



THIRD MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FORUM

“Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All”

**ILO Governing Body Room,
Geneva, 18 September 2009**

Report of the Proceedings

The third meeting of the Friends of the Forum (FOF) was held in Geneva on 18 September 2009. 145 delegates from 87 Member Governments and 22 Observers attended the meeting. It was preceded by the fourth meeting of the GFMD Steering Group held on 17 September.

The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Anastase Scopelitis, Head of the Athens GFMD National Task Force, with co-Chair Philippines (represented by Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr.) and co-Chair Mexico (represented by Director-General Socorro Flores). Also on the podium was Mr. Francois Fouinat, representing Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Migration and Development.

I. Opening Remarks

The Chair conveyed the regret of Mr. Nakos, Chairman of the Third Global Forum on Migration and Development, for his inability to attend. A general election in Greece had been called for 04 October and Mr Nakos, in his capacity as Deputy Minister of Interior, had a pivotal role in the electoral process that was taking place at that moment.

The Chair thanked the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for his continuing support to the Global Forum and his acceptance to attend the opening of the Third Meeting in Athens. His Special Representative, Mr Sutherland, could not be at the meeting because of unforeseen circumstances. The Chair nevertheless acknowledged Mr Sutherland’s tireless assistance to the process and in particular to the Greek Chair, and thanked him sincerely for all his efforts, saying that he relied on his continuing guidance.

The Chair also extended thanks to the International Labor Office for making available the

excellent facility for the third FOF meeting; and expressed gratitude to the governments who have come forward with financial contributions or pledges for the Forum, and also those which have devoted time and efforts to the preparation of the Roundtables.

The Chair advised that interpretation at the third FOF meeting was available only in English and French, due to a logistical constraint that applies to all Friends of the Forum meetings as in previous years. He assured delegates that, at the Athens GFMD Meeting in November, interpretation would be available in the Plenary and Roundtable sessions for English, French and Spanish.

The Chair was happy to report that the bulk of preparations had been completed. However, there were still a few things that needed to be discussed at the meeting, to take the process forward to a successful and productive meeting in Athens.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair announced that he had agreed to add to the draft agenda sent out on 3 September a Dutch proposal to include a light mid-term assessment of the GFMD under Any Other Business. The Friends of the Forum adopted the provisional agenda with this addition.

III. Update on Preparations for 3rd GFMD Meeting in Athens

Ambassador Scopelitis then gave an update on the status of the Roundtable preparations:

- Background papers for six RT sessions have been submitted to the Chair in English, posted on the GFMD website, www.gfmdathens2009.org, and are now undergoing translation into French and Spanish. The 7th background paper will be finalized and uploaded within the next few days
- Three projects, one funded by the Netherlands and two by the United Arab Emirates, have also been undertaken in support of the Roundtable sessions. These help to link the efforts of GFMD meetings and show that GFMD governments can work productively with expert agencies to generate findings and added value for the GFMD debate.
- There has also been close work with Civil Society colleagues to ensure synergies between the Government and Civil Society components of the Forum. Both will more or less follow the same Roundtable agenda for November.

Looking to the November meeting, the Chair had some clear expectations about concrete outcomes, suggestions and results from the thematic discussions. He hoped that some new and innovative angles would be brought to the international debate on migration and development, while at the same time ensuring continuity in the Forum.

Alongside the thematic Roundtables, the Chair also proposed to hold a Special Session on the Future of the Forum in order to consider some medium and longer term perspectives. The Chair had circulated a Reflection Paper on the Future of the Forum to stimulate discussion on this.

The Chair thanked the government team co-chairs and members and the Roundtable coordinators for their excellent and dedicated work in finalizing the background papers. A number of international organizations and experts had also helped draft the background papers and the approach to the Roundtables had been discussed with the Civil Society counterparts.

The Chair underscored the following **highlights** of this year's **Roundtable themes**:

- All the Roundtables come together, reinforcing each other, feeding each other and producing some tools and instruments that could assist the complicated business of policy-making in the fields of migration and development;
- The overarching theme - how to better include migration policies into development strategies, thinking and actions - also involves the mainstreaming of development considerations into migration policies;
- Other new themes this year are integration - the inclusion, protection and acceptance of migrants in society - and reintegration of returning migrants. Both of these are discussed in the context of emerging forms of temporary and circular migration - a familiar theme from earlier GFMD meetings. A separate session in Roundtable 1 would also look at the consequences of the global economic crisis on the migration-development nexus.
- Both Roundtables 1 and 2 focus on tools, instruments and natural experiments that policy-makers can use to ensure that migration is an integral part of development planning. Roundtable 1 approaches this from the development angle and Roundtable 2 looks at it through the lens of migration policies to better manage human mobility. Roundtable 3 underpins the efforts of Roundtable 1 in a practical way by looking at actual steps taken by governments towards more coherent policy-making in the fields of migration and development.

The Chair then gave the floor to the Roundtable Coordinators and Co-Chairs to make their respective presentations on the status of the roundtable preparations.

Roundtable 1: (Coordinator: Mr. Romeo Matsas)

Mr. Matsas thanked all the 24 countries, 6 international organizations, and the European Commission which have helped in preparing the various sessions of Roundtable 1 that mirrors the Greek overarching theme. As the flagship roundtable this year, RT 1 looks at the issue from 3 different perspectives; a) mainstreaming migration into development planning, b) engaging diaspora in development matters, and c) addressing the key issue of the impact of the crisis on the migration and development nexus. He said two transversal issues that were discussed at the second FOF meeting in July have been addressed in the preparations of the Roundtables, namely: 1) the need to ensure that the RT sessions complement, and do not overlap with, each other; and b) the need to ensure a more interactive debate.

After his brief remarks, he called on the RT 1.1 and RT 1.2 session Co-Chairs, respectively.

RT 1.1: Mainstreaming migration into development planning – key actors, key strategies, key actions

Co-Chairs: Greece and Republic of Moldova

Members : Ethiopia, France, Jamaica, Mauritius, Norway, Spain, Yemen.

Organizations: European Commission, ILO, IOM, UNDP HDR

Co-Chair Greece announced that **Mauritius** has agreed to be the session rapporteur. The background paper focuses on the way migration can be associated with the pursuit of the MDGs, particularly governments' national development plans in aid of policies relating to migration. It is structured in 3 parts, i.e., first, it introduces and addresses how national and international strategies for development, aid, and poverty reduction take account of migration for the benefit of all parties, particularly developing countries; second, it

presents policies and practices related to policy, legal, and administrative frameworks for development integrating migration threads, patterns and policies, specific tools for migration and development policy-making, and examples of partnerships where migration is already integrated into development.; and third, it concludes with suggestions and recommendations to policymakers.

The roundtable aims to answer the question “How to link migration to the achievement of the MDGs?” Three types of outcomes are foreseen in Athens:

1. creation of national and international coordination mechanisms to integrate migration into development planning, taking into account the role of GFMD focal points;
2. establishment of specific tools for sharing common understandings and findings at international level, notably through the elaboration of migration profiles; and
3. elaboration of concrete projects of cooperation, integrating migration into development activities at national or international levels.

RT 1.2: Engaging diasporas and migrants in development policies and programs – their roles? their constraints?

Co-Chairs: Mexico and the Netherlands

Members : Armenia, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, India and Israel

Organizations: IFAD, EC/ UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative

Co-Chair Mexico reported that the RT 1.2 background paper provides ideas for governments interested in engaging with diaspora for development, which could take many forms. It provides a roadmap for diaspora engagement in an effective and coherent manner and in pursuit of development. The document cites useful examples of diaspora-engaging activities that are already in place, as well as useful contributions from IFAD and the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development initiative. It also concludes with several suggestions for policymakers, and poses a series of questions to guide and make the discussions as interactive as possible and a space for experience-sharing, namely:

- a) How can members of the diaspora most effectively be involved in development activities?
- b) How do we replicate the steps of a roadmap in various national situations to achieve concrete partnerships and outcomes in policymaking and what are the possible constraints, and
- c) What are the prerequisites for the creation of effective bilateral partnerships for the engagement of diaspora in the development of their countries of origin?

Co-Chair Netherlands, in turn, announced that **Armenia** will be the session rapporteur. To ensure that RT 1.2 discussion would be as interactive and lively as possible, the session team has agreed not to have a panel. Discussion will be centred on the 3 guiding questions mentioned in the background paper, which will be discussed for about an hour each.

RT 1.3: Addressing the root causes of migration through development, especially in light of the current global economic crisis

Co-Chairs: UK and Bangladesh

Members : Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, Germany, Greece, South Africa, Yemen

Organizations: IOM, OECD, UNDP HDR

Co-Chair United Kingdom announced that their session rapporteur is **South Africa**. The background paper was drafted by Co-Chairs Bangladesh and the UK, with contributions

from team members. The paper runs through the root causes of migration, and lists some of the ways in which the current crisis might be expected to impact on migration, and also on development. It is difficult to draw a firm conclusion about the impact the global crisis is having on migration and development given the lack of data, but assessment based on preliminary evidence and lessons of history can be done. The direct impact on migrants in terms of employment seems to vary by country and by sector. Policy responses have been made by a number of destination and origin countries, such as by tightening their immigration regimes or providing assistance to returning migrants, respectively. A key point arising from the paper is the long-term nature of many drivers of migration, and the need for policy to bear this in mind as well as shorter term shocks. Migration is expected to play an important role in recovery from this crisis, providing flexibility to respond to changing labor market conditions.

Co-Chair Bangladesh emphasized that migration is affected by the global economic and financial crisis, although it has differentiated effect on countries, regions, and sectors of economies. Three clusters of questions will be put forward around the key findings mentioned in the background paper, and these relate to a) the shorter term policy of origin and destination countries in view of the global economic and financial crisis, b) the relatively longer term steps that could be taken as the upturn happens, and c) the issues of gender and brain gain. The outcomes that have been suggested relate also to these questions, including some possible additional outcomes like the development of short and long term policy approaches, collection and analysis of gender and age-differentiated data, and specific policy interventions in support of women migrant workers.

General Discussion on Roundtable 1

When the Chair opened the floor for general discussions on RT 1, only 1 government intervened to request a copy of the powerpoint presentation prepared by the RT Coordinator.

Roundtable 2: (Coordinator: Dr. Irena Omelaniuk)

Dr. Omelaniuk recalled the highlight of Roundtable 2, as earlier presented at the second FOF meeting, namely that it approaches development from the angle of labour mobility management, i.e. through legislative frameworks, policies, incentives and services on the ground to give better access to regular migration options, and consequently ensure migrants' protection and empowerment. An enriching element of this roundtable is that it considers development more from the angle of human development than economic development. It examines the importance of strengthening human development at two crucial points in the life cycle of migration: integration in the host country and reintegration upon return or circulation through the country of origin. It builds on earlier GFMD discussions and outcomes, adding new dimensions to the debate.

RT 2.1: Inclusion, protection, and acceptance of migrants in society – linking human rights and migrant empowerment for development.

Co-Chairs: Argentina and United Arab Emirates

Members: Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Spain

Organizations: ILO, UNOHCHR, World Bank

Dr. Omelaniuk stressed that RT 2.1 looks for the first time in greater detail at integration strategies in the context of temporary and circulatory forms of migration. These integration mechanisms were traditionally made available mostly to permanent immigrants or people who have resettled in another country for longer periods.

Co-Chair United Arab Emirates discussed the proposed organization of RT2.1. Co-Chair Argentina will actively engage the panelists to ensure that their interventions are aligned with the content of the background paper and address the guiding questions at its end. Roundtable participants are enjoined to illustrate specific programs and policy initiatives that have worked and can be emulated in the hope of stimulating an informed discussion of policy alternatives. The UAE Co-Chair will intervene at the end of the panel presentation and offer thoughts of his own, intended to channel and stimulate the ensuing discussion, which will last for about 90 minutes. The rapporteur from the **Philippines** would be assisted by the note-takers before presenting a report of proceedings.

Co-Chair Argentina added to the UAE's presentation its recognition of the hard work of the coordinator, in putting together different practices and policies in a coherent and thought-provoking document. Argentina looked forward to an active discussion in Athens.

RT 2.2: Reintegration and circular migration – effective for development?

Co-Chairs: Brazil and Portugal

Members: Albania, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Philippines, Switzerland

Organizations: EC, ILO, IOM, OSCE, UNDESA, World Bank

Dr. Omelaniuk recognized the fact that circular migration may be an old theme, but the topic of reintegration, as a key element of circularity, is new for the development discussion. Previous discussions had looked separately at circular migration and return migration in the context of development. This session would now look at policies, frameworks and incentives to ensure that reintegration within the context of circular forms of migration can be useful for development.

Co-Chair Brazil advised that the paper identifies good practices on reintegration strategies in the context of circular migration, including bilateral labour migration agreements, job matching mechanisms to address labour demand and supply in origin and host countries, information orientation and vocational training, promoting migrant entrepreneurship, reducing the cost of remittance transactions, and strengthening institutional support structures, all within the framework of circular migration. One key finding is the lack of information on the actual impact of return and reintegration policies on development, partly due to fact that many programs are still under implementation, and they require time before lessons are learned and new assessments can be made. The background paper also identifies some challenges and makes suggestions to policy makers. As possible follow-ups or outcomes of the third forum, the roundtable proposes the following: a) undertaking a longitudinal study of the employment trajectory of returned and reintegrated migrant workers, comparing their impacts on development with those of persons who never migrated; b) models of web-based labor matching tools and portals; and c) establishment of a data base of projects and legal framework of circular migration.

Dr. Omelaniuk clarified that the government speakers would consist of Germany, Mauritius, and Mexico. One interesting element tackled in this roundtable is the need for IT-based information in looking at how governments at either end of the migration track can better match their labour needs with supply. She also cited the findings of the EU Commission in its workshops on circular migration, which fed into the preparations of the roundtable.

Two flanking projects provided some additional information and guidance for both RT 2.1 and 2.2. One is a Dutch-funded study by Professor Philip Martin from University of California Davis on how to lower the up-front costs of migration, which dates back to the first GFMD in 2007. The second is a UAE-funded project on preparing contract workers for

return and reintegration, and how relevant this is for development, by Dr. John Willoughby from the American University.

Bangladesh intervened to underscore the fact that the study on reducing the costs of migration in Bangladesh proves that GFMD meetings can produce real, concrete outcomes. The study found that costs can be reduced actually by as much as 50% through partnerships involving public and private banks and NGOs that make available small or micro finances to prospective migrants.

RT 2.2 Co-Chair Portugal added that in order to ensure a balance between migration and development perspectives, the Portuguese Co-Chair will be the president of the Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance while the Brazilian Co-Chair will be an experienced personality in migration matters. (It was later announced that the session's rapporteur will be **Colombia**).

General Discussion on Roundtable 2

3 delegates took the floor after the presentation on the RT 2 sessions. One delegate hailed the work that has been done on human development, adding that migratory policies or development policies must take account of human beings. Two delegates requested a copy of the power point presentation of the RT Coordinator. A third delegate raised the question of the linkage between human rights and migrant empowerment for development.

Co-Chair Philippine Undersecretary Conejos responded to the latter question by explaining that RT 2.1 and RT 2.2 take off from, and provide more detailed discussions about, the Manila GFMD on protecting and empowering migrants for development. The main thesis of the Manila GFMD was that the benefits of migration are contingent upon the degree to which migrants' rights are protected. Evidence and actual good practices were shared in Manila, which RT 2 in Athens will further strengthen to establish the linkage between protection and development. He recalled the statement made by the UN Secretary General at the Manila GFMD, i.e., that only when governments ensure the basic and fundamental dignity and respect due to migrants as human beings, can migration have a development impact on the migrants, their countries of origin, and their countries of destination.

Dr. Omelaniuk added that RT 2.1 tries to present a combination or a bundle of inalienable rights and additional facilities, services, structures, and policy frameworks that can actually help complement and leverage those rights in terms of economic benefits to migrants. Examples of the additional elements are upgrading of skills, skills recognition, portability of social security benefits, lowering the costs of remittance transfers, enabling migrants to open bank accounts. All these could contribute to human development by expanding the options and choices of migrants, and helping them to strengthen their own capabilities as human beings and as economic agents.

RT 2.1 Co-Chair Argentina stressed that all these rights will be discussed in the framework of circular migration.

The **Chair** turned the floor over to **Philippine Undersecretary Esteban Conejos** and to **Dr. Rolph Jenny**, to give an update on the status of the ad hoc Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development and the ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, respectively.

Update on the ad hoc Working Groups

1. Ad hoc Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrant Workers for Development

Speaking also on behalf of co-Chair United Arab Emirates, **Undersecretary Conejos** shared with the members of the FOF the achievements of the ad hoc working group (WG) on protecting and empowering migrants for development. He recalled the first meeting that was convened with potential members (Philippines, UAE, El Salvador, Argentina, and Ghana) of the working group on 25 February 2009, followed by the Steering Group approval of the WG work plan in July. The objective of the WG was to provide a venue for governments who were interested to pursue and develop some of the discussions from Manila on the protection and empowerment of migrants, and to help ensure thematic continuity.

In preparing the work plan, the Manila GFMD background paper model was followed, which consists of three parts: 1) major challenges in the areas of protection and empowerment, 2) existing best practices to address these challenges, 3) gaps in the implementation between policy and actual experiences on the ground, and 4) recommendations to try to narrow, if not completely eliminate these gaps. The work plan identified 3 specific projects corresponding to the 3 stages of migration, i.e.:

- a) pre-deployment stage - the Dutch-funded study on reducing the cost burden for migrant workers using a market-based approach (undertaken by Dr. Phil Martin);
- b) on-site protection - the UAE-funded study on global best practices in the provision of services to protect and empower migrants in the host country in the context of migrant resource centres (undertaken by IOM); and
- c) return and reintegration – the UAE-funded study on preparing contract workers for their return and reintegration, especially in the context of the global economic crisis. Preparing contract workers for Return and Reintegration relevant to development (undertaken by Dr. John Willoughby).

Undersecretary Conejos reported that elements of these three studies have been incorporated into the RT 2.1 and RT 2.2 session background papers. The Working Group is co-terminus with the Greek Chair, and its outcomes will be officially launched at the Athens GFMD in November. He thanked the Netherlands and the UAE for funding these studies, the members of the ad hoc Working Group - Philippines, UAE, Argentina, Ghana, Mexico, Ecuador and El Salvador – that held on to the concept of the working group, and Dr. Irena Omelaniuk. He likewise thanked the Greek Chair for supporting the establishment of the ad hoc working group, as provided under the GFMD Operating Modalities, and for making available the service of the Support Unit in managing the financial contributions from the Netherlands and the UAE, and for serving as an information gateway for the WG members. He expressed the hope that Mexico will cast an approving eye on the Working Group and provide it with a fair, sailing wind.

2. Ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research

Dr. Rolph Jenny clarified that the official title of the second ad hoc working group is the Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research. He then requested its Co-Chair, Switzerland, to apprise the Friends of the Forum of developments since the July FOF meeting.

Co-Chair Switzerland presented the overall objective of the ad hoc Working Group, which is to foster a common understanding within the GFMD about the importance of policy coherence and related data and research findings on migration and development. It will

operate until the end of the Greek Presidency. Thanks was given to Co-Chair Morocco, and also to Finland for having organized last June in Vienna a conference around the theme data, research and policy coherence. Members of the Working Group, which is open-ended, currently include Philippines, France, Finland, United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Morocco. Other entities like the EU, IOM, ILO, and the UNDESA Population Division, already participate in the group while experts from other relevant international agencies and academia have a standing invitation to be part of it. The Working Group acts independently from RT 3.1 and the government team preparing RT 3.1, even if the Co-Chairs of both the WG and the RT are Switzerland and Morocco.

The Working Group first met informally in July and then defined its terms of reference and work plan. A first formal meeting was held on 17 September, attended by the above-cited governments and international organizations. **Dr. Jenny** said the Working Group has a modest work plan, since it was to end with the Greek Presidency. The two principal objectives were: 1) to continue the informal inquiry that has now been sent to all FOFs, analyze the responses that are gradually coming in, and present a brief report on these responses to Athens, and 2) to meet a few weeks after the Athens GFMD to take stock of those outcomes that have any immediate bearing on policy coherence, institutional coherence, data and priority research findings.

A report on the responses to the informal enquiry would be prepared by Susan Martin of Georgetown University. After the Athens meeting, the group would assess the outcomes of RT 3.1 and the outcomes of other RTs that related to data, research and coherence. The Working Groups should ensure continuity between different GFMD events and maintain momentum on specific outcomes of each RT.

Roundtable 3: (Coordinator: Dr. Rolph K. Jenny)

Dr. Jenny proceeded to discuss the status of the preparations of Roundtable 3. He called on both co-Chairs Morocco and Switzerland to present their updates.

RT 3.1: Policy and Institutional Coherence – Latest Data and Research Findings

Co-Chairs: Morocco and Switzerland

Members: Australia, Finland, France, Jamaica, Lithuania,
Mauritius, UK

Organizations: IOM, ILO, ICMPD, EC, UNDESA

Co-Chair Morocco announced that preparations for this RT session are proceeding very well. This year's document tries to build on, and avoid duplicating, the outcomes of Manila GFMD. Much care has been taken while drafting it in order to address the real issues related to challenges and obstacles to genuine policy and institutional coherence in the management of migration and development. The paper was built on 2 assumptions: 1) policymakers in the field of development and migration need to be updated continuously; 2) interaction between experts, academia and government officials and policymakers is of paramount importance in the field of migration. The paper aims at emphasizing the important role of data and coherence policies and institutions, including national focal points and inter-ministerial committees, for efficient management of migration, also policy making. The paper tackles all aspects of coherence at national, regional, international levels from the points of view of both origin and destination countries. It also discusses ways and means of facilitating both the collection of and access to information and necessary data by all concerned, especially the policy makers.

Co-Chair Switzerland enumerated the challenges identified within this RT discussion, including 1) how to fill the knowledge gaps concerning the migration and development nexus, and 2) how to move from rhetoric to implementation. Many governments have stepped up their efforts towards more coherence in policy and institutional cooperation within and among governments and with non-governmental partners. But they are faced with often legitimate conflicting interests between national and international priority areas and with institutional barriers at the national level, a situation which requires continuing analysis and political will to enhance the degree of national and international coherence on migration and development. Hence, the following questions will be addressed during the RT discussion:

1. How to continuously build the political will and technical capacity within government to recognize the complex inter-connections between migration and development, and to work towards increasing policy and institutional coherence?
2. How to address conflicting and competing interests and perspectives between concerned government entities including donor policies related to migration, development, trade and other areas?
3. How to strengthen institutional coherence and the role of national focal points, and how to institutionalize effective consultation mechanisms between governments, within governments, and between government and non-governmental experts and other concerned actors and stake holders?
4. What data and priority research are needed to ensure that migration and development strategies reach higher standards of policy and programmatic coherence?
5. Do the migration profiles conceived by the European Commission constitute an innovative and useful tool to develop comprehensive data and information on the migration situation in source, transit and destination countries, including all aspects related to development?

In terms of possible outcomes, this RT session proposes to:

- i) continue working towards policy and institutional coherence on migration and development to ensure continuity in the work done in the two GFMD meetings of Brussels and Manila, and now in the third one in Athens and beyond; and
- ii) strengthen the relationship between data research and collection and institutional coherence.

The RT will have a very light set-up where representatives of the 2 Co-Chairs will moderate the meeting. The new Swiss Special Ambassador for International Migration issues, Dr. Eduard Gnesa, will present the paper and the key questions to the assembly. Dr. Abdel Fata Saibi, Director of Migrations in the Ministry in Charge of the Morocco Community Living Abroad, will moderate the session. The session rapporteur will be Tim Green, an expert from **DFID**.

Dr. Jenny wrapped up RT 3.1 by thanking the drafter of the paper, Professor Susan Martin, co-Chairs Switzerland and Morocco, Finland, the government team members and international organizations that have contributed to the preparations of the roundtable. He also mentioned the informal inquiry on policy and institutional coherence, data and research, the results of which are contained in Annex 1 of the RT 3.1 background paper.

Roundtable 3.2: Regional and Inter-regional Processes and Fora

- Co-Chairs: Thailand and Australia
Members: Belarus, Ecuador, France, Indonesia, Moldova, US
Organizations: IOM, IMCPD, ILO

Dr. Jenny pointed out that RT 3.2 focuses on Regional and Inter-regional Processes and Fora, a topic that was discussed both in Brussels and in Manila. Similar to the topic of policy coherence, it has remained of great interest to GFMD participating States. Some 14 RCPs exist today, covering basically all regions and sub-regions of the world, and constituting also a network of dialogue. The RCPs have different agendas from the GFMD, but governments that participate in RCPs and in inter-regional fora are the same governments that attend, support and are interested in GFMD. Hence, there is a very clear link with the GFMD and how governments act in national, regional and global settings and policies.

Co-Chair Australia announced that Achsanul Habib of **Indonesia** has agreed to be the session rapporteur. The background paper is set around the RT 3 session's elements and provides a solid basis for stimulating productive discussions in Athens. **Co-Chair Thailand** reiterated that since the discussions on the regional and inter-regional processes and fora in Brussels and Manila, some significant developments have occurred which can help to: 1) strengthen their roles and enhance exchanges among them; 2) further enhance the interaction between RCPs and inter-regional fora and the GFMD, and 3) provide some ideas on how the non-binding GFMD discussions and outcomes may be translated into actions.

After thanking the session team members, the paper drafters from IOM, and the international organizations that have been involved in the preparations, **Dr. Jenny** anticipated that much of the discussion in Athens will revolve around the meeting of the heads and secretariats of all RCPs that was held in Bangkok in June this year, including comments on a study that is currently carried out by an expert to assess the outputs and inputs of RCPs. The long government practice of RCPs in translating non-binding dialogue into action could also be very helpful in the current discussion within the GFMD on its own outcomes.

General Discussion on Roundtable 3

5 government delegates and 1 observer offered their comments on the RT 3 preparations. One government member of RT 3.2 team underscored the need to focus on regional dialogue on migration and development and establish a new public policy area for these issues. Migration raises many questions and demands many approaches. There is a risk of diluting and mixing together all issues and questions respecting migration and development. Examples of regional processes like the Euro-African conference, that lead to new ideas of partnerships between EU and the African Union, deserve to be known. RT 3.2 will discuss the new experiences of these conferences in the context of the global approach that the EU advocates for migration and development, relating to a number of issues that have not been dealt with in the same way by individual countries. This has led to a great deal of dialogues among countries - a core objective of the GFMD.

Another delegate saw the need to consider development as a way to reduce the impact of pull factors for migration if governments were to pursue a global approach on migration and development. Dr. Jenny confirmed that the complex relationship between migration and development – how they impact on each other - is prevalent in all roundtables, and will be dealt with also in RT 3.1 on policy coherence. A third delegate seconded that the EU countries look for synergies between development and migration in a global approach in their dialogues, one of which will happen on 25 September with Latin American countries.

Still another delegate expressed the view that some international standard-setting at the end of this process is needed to avoid merely talking and doing nothing. Dr. Jenny concurred with this, but drew attention to the fact that the GFMD is not necessarily the place for governments to actively promote some kind of international standards, but rather to compare practices and legally binding approaches that they have accepted at the international level, which could move them gradually towards better standards of migration governance.

One observer commented that the EU Commission has published on 17 September the EU's 2009 Report on Policy Coherence for Development which tackles the pull factors of migration in the context of development, as part of the EU's global approach to migration and development issues.

After the general discussions, the Chair reminded the Friends of the Forum that the guidelines for the conduct of roundtable sessions have been sent to all on 03 September. He emphasized the role of the Co-Chairs and the Rapporteurs in shaping the discussions around concrete policies and practices and concluding on some possible deliverables which policy makers can take away after the meeting to add to their tool kit for managing migration and development or for future arrangements of the GFMD debates.

He also announced that the **General Rapporteur for RT 2** will be **Mrs. Cecilia Romero Castillo**, Commissioner of the National Migration Institute of **Mexico**, Former Mexican Senator, and President of the Commission on foreign relations for Latin America and the Caribbean. The General Rapporteur for RT1 and 2 will be announced in due time. The **General Rapporteur** on gender equality will be **Ms. Eugenia Tsoumani**, the Secretary General for Gender Equality at the Greek Ministry of interior.

The Chair closed the morning session by making an appeal to all to prepare for the discussions in Athens, and inviting the participants to partake of the lunch hosted by the Greek Permanent Mission in Geneva.

IV. Future of the Forum

The Chair announced that there will be a special session devoted to the future of the Forum in Athens as there was in Manila. To prepare for this session, the Greek Chair sent to all Friends of the Forum a Reflection Paper on the Future of the Forum, which was drafted following consultations with Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, inputs from 4 participating governments, and the Greek Chair's experiences in preparing for the Athens meeting. It aims at provoking a discussion and pave the way for the special session for the Heads of the Delegation.

The Chair was gratified after a very substantial, lively and interesting discussion at the 4th Steering Group meeting on 17 September. He thanked all countries that intervened and put forward their ideas. The Chair concluded that the Steering group seemed largely satisfied with the current Operating Modalities, which were agreed in Brussels in 2007. It was felt, however, that some clarifications were needed on issues such as the respective roles of the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum and the definition of what is considered an outcome of the GFMD among others. The Chair had also taken note of some additional interesting ideas raised, such as on the agenda setting, and noted wide-spread divergence on what is considered the ideal number of Steering Group members. By 15 October, the Chair will circulate a shorter Reflection Paper aimed at the Heads of Delegation, reflecting also some of the suggestions made during the Steering Group and leaving out some ideas which need no immediate follow-up.

9 delegates gave their comments, summarized as follows:

1. On the **participation of ministers** in the Forum, 3 views have been expressed:
 - a) The format of the meeting should be kept at the level of policy-makers and practitioners to promote concrete and action-oriented discussions;
 - b) Ministers are already attending, but the question is how to prevent monologues by these high-level participants;
 - c) The attendance of ministers reinforces the possibility of recommendations and ideas being placed high on the political agenda.

2. On **promoting regional balance** in the composition of the Steering Group, it is important not only to encourage rotation, but to have a balanced and active participation in the discussion of the issues.
3. On the issue of **languages**, a delegate expressed the view that the FOF and SG meetings should either be in English only, or in three languages – English, French, and Spanish. On the other hand, another delegate reiterated an earlier request to consider having Arabic as another language of the forum, given that the region is both a receiving and sending one. A third delegate suggested that documents should be translated into French to enable capitals to submit their immediate comments.
4. On the issue of an informal **experts' network**, a delegate opined that it is important to consider what Civil Society and the private sector can separately bring into the process.

V. Third Global Forum Meeting- Practical Arrangements

The Chair announced that the invitations for the government part of the Athens GFMD meeting, which will take place on 04 and 05 November, have been sent to all national focal points, with two Annexes - a draft Preliminary Agenda and a note on Practical Information.

The on-line registration is now open, and the deadline for registration is 02 October. Government delegations are limited to 3 persons, while observers can participate in the meeting with up to two delegates. Exceptions will be made for those delegations led by a Minister or a Deputy Minister, which can go up to four members. Another possible exception would be the panelists, but they need to register separately.

Registration forms are to be completed by the focal point, as happened in the previous GFMD meetings. On 16 September, an e-mail was sent to the national focal points providing them with the necessary username and password for registration. There is only one registration form per delegation. Any queries regarding registration should be referred to registrations@gfmdathens.org. Queries regarding financial assistance, on the other hand, should be sent to assistance@gfmdathens2009.org.

Two delegates suggested that the Chair should also send the invitations through the Permanent Missions in Geneva. The Chair gave assurances that this would be done. The Chair further clarified that the composition of the delegation, i.e., whether from capital or Geneva, will have to be decided by the governments in accordance with the 3-member per delegation limit.

VI. Civil Society Days

Mrs. Marianna Moschou of the Onassis Foundation briefed the Friends of the Forum on the current state of play of preparations for the Civil Society Days (CSD). These are the developments that have taken place since July:

- a) **Participation:** 165 delegates from the CS are now confirmed. There are pending seats: 35 for private sector representatives. The Onassis Foundation is now inviting up to 50 observers including UN agencies and other relevant organizations.
- b) **Background Papers:** 14 authors have submitted their first drafts; hopefully by September 30 the final versions including summaries will be available, to be uploaded on the web site by 20 October. A preparatory meeting in Chicago will be held in October to be attended by CSD authors and coordinators and government Roundtable coordinators, chairs and experts in order to better coordinate discussions on common issues.

In relation to the participation of the private sector, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and the Hellenic Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO) convened on August 30-31, 2009, a meeting of about 30 senior business leaders and policymakers from Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia to discuss how the private sector could more effectively engage in international migration policy making. The meeting provided an opportunity for private sector representatives to lend their voices to this important global debate, with an eye towards participation in Athens. The conclusions included:

- a) the longer-term objective of developing mechanisms that would include inputs from the business community in the decisions of government policy makers, and
- b) the short-term objective of ensuring that the private sector's views are represented at the GFMD CSD in November 2009. Towards this end, the Onassis Foundation is now developing a new RT entitled 'Building Alliances' which will analyze the issues from the perspectives of the private sector and CS actors.

Regarding the interface between the government and the civil society, the Onassis Foundation proposed the following scenario:

- 1) The Onassis Foundation would invite from the government component: the RT session Co-Chairs, the RT coordinators, the GFMD Chair, and other interested government representatives to attend the CSD.
- 2) Civil Society would welcome the invitation from the GFMD chair of up to 20 representatives from the CS delegates and Organizing Committee. Three of them will present the report on the outcomes of the CSD at the opening plenary of the government days.
- 3) Civil society would also welcome the invitation of their RT Chairs, coordinators or other experts as observers and resource persons at the RTs of the GFMD.
- 4) 3 or 4 interface sessions are being planned in cooperation with the GFMD Chair to share with governments the conclusions of the CSD roundtables and to foster a dialogue between CS and policy makers in small groups. For this purpose, the co-chairs and coordinators of the government meeting and the GFMD Chair would be invited. To determine the final content and format, governments could give an initial expression of interest in attending these sessions by completing and submitting the form prepared by the Onassis Foundation. The working interface will take place around 16.00 hours on November 3 at Astir Palace Hotel, Vouliagmeni.

General Discussions on the Civil Society

13 Governments participated in the open discussions with the following key points:

1. On the **participation of the civil society** in the GFMD – one delegate supported the objective of an open multilateral approach, which includes civil society in the national delegations.
2. On the issue of **number of delegates**, there was a debate about whether there should be 3 or 4 delegates, with some 4 countries objecting to the Chair's allowing up to 4 if the delegation comes with a Minister.
3. On the proposed **interface between governments and civil society**, some conflicting views were expressed by the delegates on the nature of the interface:
 - a) 3 delegates supported all the activities proposed by Onassis Foundation to promote the interface, particularly the participation of civil society in the government roundtable discussions;
 - b) 1 delegate stressed the equal importance of participation of NGOs in the CSD, especially those that represent the migrants themselves and the NGOs in general,

that would ensure regional representation especially from developing countries. (Mrs. Moschou later clarified that there will be about 30 NGOs dealing with migrants' issues and 20 NGOs dealing with development issues among the CSD participants).

- c) 5 delegates suggested caution about involving civil society in the government roundtables, as this could alter the balance of the state-led forum and affect the informal character of the discussions negatively. It was emphasized that other important processes existed to enhance the interaction between CS and states, such as discussions in between GFMD meetings, in order to get inputs from CS.
- d) 1 delegate countered that having civil society observers in the government roundtables would not harm the state-led nature of the process, inasmuch as proceedings are held under Chatham Rules.

The Chair summarized the views expressed and proposed the following **formula**, which met with no objections:

1. The organizers of the CSD will invite from the government component the RT session co-chairs, the RT Coordinators, and the GFMD Chair to attend the CSD plenary end sessions. It will be up to those invited to accept the invitation or not. If any additional governments also wished to attend, they should approach the Foundation directly subject to the capacity of the meeting room.
2. The GFMD chair will invite 15 CS delegates to attend, as observers, the opening and closing plenary sessions of the government meeting, with up to 3 CS representatives formally presenting a report on the outcomes of the CSD during the opening plenary of the government meeting. These CS delegates will be selected by the CSD organizers in close consultation with the GFMD chair.
3. The Co-Chairs of the RT government session teams can invite non-government experts to participate in the sessions, e.g., as speakers, as has already happened in both Brussels and Manila. Noteworthy is the fact that some background papers and other relevant studies have been written by experts, some of whom will participate in the sessions.
4. The CS organizers will invite the governmental RT session Co-Chairs, the Coordinators and the GFMD Chair to join Civil Society in a working interface at the end of the CSDs. This interface will be split into 3 or 4 groups. Should any other governments wish to attend, they should approach the Foundation directly, and the latter will try to accommodate such requests subject to the capacity of the meeting rooms.

VII. Any other Business

Budget and State of Contributions

The Chair reported having received to date foreign contributions amounting to Euros 630,390 from Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Financial and in-kind contributions have also been made by the ACP Secretariat, the International Organization for Migration and the MacArthur Foundation. The Chair reiterated his deep appreciation to these governments, international organizations and foundation. A detailed breakdown of their contributions was shown on the screen, and hard copies were made available.

Support Unit

The Chair announced that Ms. Joyce Visi-Bobesse from the Democratic Republic of Congo had been hired as the Administrative and Financial Assistant of the Support Unit. The Support Unit is also working on the preparation of the GFMD web portal, which will be officially launched in Athens. The Chair expressed appreciation for the work done by Ms. Lajom Roman, Head of the Support Unit, in setting up the portal under close supervision by the Chair. Finally, the Chair made an appeal for financial contributions to sustain the operation of the Support Unit in 2010. An indicator for the 2010 budget was the revised budget for 2009 amounting to USD 375,678.

The Netherlands repeated its statement at the 4th Steering Group meeting that it would provide additional means to the Support Unit, if need be. The Chair expressed his gratitude on behalf of the GFMD process.

P.S. Light Mid-term Assessment

The Netherlands withdrew its earlier request to raise the matter of a light mid-term assessment of the GFMD.

Update from Mexico, Next GFMD Chair

Mrs. Maria Socorro Flores, Director General for Global Issues from the Mexican Ministry of External Relations, provided some general information on Mexico's plans as incoming GFMD Chair in 2010. A very small National Task Force has been established, whose work could be enriched by the support of the international advisory group, with whom they have been meeting in Geneva. Mexico is currently in a period of reflection. They are very interested in keeping thematic continuity while remaining inspirational and innovative. The Mexico GFMD will be held at the end of October 2010 at Puerto Vallarta, a city on the Pacific coast of Mexico. The Civil Society Days will be organized by Foundation Bancomer, which has good experience in migration issues and very good links with the private sector. They are also preparing a budget that will support a very cost-effective Forum. Mexico is very open-minded and would welcome any inputs, comments, or suggestions in organizing the next GFMD.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all participants. He expressed the hope that he would see everyone in Athens.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.