context where interested governments can discuss specific topics of their concern and address GFMD outcomes in more depth than in other GFMD settings. They also offer an opportunity to form networks between government experts, international organizations and academia. Another aspect mentioned is that the working groups produce recommendations, reference documents and policy tools which are seen as useful for policymaking. According to one government, the groups also design interventions that help implement GFMD outcomes and recommendations. Another government states that the working groups’ results contribute to shaping the agenda of following roundtable discussions.

5 governments see potential to further improve the functioning and impact of the working groups and to strengthen their role: 2 governments mention that travel costs could be reduced by using IT and e-mail discussions more often. One government proposes to coordinate the working groups’ work plan with – or to even integrate it into – the Chair’s work plan; another government suggests that working groups be mandated to take up specific outcomes. One government sees the format of the working groups as a model giving a possible direction for the GFMD’s future evolution.

In a critical comment, one government indicates that the working group on policy coherence, data and research seems to have some difficulties in advancing the debate and in initiating an operational phase.

3.4 Organization of the GFMD: supporting structures, functioning and funding

3.4.1 Chair

Table 7: Questions on Chair arrangements – response statistics

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge
		++	+	-	--	
4-1 Are the current arrangements under which each Chair creates its own Task Force (comprised of both national and international staff and advisors) appropriate to ensuring the effective functioning of the GFMD process?	N	10	31	8	1	14
	%	15.6	48.4	12.5	1.6	21.9
			Yes	No		Cannot judge
4-2 Is it adequate to let the GFMD Chair rotate between a developing and a developed country?	N		57	3		5
	%		87.7	4.6		7.7

31 governments (48.4%) consider the **current chairing arrangements** (question 4-1) as ‘appropriate’, 10 governments (15.6%) as ‘highly appropriate’. 8 governments (12.5%) believe the arrangements are ‘somewhat’ appropriate, and one single government (1.6%) considers them ‘not appropriate at all’. 14 governments (21.9%) cannot judge.

Most (15) of the governments commenting on the question acknowledge the Chair’s autonomy to decide on how to constitute its Task Force according to its needs and resources. There are different views on the composition of the Task Force: On the one hand, continuity in the composition of the Task Force is welcomed by 5 governments, as it allows benefiting from accumulated experience and gives the process some stability. On the other hand, 6 governments suggest that the composition of the Task Force should reflect geographic diversity and the various perspectives on migration and development, and that the international advisors in the Task Force should be selected accordingly. One government wishes more transparency in the selection process.

The **principle to let the GFMD Chair rotate** between a developing and a developed country (question 4-2) is supported by 57 governments (87.7%). 3 governments (4.6%) do not support it. Among the latter, 2 governments point out the financial constraints developing countries might have to face when assuming the chairmanship. Another government considers the distinction

between “developed” and “developing” countries as increasingly irrelevant and thinks that a distinction between countries of origin and countries of destination for migrants is more appropriate.

3.4.2 GFMD Support Unit and website

Table 8: Questions on Support Unit, website and information – response statistics

Question			Very useful	Useful	Somewhat useful	Not useful at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
			++	+	-	--		
4-3	Is the Support Unit (operating since 2009 under the Chair’s supervision) useful for keeping the archives of GFMD-documents, providing administrative and financial back-up to the Chair and running the GFMD-website?	N	32	17	3	0	11	3
		%	50.8	27.0	4.8	0.0	17.5	
				Yes	No		Cannot judge	
4-4	Do you use the GFMD-website as an information tool?	N		58	5		2	1
		%		89.2	7.7		3.1	
4-5	Are you satisfied with the quality of the GFMD-website?	N		58	2		5	1
		%		89.2	3.1		7.7	
			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
			++	+	-	--		
4-6	Do you feel sufficiently informed about GFMD-related developments between the annual GFMD main meetings?	N	31	28	6	0	1	0
		%	47.0	42.4	9.1	0.0	1.5	

Most responding governments see the **Support Unit** as a useful body which provides important services (question 4-3). 32 governments (50.8%) consider it as ‘very useful’, 17 (27.0%) as ‘useful’. 3 governments (4.8%) assess the Support Unit as ‘somewhat’ useful. 11 governments (17.5%) cannot judge.

According to the comments, the main value of the Support Unit is that it maintains an institutional memory and assures the continuity of the process, and that it provides administrative support as well as information and documentation on GFMD activities. Some governments consider the Support Unit as an essential body that guarantees the continuous functioning of the process. Accordingly, 3 governments think that the administrative role of the Support Unit should be gradually strengthened, in order to assure continued and efficient support. In contrast, 3 governments see the need for a certain amount of administrative support, but are against going beyond the current situation, i.e. turning the Support Unit into a permanent secretariat.

Most of the responding governments (58; 89.2%) **use the GFMD website as an information tool** (question 4-4), 5 governments (7.7%) indicate that they do not. The few comments to this question provide little additional information and do not allow further insights as to why the website is not used.

The **quality of the GFMD website** (question 4-5) is also recognized by most responding governments; 58 (89.2%) are satisfied with its quality, while only 2 governments (3.1%) are not. A few governments suggest introducing a searchable repository of articles, handbooks and background papers, incorporating the Athens and Puerto Vallarta websites into the main GFMD website and carrying out more regular maintenance of the site, including removing expired links. One government wishes a French language version of the website. 2 governments could see a more ambitious website that provides more comprehensive information material related to M&D issues, but at the same time admit that this would require additional resources.

The responding governments feel sufficiently **informed about GFMD-related developments between the annual GFMD main meetings** (question 4-6). 31 governments (47.0%) state that this is the case ‘to a great extent’, 28 (42.4%) feel ‘somewhat’ and 6 governments (9.1%) feel ‘little’ informed. In their comments, some governments express a demand for more timely and targeted information on the various activities outside the main GFMD meeting, e.g. regional events throughout the year.

3.4.3 National Focal Points

Almost all of the responding governments consider the National Focal Points system (question 4-7) as ‘appropriate’ (30; 46.9%) or ‘highly appropriate’ (29; 45.3%). 2 governments (3.1%) assess it as ‘somewhat’ appropriate.

The comments suggest that the focal points are primarily seen as an important element to facilitate communication and coordinate GFMD-related activities at the national level, between different ministries or other stakeholders involved, and provide an institutionalized and formal link between the national and the international levels. However, 2 governments indicate that apparently not all Focal Points are fully operational and able to fulfill their coordination role.

Table 9: Question on National Focal Points – response statistics

Question			Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
			++	+	-	--		
4-7	How appropriate is it to have National Focal Points to coordinate GFMD-related preparations and other work at the national level?	N	29	30	2	0	3	2
		%	45.3	46.9	3.1	0.0	4.7	

3.4.4 Steering Group

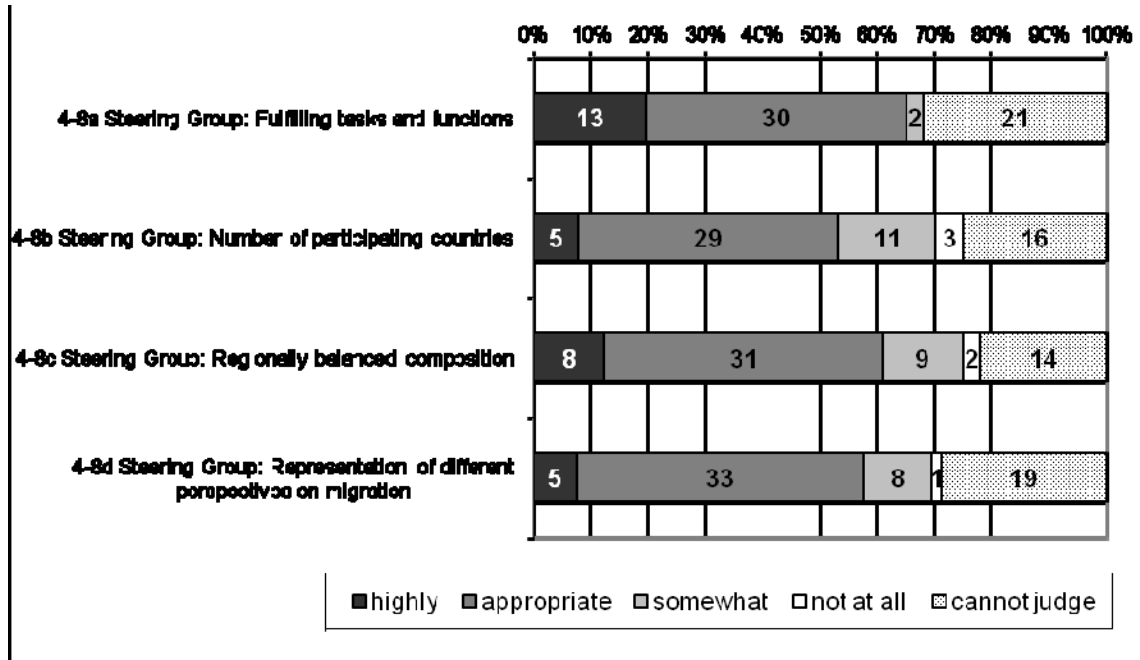
The Steering Group currently consists of 35 members. Consequently, the questions regarding this Group were only answered by a part of the participating governments.⁵ When analyzing the responses, the distinction between Steering Group members and governments not participating in this body needs to be made. A table presenting such a distinct overview of the results is presented in appendix B to this report. On certain items there were relevant differences between the two groups. They are reported below.

Table 10: Questions on Steering Group – response statistics

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
4-8 What is your opinion of the Steering Group with respect to the following aspects:							
4-8a Fulfilling tasks and functions as defined under the current Operating Modalities.	N	13	30	2	0	21	0
	%	19.7	45.5	3.0	0.0	31.8	
4-8b Size/number of participating countries	N	5	29	11	3	16	2
	%	7.8	45.3	17.2	4.7	25.0	
4-8c Regionally balanced composition	N	8	31	9	2	14	2
	%	12.5	48.4	14.1	3.1	21.9	
4-8d Composition with respect to different perspectives on migration	N	5	33	8	1	19	0
	%	7.6	50.0	12.1	1.5	28.8	
			Yes	No		Cannot judge	Empty/ unclear
4-9 Should there be a rotation system for the governments participating in the Steering Group?	N		28	15		22	1
	%		43.1	23.1		33.8	
4-10 Is the number of meetings held by the Steering Group in between GFMD main meetings adequate?	N		38	0		26	2
	%		59.4	0.0		40.6	

⁵ 28 of the 35 governments represented in the Steering Group participated in the survey.

Figure 7: Questions on Steering Group – response statistics



According to the responses to question 4-8a, the Steering Group **fulfills its tasks and functions** as defined in the Operating Modalities (advice on all policy issues, political and conceptual support to the Forum process and to the Chair-in-office) ‘appropriately’ (30 governments; 45.5%) or ‘highly appropriately’ (13 governments; 19.7%). 2 governments (3.0%) think the Steering Group fulfills its tasks and functions ‘somewhat’ appropriately; 21 governments (31.8%) cannot judge.

According to the comments of 5 of its members, the Steering Group plays an essential role for the progress of the GFMD process. 2 governments not represented in the Steering Group particularly stress the conceptual support and the agenda-setting by the Steering Group. One government (Steering Group member) believes that the degree to which the Steering Group actually fulfills its tasks and functions depends on whether the Chair gives the Steering Group the opportunity to do so or not.

6 Steering Group members make comments regarding the Steering Group’s focus. 4 of them consider that it should focus less on logistical, organizational and procedural aspects and more on political and conceptual issues. Another government sees the need for a more operational focus.

As for the **size of the Steering Group** (question 4-8b), 29 governments assess it as ‘appropriate’ (45.3%), 5 governments (7.8%) as ‘highly appropriate’. 11 governments (17.2%) perceive it as only ‘somewhat’ appropriate, 3 governments (4.7%) as ‘not appropriate at all’. 16 governments (25%) cannot judge.

The comments, however, offer a somewhat different picture. For most of the commenting governments (12), the size of the Steering Group has reached its limit and should not grow

anymore. 6 of these governments recommend reducing the size of the Steering Group. One government proposes a limit of 20 members, another one a limit of 15, yet another one a reduction to ten members. Governments that suggest no further expansion or a reduction in the size of the Steering Group are mainly concerned about its lack of effectiveness and functionality, and the risk that the Steering Group may increasingly duplicate the Friends of the Forum. Some of the governments proposing a reduction in size also say that this should not affect the regionally balanced composition of the Steering Group. Attention should thus be given to appropriate geographical representation which could be done by introducing a rotation system for membership in the Steering Group.

4 governments (2 of them being members of the Steering Group) are opposed to a limitation of Steering Group membership and consider that all countries wishing to join this body should be allowed to do so.

Comparing the responses of members and non-members of the Steering Group (see table in the appendix) shows some interesting nuances since Steering Group members generally assess the size more critically and more often propose to reduce the group's size than non-members who tend to plead for more inclusiveness.

As already mentioned, a **regionally balanced composition** is perceived as an important feature of the Steering Group. While 31 governments (48.4%) assess this as 'appropriate' and 8 (12.5%) as 'highly appropriate', 9 governments (14.1%) consider it as 'somewhat' appropriate and 2 (3.1%) 'not appropriate at all'. 14 governments (21.9%) cannot judge.

5 governments explicitly comment that the overall balance between geographic regions is adequate. On the other hand, 8 governments (5 of them Steering Group members) have the impression that developing countries, in particular African countries, are underrepresented. One of these governments identifies a lower level of commitment on the part of non-European countries. Another one identifies a possible language barrier as an obstacle to participation for French speaking countries.⁶ 2 other governments (one Steering Group member) propose a better representation of Central and Eastern European countries. 3 governments point out that the key criterion to assuring a balanced composition should not be the geographical region, but a country's perspective on and experience with migration (countries of origin, destination or transit).

The answers concerning the Steering Group's composition with respect to **different perspectives on migration** (question 4-8d) are distributed similarly among the different categories as those concerning the regional representation. While 33 governments (50.0%) assess this aspect as 'appropriate' and 5 (7.6%) as 'highly appropriate', 8 governments (12.1%) consider it as 'somewhat' appropriate and one (1.5%) as 'not appropriate at all'. 19 governments (28.8%) cannot judge.

⁶ As a standard practice in the GFMD, simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish is provided for all meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, as well as the final annual GFMD meetings.

4 of the governments giving comments on this question state that the different perspectives on migration are adequately represented. 3 governments perceive the perspective of countries of origin as underrepresented. One government thinks that there are still countries with high stakes on migration matters that remain excluded; another government proposes a greater presence of the development perspective in the Steering Group.

Again, a more detailed analysis of the responses shows that the Steering Group’s composition – both with regard to regional balance and different perspectives on migration – is perceived differently by Steering Group members and non-members. In general, members view these aspects a little more positively than non-members.

Overall, 28 governments (43.1%) support a **rotation system** for the governments participating in the Steering Group (question 4-9), 15 governments (23.1%) do not, and 22 governments (33.8%) cannot judge. When distinguishing between members and non-members of the Steering Group, considerable differences can be seen:

Table 11: Differentiated response statistics for question 4-9 (rotation system in Steering Group)

		Yes	No	Cannot judge	
4-9	Should there be a rotation system for the governments participating in the Steering Group?				
		Steering Group members only	9	13	6
		Non-members only	19	2	16

A small majority of the responding Steering Group members are against a rotation system (13 ‘no’ versus 9 ‘yes’), while the majority of the governments not participating in this body - and able to judge the question - favor a rotation system (19 ‘yes’ versus 2 ‘no’).

Most comments and proposals of governments favoring a rotation system are offered by non-Steering Group members. If such a mechanism would be introduced, ensuring an adequate regionally balanced composition is seen as most important necessity (8 governments). 6 governments see a rotation system as a way to allow all interested countries to participate in the Steering Group. 5 governments mention the importance of voluntariness. 4 governments propose introducing a time limit for participation, varying from two to four years. 3 governments plead for an equal balance between sending and receiving countries. 3 other governments mention that Steering Group members should be recruited on the basis of their commitment. One government proposes designating the countries forming the Steering Group by lot.

8 governments opposing a rotation system – all members of the Steering Group – explained the reasons for their position as follows: The commitment and interest of a government is the most relevant criterion for the countries engaging in the Steering Group; a rotation system might, in their view, result in a situation where active and engaged countries need to leave the Steering Group, and/or that countries with less commitment become members of this body. Other arguments put forward by them are: A rotation system runs contrary to the flexibility inherent in the GFMD structures, may cause the process to become politicized, and may result in the

difficulty of maintaining the diversity with regard to regional representation and perspectives on migration.

The **number of Steering Group meetings** (question 4-10) is found to be appropriate by all 38 responding governments able to answer the question (59.4%). A high number of 26 governments (40.6%) cannot judge.

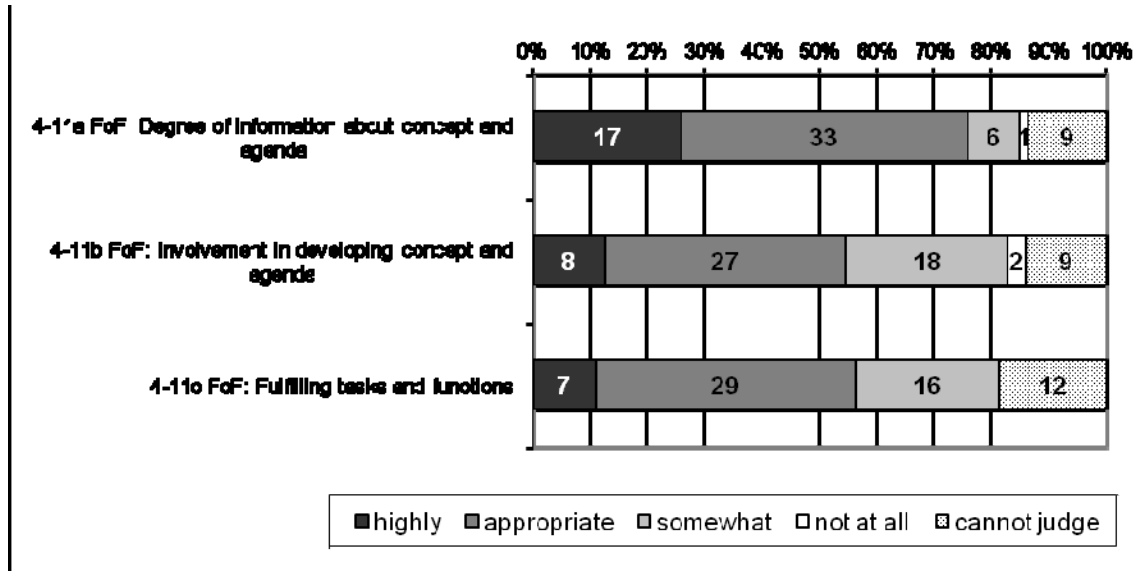
3.4.5 Friends of the Forum

An overview of the responses concerning the Friends of the Forum (table 12, figure 8) shows that the degree of information about the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda is assessed positively by most participating governments. The degree of involvement in developing the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda and the body’s ability to fulfill its designated tasks and functions are also perceived mostly positively, but the proportion of governments answering ‘somewhat appropriate’ is clearly higher.

Table 12: Questions on Friends of the Forum – response statistics

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
		++	+	-	--		
4-11	What is your opinion of the Friends of the Forum with respect to the following aspects:						
4-11a	Degree of information about the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda	N 17	33	6	1	9	0
		% 25.8	50.0	9.1	1.5	13.6	
4-11b	Degree of involvement in developing the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda	N 8	27	18	2	9	2
		% 12.5	42.2	28.1	3.1	14.1	
4-11c	Fulfilling tasks and functions as defined under the current Operating Modalities	N 7	29	16	0	12	2
		% 10.9	45.3	25.0	0.0	18.8	
			Yes	No		Cannot judge	
4-12	Is the number of meetings held by the Friends of the Forum in between GFMD main meetings adequate?	N	46	3		15	2
		%	71.9	4.7		23.4	

Figure 8: Questions on Friends of the Forum – response statistics



The **degree of information about the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda** (question 4-11a) is considered as ‘appropriate’ by 33 governments (50.0%) and ‘highly appropriate’ by 17 governments (25.8%). For 6 governments (9.1%) it is only ‘somewhat’ appropriate, and 1 (1.5%) considers it as ‘not appropriate at all’. 9 governments (13.6%) cannot judge.

17 governments commenting on the question are satisfied with the **degree of information**. On the other hand, 3 governments lament a certain lack of access to information, or a lack of more detailed information. Another government thinks that the Friends of the Forum are adequately informed, but only after decisions have been taken. Comments by 4 governments refer to organizational matters: 2 governments point out that the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum overlap too much and are redundant for those governments participating in both bodies; one government each finds the Friends of the Forum too large for effective discussion of administrative and technical matters, or that it creates too much documentation.

27 governments perceive the **degree of the Friends of the Forum’s involvement in developing the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda** (question 4-11b) as ‘appropriate’ (42.2%), 8 as ‘highly appropriate’ (12.5%). 18 governments (28.1%) assess it as ‘somewhat’ appropriate, and 2 (3.1%) as ‘not appropriate at all’. 9 governments (14.1%) cannot judge.

Among the commenting governments, most of those giving a positive assessment stress that they are satisfied with the functioning of the Friends of the Forum, or point out that all participants are informed and have an equal opportunity to comment on draft papers and to involve themselves in the discussions as they wish. The comments made by those governments with a more critical opinion show that the Friends of the Forum are perceived as a rather passive group that mainly receives information, but which is not very active in discussing and debating issues, giving inputs or advice to the Steering Group or to the Chair or even in taking decisions. It is

more seen as an information-platform than a sounding board. Some governments remark that the Friends of the Forum are sometimes little encouraged to participate, and that back-to-back meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum hinder informed and updated discussions in the latter.

According to the responses to question 4-11c, the Friends of the Forum's **ability to fulfill the tasks and functions** as they are defined under the current Operating Modalities (question 4-11c) is found to be 'appropriate' by 29 governments (45.3%) and 'highly appropriate' by 7 (10.9%). 16 governments (25%) consider this ability as 'somewhat appropriate', 12 governments (18.8%) cannot judge.

The majority of comments on this aspect are given by 11 governments expressing their appreciation for the good functioning of this body which, in their view, offers to all interested states an opportunity to be informed and to participate in discussions on the conceptual direction of the GFMD process. A point made frequently is that the Friends' meetings are well organized.

8 governments express rather critical opinions on the functioning of the Friends of the Forum. 6 of them regret that the body, while well informed on the development of the GFMD process, is not sufficiently involved in defining the direction of the process. According to some of these governments, there is need for improvement as regards its role as a sounding board, since the Friends of the Forum do not seem to have sufficient access to the work of the Steering Group. The size of the group and the fact that it meets back-to-back with the Steering Group are seen as reasons for this. One government proposes that the Friends of the Forum be encouraged to participate more; another mentions that it considers the discussions in the Friends of the Forum as not sufficiently substantive.

The **number of meetings** held by the Friends of the Forum (question 4-12) is found to be adequate by 72% of the responding governments; while 3 (5%) of them are of the opposite opinion. One of these 3 comments that mere information sharing meetings could be arranged less frequently (one or two per year); another considers at least two meetings within the year as adequate.

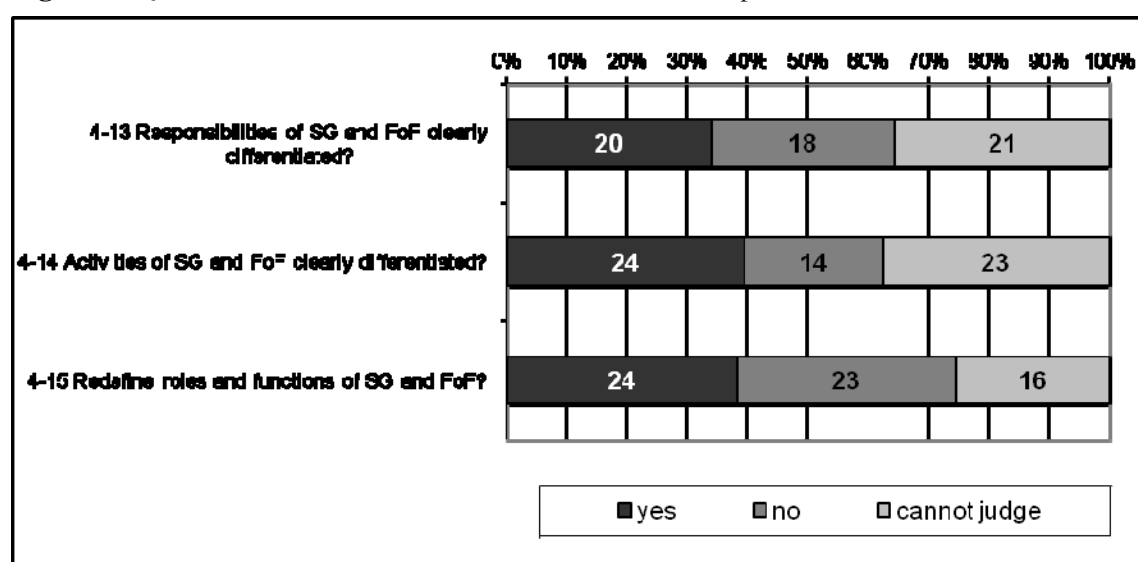
3.4.6 Roles of Steering Group and Friends of the Forum

When looking at the response statistics to the questions on the clarity of the respective roles of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum in table 13 and figure 9, it is striking that the proportion of governments leaving the question empty or giving unclear answers, as well as the number of those not able to judge, appear relatively high. At the same time, the views expressed on the questions are somewhat divided.

Table 13: Questions on distinction between SG and FoF – response statistics

		Yes	No	Cannot judge	Empty/unclear
4-13	Are the respective responsibilities of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum clearly differentiated from each other?	N 20	18	21	7
		% 33.9	30.5	35.6	
4-14	Are the respective activities of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum clearly differentiated from each other?	N 24	14	23	5
		% 39.3	23.0	37.7	
4-15	Should the respective roles and functions of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum be redefined?	N 24	23	16	3
		% 38.1	36.5	25.4	

Figure 9: Questions on distinction between SG and FoF – response statistics



According to the – rather few – governments responding to questions 4-13 to 4-15, the respective practical activities of the two bodies under review are more clearly distinguished (24 ‘yes’ versus 18 ‘no’) from each other than their formally defined responsibilities (20 ‘yes’ versus 18 ‘no’). As already pointed out, the views on the distinction of the responsibilities and the need to redefine them are almost equally distributed (24 ‘yes’ versus 23 ‘no’). Considering the high number of governments not able to judge, it is difficult to make an unambiguous interpretation of the results.

The comments help to illustrate the different views on the issue. As the comments given to questions 4-13 (**distinction of the respective responsibilities**) and 4-14 (**distinction of the respective activities**) are in many cases identical, they are analyzed together.

5 governments explicitly repeat in their comment that they see the responsibilities and activities as clearly different.

7 other governments state that the mandates of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum are clearly defined in the Operating Modalities, but that the functions are not assumed and

distinguished properly in practice. The latter is illustrated by 13 governments who state in their comment that they see a high degree of duplication between the two bodies with regard to the agenda and to the persons attending. As main reason, 4 governments identify the back-to-back meetings of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. 2 governments think that the degree of distinction in practice depends on the functions and agendas the Chair assigns to the Steering Group and to the Friends of the Forum.

6 governments state that more clarity on the respective mandates is needed, without further elaborating.

The views on the question of whether or not the **respective roles and functions of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum should be redefined** (question 4-15) are almost equally distributed (24 'yes' versus 23 'no'). As 16 governments (25%) cannot judge the question and 3 governments gave unclear answers (by checking two cases at a time), no clear conclusion concerning the perceived need of such a redefinition can be drawn.

Governments favoring a redefinition were asked to make propositions as to how this should be done. 24 governments (20 favoring a redefinition, 4 others) gave varied comments on this issue. Some comments concern only the Friends of the Forum or only the Steering Group, others refer to both bodies. They can be summarized as follows:

- For 5 governments, more clarity in the formal definition of the role and function of both bodies is needed. They do not, however, explain this in specific terms.
- 4 governments do not consider it necessary to amend the GFMD's Operating Modalities, but see some possible practical modifications to better distinguish between the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum: 2 governments propose to avoid back-to-back meetings of the two bodies in order to allow for better preparation of FoF-meetings and consultations of Steering Group proposals. One government states that the distinct roles are clearly defined in the Operating Modalities, but needed to be better respected in practice. Another government shares this view and mentions that members of the Friends of the Forum need to reconsider their role within this group. This view is backed by yet another government which sees an unexplored potential to use the Friends of the Forum as a platform for ensuring consistency and continuity on substantive matters. Another government thinks that instead of formal measures, a different leadership by the Chair and Task Force is needed.
- 3 governments point out that they see the Steering Group as the body giving strategic direction to the process, preparing concepts and giving operational advice, while the Friends of the Forum acts as a consulting body that endorses and challenges these concepts, and ensures transparency and the inclusive nature of the process. This perception of the Friends of the Forum is shared by 3 more governments. However, none of these governments makes a clear statement on the need for specific reforms or changes.

- One government proposes to conceive the Friends of the Forum as the body that directly represents each country participating in the GFMD process, and the Steering Group as the body assembling the Geneva-based representatives of these countries.
- One government wishes a greater involvement of both bodies in the decision-making process of the GFMD thematic agenda, without further specifying this comment.
- 4 governments propose to merge the two bodies into one, since they see considerable duplication between them. One of these governments sees this option as an alternative, if no agreement on the actual roles can be reached. Another government suggests keeping the Steering Group as the main GFMD deliberative body, whose meetings could be open to the wider membership and the observers, as deemed appropriate.
- 7 governments see an explicit need to redefine the Steering Group's role and function in the Operating Modalities. While 3 of them do not specify this further, 4 governments make concrete proposals. 3 suggest reducing its size and giving it a clearer mandate on the steering process, and giving it a more operational focus. This would also include the introduction of a rotation system for membership (see also section 3.4.4). One specific suggestion is that the Steering Group should only include the members of the Troika (current Chair-in-Office, outgoing Chair, and future Chair) and the governments participating in the preparation of roundtables and breakout sessions. Another government proposes to introduce more flexibility in the meeting schedule: meetings could be shorter, take place only when required, but more frequently.
- 2 governments make proposals on the Friends of the Forum's role only: one of them wishes it to have a greater say in the process, another suggests less meetings throughout the year in order to have more material at the meetings and give these more substance.

3.4.7 Funding arrangements

The majority of the governments giving an opinion on the **current voluntary funding arrangements** (question 4-16) perceive them as rather negative. 19 governments consider them as 'somewhat' appropriate (30.2%), 7 (11%) 'not appropriate at all'. 14 governments (22.2%) believe they are 'appropriate' and 4 (6.3%) assess those arrangements as 'highly appropriate'. Because 19 (30.2%) of the governments participating in the survey cannot judge, the responses are somewhat difficult to interpret.

Consequently, 42 governments (64.6%) advocate a mechanism that ensures a more predictable funding (question 4-17), while only 7 (10.8%) respond negatively to this question. 16 governments (24.6%) cannot judge.

Table 14: Questions on funding arrangements – response statistics

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
		++	+	-	--		
4-16 Are the current voluntary funding arrangements appropriate to sustain the GFMD process?	N	4	14	19	7	19	3
	%	6.3	22.2	30.2	11.1	30.2	
4-17 Should there be a mechanism to ensure more predictable funding?			Yes	No		Cannot judge	
	N		42	7		16	1
	%		64.6	10.8		24.6	

In the comments, 16 governments plead for preserving the voluntary nature of the process, including the voluntary financial contributions. However, according to other comments, a consequence of this principle is that the continuity of the GFMD process depends on the willingness of – so far apparently only a few – governments to contribute financially. As a consequence, each Chair seems to be faced with a situation of insecurity, instability and lack of financial predictability, obstacles that impede planning and absorb resources for fund raising that could be invested otherwise. This situation is also seen as an obstacle preventing governments to assume the chairmanship, especially for countries in difficult financial situations. The need to make funding more stable and predictable for the chairing governments is explicitly cited by 9 governments.

In their comments, 11 governments state their support for the funding mechanism proposed by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Migration and Development in 2011. They see it as a practical way to resolve the dilemma. Additional proposals to improve the funding arrangements are:

- 9 governments mention the necessity to widen the donor base, in particular through financial contributions of more member states
- 4 governments propose reducing the overall costs of the GFMD process, in particular those related to the main annual event, e.g. by changing its frequency to one event every second year.
- 4 governments support a multi-year funding, i.e. the possibility to contribute smaller amounts distributed over multiple years instead of one large amount for one year.
- 2 governments propose minimum annual fees for each participating country, e.g. based on the United Nations' quota scale.

3.4.8 Obstacles to participation

31 governments answering the question concerning possible **obstacles that prevent governments from participating in the GFMD process** (question 4-18) think that such obstacles may exist (49.2%). 19 governments (30.2%) see no such obstacles, 13 (20.6%) cannot judge.

Table 15: Question on obstacles to participation – response statistics

			Yes	No	Cannot judge	Empty/unclear
4-18	Are there any obstacles preventing governments from participating in the GFMD process?	N	31	19	13	3
		%	49.2	30.2	20.6	

Based on comments made by 25 governments, the main obstacle to participation are financial constraints, mainly due to travel costs to attend the various meetings abroad. Countries without a permanent representation in Geneva seem to be disadvantaged in this respect. 7 governments mention that developing countries may particularly be affected. 3 governments plead for a mechanism to subsidize attendance by delegates of certain countries, one of them mentioning that this has already been practiced in the past.

Other issues mentioned by some governments are time constraints with respect to preparing GFMD meetings and/or selecting the country's representatives at these meetings, as well as language barriers. There may also be some constraints of an administrative nature, such as visa requirements, administrative burdens or technical problems (access to internet).

2 governments comment that they see no obstacles at present, but that a shift in some of the principles constituting the GFMD as an informal, non-binding and state-led process could prevent them from participating in the future. Another government wishes that participation of civil society be intensified and that migration as a concept be perceived more positively than at present. Other governments see a lack of visibility and transparency, as well as a lack of clarity of the GFMD's status beyond 2012, as potential obstacles to participation.

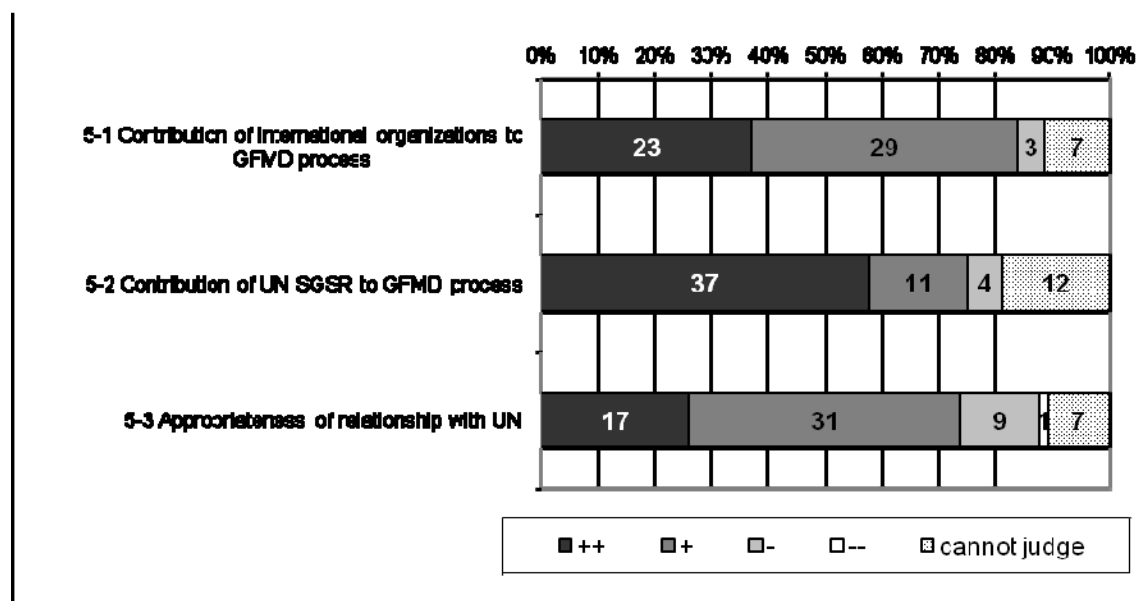
3.5 Role of and relationship with international organizations

An overview of the participating governments' opinions on the role of and relationship with international organizations is provided in table 16 and figure 10. The vast majority of governments expressing their view on the subject see the involvement of international organizations and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative positively. The current relationship with the United Nations is seen mostly positively.

Table 16: Questions on interaction with international organizations – response statistics

Question		To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
		++	+	-	--		
5-1 To what extent has the involvement of international organizations positively contributed to the GFMD process?	N	23	29	3	0	7	4
	%	37.1	46.8	4.8	0.0	11.3	
5-2 To what extent has the involvement of the UN Secretary General Special Representative positively contributed to the GFMD process?	N	37	11	4	0	12	2
	%	57.8	17.2	6.3	0.0	18.8	
Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
		++	+	-	--		
5-3 Is the current relationship with the United Nations appropriate?	N	17	31	9	1	7	1
	%	26.2	47.7	13.8	1.5	10.8	

Figure 10: Questions on interaction with international organizations – response statistics



29 governments (37.1%) consider **international organizations** to have contributed ‘somewhat’ positively to the GFMD process (question 5-1), 23 governments (37.1%) think that this has been the case ‘to a great extent’. 3 governments (4.8%) assess the international organizations’ contribution to the GFMD process as ‘little’.

Most of the comments illustrate the positive contributions of international organizations to the GFMD process: Above all, the expertise, knowledge and experiences of the various organizations specialized in the field of migration are stressed by numerous governments. They provide specific knowledge, analytical data, best practice examples, etc. According to 5 governments, international organizations play a major role in the preparation of background papers. 3 governments highlight their contribution to the Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research. 4 governments consider the support and specific expertise of international organizations as crucial and invaluable for the GFMD process. 2 governments propose that their contribution be developed further, while maintaining the state-led character of the GFMD process.

3 governments comment that international organizations not only stimulate and nurture the GFMD discussions, but also contribute to specific projects linking migration and development issues at the national level.

4 governments made critical comments on the participation of international organizations. While these governments appreciate the international organizations' expertise and their contribution to the GFMD discussions, they state that at times international organizations take too much space in roundtable meetings, by promoting themselves or their own services while adding little to the policy dialogue, and thus leaving not enough time and space for discussions among governments. 2 governments propose that active participation or co-chairing by international organizations in roundtable discussions should be limited.

The **involvement of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative** (question 5-2) is also judged very positively. 37 governments (57.8%) consider that he has positively contributed to 'a great extent' to the GFMD process, 11 governments (17.2%) state that he has 'somewhat' contributed positively. Only 4 governments weigh his contribution as 'little'.

Most of the comments highlight various aspects of the SGSR's role in the GFMD process.

- First of all, he is considered to be the only formal link to the United Nations and other international organizations, by giving the GFMD some publicity and a voice in the UN general assembly, and by assuring coherence with UN practices. He gives political backing and legitimacy to the GFMD process as well as to processes at the domestic level derived from GFMD activities.
- Secondly, many respondents see him as a crucial key person within the GFMD. Various governments describe him as main promoter of the GFMD, having made a major personal contribution to the development, shaping and advancing of the GFMD process and incorporating its institutional memory. According to a number of governments, the SGSR plays an important role by providing strategic guidance, direction and advice and a conceptual road map. Examples of his intervention were given – i.e., he has raised certain issues needing discussion, prepared a concept paper on financing, provided advice and political support to the Chair-in-office, engaged and collaborated with governments hosting GFMD events – which have helped assure the continuity of the process.
- Thirdly, the SGSR seems to play an integrative role within the GFMD, helping to shape a joint vision on migration in the world and bringing countries closer together. He is said to

have a comprehensive overview, setting the process in a broader context, and to be a neutral and impartial broker who assists in developing a joint vision among GFMD participants.

One government thinks that the SGSR interprets his role a little too dominantly.

The current **relationship with the United Nations** (question 5-3) is mostly judged positively. While 31 governments (47.7%) think they are ‘appropriate’ and 17 governments believe them to be ‘highly appropriate’, 9 (13.8%) take the view that they are ‘somewhat’ appropriate. One government (1.5%) considers them as ‘not appropriate at all’. 7 governments (10.8%) cannot judge.

In response to the question, various governments offered their opinion on the future development of the GFMD’s relationship with the United Nations:

- Most of the governments giving a comment (15) prefer the status quo. They stress the informal, state-led character of the GFMD as a platform outside the UN system and consider the current link with the UN through the Secretary General Special Representative and the Global Migration Group as adequate. While 12 of these governments prefer to keep the status quo unchanged, 3 see the potential to develop the GFMD’s relationship with the UN within the existing framework, e.g. by strengthening the complementary role of the two fora.
- 6 governments wish that the relationship between the GFMD and the United Nations be strengthened and clarified.
- 2 governments take the view that the GFMD or the issue of migration and development should be part of the UN system.

A number of other comments illustrate how governments see the value in the interaction between the GFMD and the UN. Three aspects can be distinguished: Firstly, the link to the UN gives the GFMD publicity and legitimacy. Secondly, at the strategic level, the support of the Secretary General is generally considered to be crucial to the GFMD process. Thirdly, the participation of UN organizations and the Secretary-General’s Special Representative is valued at the practical level. These elements and actors help to shape joint visions on migration and they play a critical role by means of expertise and support to governments in activities at the domestic level.

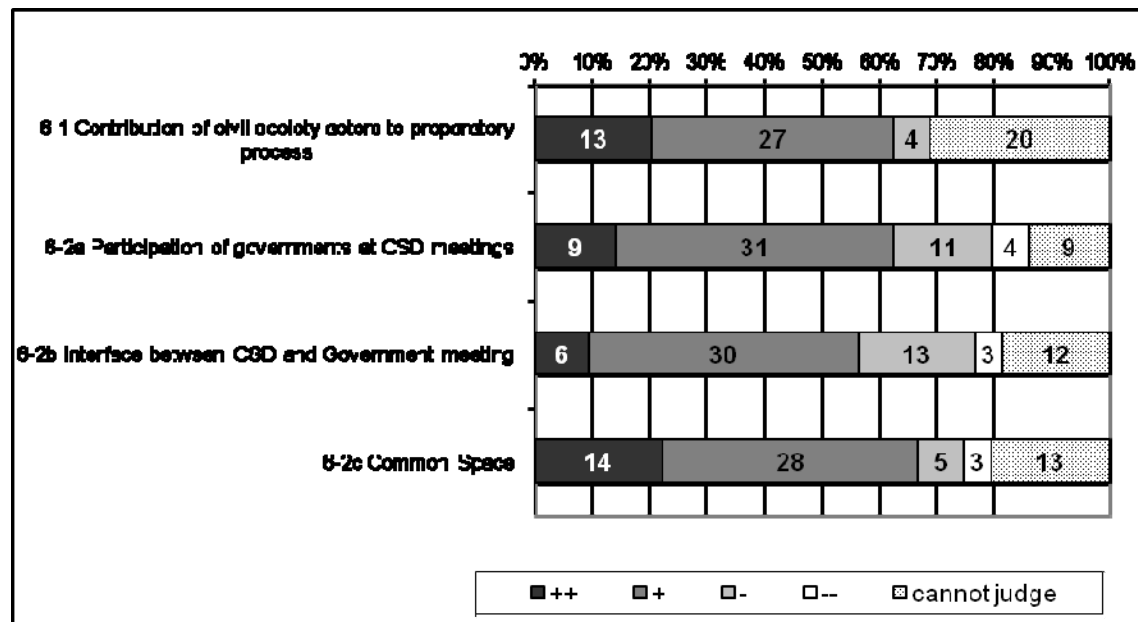
3.6 Role of and relationship with civil society

An overview of the participating governments' opinions on the role of and relationship with actors of civil society is provided in table 17 and figure 11. Generally, the involvement of, and interaction with civil society is generally assessed positively.

Table 17: Questions on interaction with civil society – response statistics

Question			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
			++	+	-	--		
6-1	To what extent has the involvement of the various actors of civil society positively contributed to the preparatory process of the main GFMD meetings?	N	13	27	4	0	20	2
		%	20.3	42.2	6.3	0.0	31.3	
			Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	Empty / unclear
			++	+	-	--		
6-2	How appropriate do you find the following arrangements to allow for interaction between civil society and governments in the GFMD process:							
6-2a	Participation of government representatives in Civil Society Days meeting	N	9	31	11	4	9	2
		%	14.1	48.4	17.2	6.3	14.1	
6-2b	Interface between Civil Society Days and Government Meeting	N	6	30	13	3	12	2
		%	9.4	46.9	20.3	4.7	18.8	
6-2c	The Common Space (as in Puerto Vallarta)	N	14	28	5	3	13	3
		%	22.2	44.4	7.9	4.8	20.6	
				Yes	No		Cannot judge	Empty/ unclear
6-3	Should the GFMD interact in another way with civil society?	N		19	19		24	4
		%		30.6	30.6		38.7	

Figure 11: Questions on interaction with civil society – response statistics



27 governments (42.2%) think that **civil society actors** have ‘somewhat’ positively contributed to the GFMD preparatory process (question 6-1) 13 governments (20.3%) think they have contributed ‘to a great extent’. 4 governments (6.3%) state that civil society actors have contributed ‘little’. Almost one third of the governments (20; 31.3%) cannot judge.

14 governments illustrate in various comments how they see the contribution of civil society actors: The main contribution is that they inform, enrich and complement GFMD debates by bringing in the perspective of civil society, especially of migrants, and thus allow governments to have a broader vision of the issues discussed, to identify concerns, and to benefit from practical civil society experiences. 6 governments mention that they meet with civil society actors at national level in order to prepare the GFMD main meeting.

9 governments plead for an enhancement and improvement of civil society’s involvement in the GFMD process. Amongst mainly general comments, only few specific propositions are made in this direction (i.e. regular information from migrants themselves on issues covered by the GFMD agenda, involving civil society actors in GFMD main meetings, involving civil society actors of sending and receiving countries, and inviting selected civil society actors to attend roundtable preparation teams).

The **participation of government representatives at Civil Society Days meetings** (question 6-2a) is assessed as ‘appropriate’ by 31 governments (48.4%) and ‘highly appropriate’ by 9 governments (14.1%). 11 governments (17.2%) see such participation as ‘somewhat’ appropriate, while 4 governments (6.3%) find it ‘not appropriate at all’. 9 governments (14.1%) cannot judge the question.

23 governments made comments to stress and/or illustrate the value and benefit of governments' participation at CSD meetings: according to them, the benefits are the exchange of different perspectives and the opportunity for dialogue, common reflection and developing a common understanding of the issues discussed. One government proposes to strengthen the governments' engagement at CSD through a longer general debate section.

9 governments plead for a clear distinction of CSD meetings and GFMD meetings. According to them, a blend of the two meetings should be avoided. Some of these governments are rather skeptical towards the participation of governments at CSD meetings, arguing that this may affect the autonomy of civil society actors and the free and open discussions among them.

3 governments point out that in the past, rather few government representatives actually participated at CSD meetings because of time and/or cost constraints.

30 governments (46.9%) assess the principle of having an **interface between Civil Society Days and the GFMD's Government Meeting** (question 6-2b) as 'appropriate', 6 (9.4%) as 'highly appropriate'. 13 governments (20.3%) see it as 'somewhat' appropriate, and 3 governments (4.7%) find the interface 'not appropriate at all'. 12 governments (18.8%) cannot judge.

The comments given to this subject are quite heterogeneous and are difficult to summarize. The meaning of this question might have been difficult to understand for some governments.

The **Common Space**, as organized at the GFMD meeting 2010 in Mexico (question 6-2c), is assessed 'appropriate' by 28 governments (44.4%) and 'highly appropriate' by 14 governments (22.2%). 5 governments (7.9%) consider it 'somewhat' appropriate, and 3 (4.8%) 'not appropriate at all'. 13 governments (20.6%) cannot judge

Most comments on the Common Space (by 21 governments) point out why the Common Space concept is seen as interesting: It is welcomed as an innovative, open platform that provides an opportunity to interact with civil society actors, to debate and exchange views.

5 governments made some critical comments regarding the format of the Common Space. In their opinion, there were too many participants, too many written statements and too little time, so that the format does not allow sufficient dialogue and interaction among participants. Accordingly, some governments made specific proposals for improvement: Organizing smaller parallel panels, providing more time, preparing a summary of the CSD meetings and organizing the dialogue along the lines of the roundtable sessions.

38 governments (61% of the participants) answered the question if the GFMD should **interact in another way with civil society** (question 6-3); a high number of 24 governments (38.7%) cannot judge. As affirmative and negative answers are equally distributed (19 or 30.6% on each side), there is no clear tendency in one direction. Asked for other possible ways of interaction, some governments made proposals:

- 2 governments propose having additional interim meetings between governments and civil society actors.
- In a similar direction, 2 other governments suggest splitting up the entire group participating at the main meeting into smaller groups, and discuss specific topics within smaller round tables. The time for those interfaces should however not be taken at the expense of the government meeting. Another government explicitly supports the example of having thematic regional seminars.
- Some governments propose, without further specification, to engage NGOs in the preparatory process (3), in special sessions with the Friends of the Forum (1) or in follow-up projects (1). One government proposes to have more joint sessions at the annual meetings (1).
- 2 governments see the GFMD-website as a potential information platform for important civil society developments, initiatives, activities and projects, or as an interface to allow civil society actors to comment on GFMD developments.
- 2 other governments would like to have a better representation of diaspora organizations in interfaces with the GFMD.

Various governments stress explicitly that the GFMD should remain a state led process, that the two levels should stay separate from each other, and that it is civil society's responsibility to organize and fund its activities related to the GFMD process. 2 governments insist on the clear separation between Civil Society Days (CSD) and GFMD government meetings as it is currently practiced, but suggest a better sequencing of the two events. In their view, Civil Society Days should take place well in advance, so that a report on its results can feed into the preparatory process of the GFMD Government meeting.

Appendix A: List of participating governments

The following governments and observers participated in the survey. Members of the Steering Group are marked with an asterisk (*).

Afghanistan	Cambodia	Nepal
Greece*	Canada*	Nigeria
Guatemala	Chile	Panama
Guyana	Colombia	Peru
Hungary	Denmark	Philippines*
India*	Estonia	Portugal*
Indonesia*	Fiji	Qatar*
Ireland	Finland	Rwanda
Israel*	France*	Serbia
Italy	Germany*	Slovenia
Jamaica	Ghana*	South Africa*
Japan*	Netherlands*	Spain*
Albania	Kenya*	Swaziland
Andorra	Republic of Korea*	Sweden*
Argentina*	Lebanon	Switzerland*
Australia*	Lesotho	Tanzania
Austria	Liechtenstein	Thailand*
Azerbaijan	Madagascar	United Arab Emirates*
Belgium*	Malawi	United Kingdom*
Benin	Mexico*	United States of America*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Moldova	Vietnam
Burundi	Morocco*	Yemen

The governments of Brazil and Tunisia submitted their questionnaire after the final deadline. They could therefore not be considered in the analysis.

Appendix B: Questions on Steering Group – distinct response statistics (members vs. non-members)

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge	
4-8	What is your opinion of the Steering Group with respect to the following aspects:						
4-8a	Fulfilling tasks and functions as defined under the current Operating Modalities.	Members	7	19	1	0	1
		Non-members	13	30	2	0	21
4-8b	Size/number of participating countries	Members	0	19	7	1	1
		Non-members	5	29	11	3	16
4-8c	Regionally balanced composition	Members	5	16	4	1	1
		Non-members	8	31	9	2	14
4-8d	Composition with respect to different perspectives on migration	Members	4	19	4	0	1
		Non-members	5	33	8	1	19
				Yes	No		Cannot judge
4-9	Should there be a rotation system for the governments participating in the Steering Group?	Members		9	13		6
		Non-members		28	15		22
4-10	Is the number of meetings held by the Steering Group in between GFMD main meetings adequate?	Members		25	0		3
		Non-members		38	0		26

Appendix C: Results of GFMD Observers' survey

The judgments presented in chapter 3 are the opinions of governments participating in the GFMD process. Some 44 GFMD Observers – comprised of international organizations, international foundations, regional consultative processes, and other non-governmental actors – that also participate in the annual GFMD were invited to give an assessment on GFMD elements related to them. The survey conducted to this effect also allows an insight on the impact of the GFMD process at the level of international organizations.

A shorter and partially adapted version of the questionnaire addressed to the governments was sent out to all GFMD Observers. As of August 28 (final deadline), 10 of these 44 Observers submitted their responses, which results in a survey turnout of 22%.

- ACP Observatory on Migration
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- European Union
- Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)
- International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

In the following sections, the observers' responses are presented and briefly discussed.

General impression of the GFMD process and its impacts

The overview of the results in table 18 shows that most of the responding observers assess the GFMD process and its impacts positively. As is the case with the governments (see chapter 3.1), for most items the most frequent judgment is 'somewhat' positive. There are relatively few negative responses. According to the observers' responses, the main impacts of the GMFD are that it has contributed to the international debate on migration and development, and that it has fostered exchange of policies and practices in this field.

Table 18: General impression of GFMD process and impacts – response statistics observers

Question			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
1-1	In general, how satisfied are you with the GFMD process so far?	N	3	6	1	0	0
		%	30	60	10	0.0	0.0
1-2	To what extent has the GFMD fostered exchange of policies and practices with regard to the links between M&D at the international level?	N	4	5	0	0	1
		%	40	50	0.0	0.0	10
1-3	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to establishing partnerships and/or cooperation on M&D between governments and international organizations?	N	3	5	1	0	1
		%	30	50	10	0.0	10
1-4	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to establishing partnerships and/or cooperation on M&D between international organizations?	N	1	8	0	0	1
		%	10	80	0.0	0.0	10
1-5	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to defining an international agenda and priorities on M&D?	N	2	8	0	0	0
		%	20	80	0.0	0.0	0.0
1-6	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to the international debate on M&D?	N	7	3	0	0	0
		%	70	30	0.0	0.0	0.0
1-8	To what extent has the sharing of practices within the GFMD contributed to protecting the rights of migrants?	N	0	4	4	0	2
		%	0.0	40	40	0.0	20
1-9	To what extent has the GFMD contributed to advancing research and data collection on M&D linkages?	N	2	5	2	0	1
		%	20	50	20	0.0	10
Question			Yes		No	Cannot judge	
			N				
1-7	Have the development-related aspects of the link between migration and development sufficiently been covered in the GFMD process?	N	6	3	1		
		%	60	30	10		
Question			Very important	Important	Little important	Unimportant	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	--	
1-10	How important do you believe thematic continuity is for the GFMD process?	N	2	8	0	0	0
		%	20	80	0.0	0.0	0.0

Asked for their **general satisfaction with the GFMD process** so far (question 1-1), 3 observers state that they are ‘to a great extent’ satisfied, while 6 are ‘somewhat’ satisfied. One observer is only ‘little’ satisfied.

In their comments, the observers list various positive aspects they see in the GFMD:

- 4 observers describe the GFMD as an important global platform that brings together countries of origin, transit and destination, countries of the north and south, with differing perspectives, experiences and priorities on migration and development, provides an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss common issues, and forms a shared understanding. According to one observer, there is no equivalent process at the global level.
- 3 observers think that the GFMD has led to a growth of interaction, that it has facilitated international cooperation among states and between states and other actors and thus substantially contributed to sustained and inclusive consultation on migration and development at the global level.
- One observer believes that the GFMD has successfully fostered practical and action-oriented outcomes

On the other hand, the observers also give some critical comments:

- 2 observers think that GFMD discussions often lack substance or tackle broad issues
- One observer would like to see more advances in the field of human rights
- One observer is not satisfied with the extent of the restrictions on civil society actors participating in the GFMD process
- One observer states that the language barrier has not been resolved satisfactorily, which has given more advantage to some countries than others. This is seen as an obstacle for participation of countries that experience significant migration movements and could benefit from the GFMD dialogue.

4 of the responding observers think that the GFMD has fostered **exchange of policies and practices with regard to the links between migration at the international level** ‘to a great extent’, 5 agree that this has ‘somewhat’ been the case (question 1-2). One cannot judge.

One observer states that the GFMD brings together governments and stakeholders that do not normally meet, and that it provides an informal, noncommittal context in which dialogue can be of added value. Another observer sees the GFMD as a fruitful forum for exchange which allows discussing topics in a constructive way, even of topics that are considered contentious.

2 observers point out that in their perception the discussions in the GFMD focus more on migration aspects and neglect the development perspective to a certain degree.

While 3 observers think that the GFMD has contributed ‘to a great extent’ to **establishing partnerships and/or cooperation on migration and development between governments and international organizations**, 5 think that it has contributed ‘somewhat’ and one as ‘little’. One observer cannot judge.

One observer comments that such partnerships or cooperation is of an ad hoc nature and depends on the interest of the various partners. Accordingly, another observer indicates that only some organizations are engaged in strengthened cooperation with the GFMD. Other observers point out that collaboration and partnerships have particularly been fostered by the ad hoc-Working Groups and through the implementation of pilot projects and initiatives to test promising ideas and approaches. In the opinion of one observer, a formal agreement or cooperation framework between the GFMD and international organizations is required in order to create real partnerships and to allow international organizations to formally integrate GFMD-related activities in their respective work plans.

8 observers think that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed to **establishing partnerships and/or cooperation on migration and development between international organizations** themselves (question 1-4); one thinks that this has been the case ‘to a great extent’. One cannot judge.

According to three comments, the GFMD has encouraged international governmental organizations to work together towards a consolidated output to GFMD, and thus has led to more partnerships and cooperation between them. The GFMD seems especially to have improved cooperation and exchange between members of the Global Migration Group (GMG). Another observer states that more randomly, the GFMD has prompted international organizations to cooperate among themselves in new ways, including cooperation between UN international organizations and international civil society organizations. Another observer identifies some room for improvement, and adds that joint funding and support initiatives are yet to be translated into action.

Likewise, 8 observers think that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed to **defining an international agenda and priorities on migration and development** (question 1-5); 2 think that this has been the case ‘to a great extent’. One cannot judge.

All 4 observers offering comments on this question express the view that the GFMD has contributed to the international agenda by identifying, addressing and exploring key migration and development issues and perspectives. 2 of them state that some of the issues tabled by GMFD have been taken forward in other international fora or that they also reflect or correspond to the agendas of governments and international organizations. One thinks that the existence of a process at the global level has most likely contributed to a reinforced agenda at some regional and national levels as well.

On the other hand, one observer believes that because the GFMD process is informal and not universally supported its impact on defining the international agenda remains limited. Another also thinks that there is still some way to go in defining an international agenda and priorities for action on international migration and development.

An overwhelming number of 7 observers believe that the GFMD has **contributed to the international debate on migration and development** ‘to a great extent’, 2 think that it has ‘somewhat’ contributed (question 1-6).

In their comments, 5 observers illustrate their assessment. In addition, 2 of them state that the GFMD has made a significant contribution to the international debate because it is currently the only global process of its kind. One observer thinks that this concerns primarily the debate on migration and that the development perspective should be further strengthened.

The majority of the observers – 6 of them – believe that **the development-related aspects of the link between migration and development** have sufficiently been covered in the GFMD process (question 1-7), while 3 think this has not been the case. One observer cannot judge.

Among the different comments, two aspects can be highlighted:

2 of the observers assessing the coverage of development aspects positively state that discussions need to translate into action oriented outcomes and more concrete partnerships between the different actors in both countries of destination and origin.

2 of the observers assessing the item negatively believe that there has been a lack of development practitioners in the GFMD process, and that the GFMD has not attracted the attention of development agencies so far. 2 observers suggest looking at different development related issues that should be treated within the GFMD in the future.

The responding observers judge the GFMD’s contribution to **protecting the rights of migrants** (question 1-8) less positively: 4 think that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed, 4 that it has ‘little’ contributed. 2 of the observers cannot judge.

4 observers state that this item is difficult to judge at this point in time, as the discussions have hardly been translated into action yet. On the other hand, 4 observers think that the GFMD has contributed to an increased awareness of the need to improve and implement migrants’ rights by making it an issue of discussions and the theme of one of the working groups.

According to half of the responding observers (5), the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ **contributed to advancing research and data collection on migration and development linkages**. 2 think this has been the case ‘to a great extent’, 2 think that the GFMD has only ‘little’ contributed. One observer cannot judge. The comments made by 4 observers mostly illustrate the views given, but do not contain further reflections on the question.

Thematic continuity (question 1-10) is considered as ‘important’ (8) or ‘very important’ (2) by all of the responding observers.

In their comments, 2 observers stress the importance of thematic continuity by having continued discussions on key issues of mutual concern as a means to find a common ground. They point out that a process like the GFMD takes time to evolve. 2 observers consider it important to ensure that duplication or repetition is avoided.

According to 2 observers, continuity is important in order to foster follow up and to have an impact. In this respect, one observer thinks that the GFMD needs to identify more concrete issues of shared concern among stakeholders that could be brought forward. Themes need to be explored in a way that leads to concrete and user friendly recommendations.

Another observer perceives thematic continuity as important in order to strengthen governments' capacity to interpret relevant data, to understand the linkages between migration and development and to take appropriate action. According to this observer, deeper and broader analysis and knowledge sharing are still required.

GFMD outcomes and follow-up

The overview of the responses to the questions concerning GFMD outcomes and follow up in table 19 show that the observers identify dialogue and bilateral contacts as the outcome with the highest use to them so far, followed by exchange of good practices and policy models of other countries. 6 of the 10 responding observers report specific projects, activities or processes within their organization that have been influenced by the GFMD.

Table 19: Questions on GFMD outcomes and follow-up – response statistics for observers

Question		Yes	No		Cannot judge	
2-2 Are there any specific projects, activities or processes within your organization that have been initiated, stimulated or influenced by the GFMD?	N	6	4		0	
	%	60	40		0.0	
		To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
		++	+	-	--	
2-1 To what extent has the GFMD contributed to promoting new policies on migration and development?	N	2	6	0	0	2
	%	20	60	0.0	0.0	20
2-3 To what extent have the following elements of the GFMD process been of use for your organization?						
2-3a Exchange of good practices and policy models of other countries	N	5	4	0	0	0
	%	55.6	44.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
2-3b Dialogue and bilateral contacts	N	7	3	0	0	0
	%	70	30	0.0	0.0	0.0
2-3c Handbooks	N	1	2	4	2	1
	%	10	20	40	20	10
2-3d Other	N	1	1	1	0	1
	%	25	25	25	0.0	25
2-4 To what extent have the ad-hoc working groups contributed to thematic follow-up to GFMD outcomes?	N	2	5	0	0	2
	%	22.2	55.6	0.0	0.0	22.2
2-5 To what extent has the GFMD contributed to achieving or launching improved consultations on migration and	N	3	5	0	0	2
	%	30	50	0.0	0.0	20

The majority of observers (6) believe that the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed to **promoting new policies on migration and development** (question 2-1), 2 that it has contributed ‘to a great extent’. 2 observers cannot judge.

In their comments, 3 observers believe that the GFMD is likely to have inspired the policy making of some national governments or the European Union. According to some of them, several themes that have been discussed within the GFMD have also been reflected in national policies.

6 observers indicate that the GFMD has initiated, **stimulated or influenced specific projects, activities or processes within their organization** (question 2-2), while 4 observers report that this has not been the case with them.

The 6 observers with affirmative answers to the question cite different examples for such projects, activities or processes. Among them, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) lists a number of activities that directly or indirectly result from its participation in the GFMD.

5 observers perceive the **exchange of good practices and policy models of other countries** (question 2-3a) as useful ‘to a great extent’, 4 consider it as ‘somewhat’ useful.

3 observers offer some comments to explain their assessment. These observers profit from such an exchange in terms of new ideas and working methods, as well as information about good practice and policy. One of them sees value added in the fact that the GFMD brings together governments that do not usually cooperate on a daily basis. One observer suggests that more efforts be made to ensure conservation of good practices so that these can be shared and repeated across states.

To a clear majority of 7 observers, **dialogue and bilateral contacts** (question 2-3b) have been useful ‘to a great extent’; to the other 3 responding observers they have been ‘somewhat’ useful. This outcome is thus rated by the observers as the most useful one.

All three observers offering a comment on the question describe the GFMD as a useful platform to maintain and build new contacts and networks.

For 4 of the observers, **handbooks** have only been of ‘little’ use so far (question 2-3c). 2 observers see no use at all in them. For 2 observers they have been ‘somewhat’ useful, while one considers them useful ‘to a great extent’.

In their comments, 2 observers state that they are not aware of many handbooks that have been produced in the GFMD process. A third observer thinks that more could be done in order to reach out with handbooks.

Only 3 observers report **other GFMD-outcomes** that have been useful in various degrees to them (question 2-3d). 2 observers mention in their comments that roundtable background papers have been informative and useful; one of them also mentions other publications that have been featured at GFMD meetings. A third observer sees some potential in preserving and using the accumulated knowledge exchanged or produced within the GFMD process; while indicating that it has been of little use, a suggestion was made to create a searchable, user-friendly data-base.

5 observers believe that the **ad-hoc working groups** have ‘somewhat’ **contributed to thematic follow-up of GFMD outcomes** (question 2-4). For 2 observers, these working groups have contributed ‘to a great extent’. 2 observers cannot judge, and one gave an unclear answer.

2 observers see the working groups as useful, inasmuch as they allow to follow up work and to discuss topics identified during annual GMFD meetings more in depth and in a more focused and practical matter. One observer mentions that the establishment of the ad-hoc working groups has facilitated the development of a conceptual basis for further consultations; that in some instances, indications have emerged on possible action by a number of governments, and that specific research studies have been undertaken as a result of the ad hoc working groups.

One observer sees some limitation in the voluntary and informal nature of the working groups that may hinder the implementation of their recommendations.

2 observers make proposals for further development: one suggests considering to establish one working group for each main theme of the GFMD process, while the other thinks that the working groups would benefit from a regular engagement of a number of civil society practitioners.

According to half of the responding observers (5), the GFMD has ‘somewhat’ contributed to **achieving or launching improved consultations on migration and development between international organizations** (question 2-5). 3 observers think this has been the case ‘to a great extent’; 2 cannot judge.

6 observers repeat in their comment that consultation between international organizations has to some extent improved due to the GFMD process. 4 of them make an explicit reference to the Global Migration Group (GMG), on which the GFMD seems to have an impact and which provides a framework for collaborative activities. The comments by 3 observers reveal that collaboration and consultation between international organizations with inter-governmental character has been triggered by preparation of GFMD-related events.

Organization of the GFMD: supporting structures and functioning

Friends of the Forum

Table 20: Questions on Friends of the Forum – response statistics for observers

Question		Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge
3-1 What is your opinion of the Friends of the Forum with respect to the following aspects:						
3-1a Degree of information about the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda	N	3	3	3	0	1
	%	30	30	30	0.0	10
3-1b Fulfilling tasks and functions as defined under the current Operating Modalities	N	1	3	5	0	1
	%	10	30	50	0.0	10
			Yes	No		Cannot judge
3-2 Is the number of meetings held by the Friends of the Forum in between GFMD main meetings adequate?	N		6	2		2
	%		60	20		20

A look at table 20 reveals that the observers are only partially satisfied with the Friends of the Forum’s functioning.

The **degree of information about the Chair’s concept and thematic agenda** (question 3-1a) is rated ‘highly appropriate’, ‘appropriate’ and ‘somewhat appropriate’ by 3 observers each; one cannot judge.

The comments offered by 3 observers illustrate the different perceptions. One observer states that the Chair is generally able to convey its priorities during FoF-meetings. Another observer sees an awkwardness between FoF- and Steering Group-meetings, especially with respect to their substance. Yet another observer remarks that much of the discussion and decision making takes place in the Steering Group and that the Friends of the Forum does not have sufficient time and opportunity to reflect upon or contribute to the concept or thematic agenda due to a lack of transparency.

There are some reservations as to the degree by which the Friends of the Forum **fulfill their tasks and functions** (question 3-1b). Half of the observers (5) consider this only as ‘somewhat’ being the case, 3 think this aspect to be ‘appropriate’ and only one perceives it as ‘highly appropriate’, while one observer cannot judge.

The most frequent comment on this subject is made by 3 observers who think that most of the decision making happens within the Steering Group, and that the Friends of the Forum can

hardly contribute to it. Other comments made by observers are that the FoF-meetings center too much on logistical arrangements and discussing and agreeing on content of different thematic topics, that the participation of member states is not always very active, and that the large size of the group makes anything more than perfunctory comments difficult.

2 observers perceive the Friends of the Forum as important in keeping all GFMD participants informed.

The **number of meetings held by the Friends of the Forum** in between GFMD main meetings (question 3-2) is believed to be adequate by the majority of the observers (6 ‘yes’ versus 2 ‘no’). 2 cannot judge.

In their comments, 2 observers propose a different frequency of FoF-meetings. One suggests meeting once a month; another one suggests meeting at least every three months in order to promote greater continuity and follow-up.

Website and information about GFMD

Table 21: Questions on website and information about GFMD – response statistics for observers

Question			Yes	No		Cannot judge
3-3 Are you satisfied with the quality of the GFMD-website?	N		8	2		0
	%		80	20		0.0
		To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
3-4 Do you feel sufficiently informed about GFMD-related developments between the annual GFMD main meetings?	N	2	6	2	0	0
	%	20	60	20	0.0	0.0

A great majority of 8 observers is satisfied with the **quality of the GFMD-website** (question 3-3), while 2 are not satisfied with it.

In the comments, one observer explicitly stresses the high quality and the easy access to documents that the website offers. The 2 observers that are not satisfied with the website point to the lack of a searchable database that provides materials to data, as well as to the practices and policies discussed within the GFMD process, and also to the difficulty of finding information on some of the meetings.

Information about GFMD-related developments between the annual GFMD main meetings (question 3-4) is perceived as ‘somewhat’ sufficient by 6 observers, ‘to a great extent’ sufficient by 2 observers and only ‘little’ sufficient by 2 more observers.

3 observers offer some comments. One of them regrets a lack of information on the proceedings within the Steering Group. Another observer states that the degree of information depends on the Chair-in-office’s practice. A third observer proposes to communicate dates, agendas and outcomes of working group meetings or civil society meetings to key contacts.

Relationships with International Organizations and civil society

Overall, the observers assess the GFMD’s relationship with international organizations as mostly positive. However, the majority of them would like to have another way of interaction.

Table 22: Questions on relationships with international organizations and civil society – response statistics for observers

			To a great extent	Somewhat	Little	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	-	
4-1	In general, are you satisfied with the interaction between the GFMD and your organization?	N	4	4	1	1	0
		%	40	40	10	10	0.0
4-5	To what extent has the involvement of various actors of civil society contributed to the preparatory process of the main GFMD meetings?	N	3	4	2	0	1
		%	30	40	20	0.0	10
			Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Somewhat	Not at all	Cannot judge
			++	+	-	-	
4-2	Are the consulting mechanisms currently in place between the GFMD and international organizations appropriate?	N	1	2	4	0	2
		%	11.1	22.2	44.4	0.0	22.2
4-4	Is the GFMD’s current relationship with the United Nations appropriate?	N	1	4	1	2	2
		%	10	4	10	20	20
				Yes	No		Cannot judge
4-3	Should the GFMD interact in another way with international organizations?	N		6	2		2
		%		60	20		20

Most observers assess the **interaction between the GFMD and their organization** (question 4-1) positively. 4 of them are ‘to a great extent’ satisfied with it, 4 ‘somewhat’. One observer is ‘little’ satisfied and another one ‘not at all’ satisfied.

Generally, the assessment of interaction between the GFMD and international organizations seems to depend on the specific role and focus of the organization concerned. Due to their heterogeneity, the degree and quality of interaction differ greatly. Apart from those comments

that just repeat or illustrate the individual assessment by the respective observers, the following specific remarks concerning interaction between the GFMD and international organizations are made.

- One observer points out that the degree of interaction depends on the Chair's initiative.
- One observer sees the need for a more formal and regular interaction with international organizations and other civil society actors, as most concrete migration and development activities around the world are achieved by partnerships of civil society and governments.
- The European Union highlights its specific role as a supranational organization which has developed common policies and policy frameworks and considers it important that, as a unique regional body, it should be adequately represented in all relevant structures of the GFMD.

The observers are not very enthusiastic about **the consulting mechanisms currently in place between the GFMD and international organizations** (question 4-2). Most of those able to judge the question (4) think they are 'somewhat' appropriate. 2 observers consider them as 'appropriate' and one 'highly appropriate'. 2 observers cannot judge.

All of the 4 commenting observers express the opinion that the current consulting mechanisms should be strengthened and formally defined. One of them proposes to establish and institutionalize regular contacts between the GFMD Chair and the GMG Chair in order to strengthen interaction and exchange of expertise between the two, and to commit GMG members on a more systematic basis. 3 of these observers also believe that the consulting mechanisms should be expanded to other actors, such as civil society actors and the private sector.

6 observers believe that **the GFMD should interact in another way with international organizations** (question 4-3), 2 think it should not, and 2 cannot judge.

All 6 approving observers offer their comments on the question. 3 of them suggest that the GFMD should better take advantage of the professional expertise and knowledge of the different international organizations including civil society actors, e.g. by inviting these stakeholders to a larger extent and more systematically to contribute with their specific knowledge and expertise. One observer explicitly wishes that these organizations be treated with higher respect.

Some observers propose to have broader communication and participation of other stakeholders in meetings of the Friends of the Forum and ad hoc-Working Groups, as well as in thematic meetings between GFMD annual meetings, and to engage each organization more intensely both bilaterally or through the GMG structure.

2 observers suggest a more formal interaction, especially between the GFMD and GMG Chairs.

One observer comments that regional particularities must be considered, without further elaborating this point.

The **GFMD's current relationship with the United Nations** (question 4-4) is assessed mostly positively by the responding observers. 4 see it as 'appropriate', one as 'highly appropriate'. There are, however, also some negative assessments: 2 consider the GFMD's relationship with the UN as 'not appropriate at all', one considers it as 'somewhat' appropriate. 2 observers cannot judge.

In their comments, 3 observers express different views on the question. One observer thinks that the GFMD should remain outside the UN system; another thinks that there should be a closer, formal link with the United Nations because international organizations would be able to support the process more systematically, member states could be convinced to engage more actively in the GFMD and the chances for the Forum to continue would increase. A third observer perceives the GFMD's current relationship with the UN as awkwardly ambiguous and considers it as a key question that need to be discussed in depth, including analyzing the benefits and drawbacks of potential modification.

The involvement of various actors of civil society in the preparatory process of the main GFMD meetings (question 4-5) is mostly assessed positively by the observers. 4 believe that civil society actors have 'somewhat' contributed, 3 'to a great extent'. 2 observers think they have contributed 'little', and one cannot judge.

4 of the observers offering a comment on this question acknowledge that the degree of involvement of civil society actors has increased over the years. Their participation is valued by 4 observers. 3 make specific reference to the common space-format, which is perceived as a positive form of interaction. 2 observers believe that interaction between governments and civil society actors could still be enhanced.