

**Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)¹
Mauritius 2012**

Draft Concept Paper

***Enhancing the contribution of migration to the development of migrants,
communities and states***

This draft Concept Paper sets out the proposed thematic focus and format for GFMD 2012. It reflects both the Mauritian Chair's priorities and the comments and suggestions of the Friends of the Forum (FOF) submitted to the Chair a) in response to the first draft Concept Paper and Survey disseminated by the Chair on 06 December 2011, b) at the informal Brainstorming Meetings on 18 and 19 January 2012 in Port Louis, and c) via the dedicated GFMD email address MauritiusChair2012@gfmd.org. In total, 36 governments, 11 Observers and 2 civil society organizations of the GFMD submitted comments on the Concept Paper.

This second revised draft will be shared with members of the GFMD Steering Group (SG) and FOF prior to the first SG and FOF meetings in Geneva on 06 and 07 February, 2012. At these meetings, it is expected that agreement will be reached on the thematic program for GFMD 2012, and that governments will volunteer to move the program forward, in cooperation with non-state partners, to the GFMD summit meeting on **21-22 November 2012** in Mauritius.

1. Objectives of GFMD 2012

Since its inauguration in 2007, the GFMD has evolved into the most important inter-governmental process of its kind to tackle the complex linkages between migration and development. Its voluntary, informal, non-binding character has enabled governments to discuss sensitive migration issues without controversy, and to manage migration and development opportunities and challenges more effectively. The GFMD is helping governments to explore workable forms of collaboration with each other and with non-state partners towards better practices in these two inter-linked policy fields. Today, the GFMD is a central point of reference for the global discourse on migration and development, and has entered the agendas of many related international forums.

In 2012, the Mauritian Chair-in-Office will seek to build on these strengths of the Forum to further secure its future as a global dialogue process. This will include the second and final stage of the overall assessment of the GFMD process, including possible options for the future of the Forum.²

Under government leadership, and with guidance from the GFMD *ad-hoc* Working Groups,³ the 2012 Forum will build on the discussions and proposals resulting from the Swiss GFMD 2011 and previous meetings to

¹ The GFMD is a voluntary, inter-governmental, non-binding and informal consultative process open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations. It was created with the majority agreement of UN States Members at the 2006 General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). The format and operations of the GFMD are guided by a set of Operating Modalities agreed by governments at the inaugural meeting in Brussels in 2007 (www.gfmd.org/en/process/operating-modalities.html).

² The results of the assessment will also be reported to the second UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013.

³ Two Working Groups were established in 2009 by agreement of the Steering Group to help prioritize and follow up on outcomes of previous GFMD meetings and link these to current and future thematic priorities. The two current Working Groups are: "Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development" co-chaired by the Philippines and United Arab Emirates (UAE); and "Policy Coherence, Data

pursue achievable improvements in the conditions and prospects of people on the move and their families, for increased development outcomes. It will give stronger emphasis to:

1. Outcomes that will make a difference for migrants, diaspora, their families, communities and states, and that may be achieved in the coming years to guide the future work of the Forum;
2. The specific needs and challenges of African countries and their migrants and diaspora, also in the South-South migration and development context.
3. Close consultations with civil society and international organizations, particularly the Global Migration Group (GMG),⁴ to support GFMD governments in achieving agreed outcomes; and
4. Engagement of the private sector and diaspora as appropriate to support governments in achieving agreed outcomes.

Following the comments of Friends of the Forum, Mauritius proposes as the overarching theme for GFMD 2012 *Enhancing the contribution of migration to the development of migrants, communities and states*

2. Building Consensus on the format and program for 2012

As GFMD 2012 Chair-in-Office, the Government of Mauritius embarked on a consensual and collective thinking process in December 2011 to prepare a thematic program that includes as wide a range of players in the GFMD process as possible. In December, 2011, a Concept and Survey paper was shared with FOF members and other experts, and the responses helped re-shape the paper for further comments and discussion in January 2012, including at the two preparatory brainstorming meetings with government and non-state partners in Ebene, Mauritius, on 18 and 19 January 2012 respectively.

Following the January brainstorming meetings, the concept was revised again for discussion and agreement on the proposed work program for GFMD 2012 by the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum in February 2012. This multi-step consultation process is in line with the inclusive, cooperative approach to preparing the annual Forum meetings established in 2007 in Brussels, and observed by all Chairs since then.

3. Format of GFMD 2012

GFMD 2012 will generally follow the traditional format used between 2007 and 2010, namely a summit meeting at the end of the year, comprising Roundtables (RT) prepared by teams of governments around themes agreed by the Friends of the Forum. Each RT may include 2 thematic sessions. For each RT session, 2 governments would oversee the preparation of the background papers and chair the respective RT session. The background papers will be prepared in collaboration with RT coordinators of the Mauritian Task Force, and, where appropriate, with support from non-state experts and partners. The background papers will be concise and pose a few questions to guide the RT discussions towards concrete outcomes.

Consultations with the former Chair will be useful for the lessons learned in 2011, and with the next Chair, to ensure continuity of approach. In preparing the RTs, governments would also work with expert organizations, in particular members of the GMG, and consult with civil society experts. This modus applied in the past, and was already anticipated by Mauritius at the 07 September 2011 FOF meeting.

GFMD 2012 will also seek to benefit substantively from other events or research activities in 2012 relevant to the GFMD 2012 themes, such as those organized by the GFMD *ad-hoc* Working Groups, or forming part of the Working Groups' work plans for the year. Others may be organized by international organizations or regional or inter-regional entities or processes. The governments or other partners organizing such meetings

and Research' co-chaired by Morocco and Switzerland (<http://www.gfmd.org/en/adhoc-wg/protecting-and-empowering.html> ; <http://www.gfmd.org/en/adhoc-wg/policy-coherence-data-research.html>)

⁴ The Global Migration Group, established in 2008 by the UN Secretary-General in response to a recommendation of the Global Commission on International Migration, currently comprises ILO, IOM, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNODC, OHCHR, WHO, World Bank, UN Women, and the UN Regional Commissions.

are expected to take full responsibility for them, and for any resultant follow-up actions. The Mauritian Chair would welcome any relevant outcomes from such meetings being shared with the GFMD, and used to inform the Roundtable preparations. The Chair does not intend to fund or necessarily become involved in the organization of these events.

4. Thematic Work Program

The proposed Roundtables cover the following key areas of interest to the GFMD and to countries of origin and destination, as reflected in the responses and comments of the Friends of the Forum:

1. *Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development* - to enhance human development potential in countries of origin and destination;
2. *Factoring Migration into Development Planning* – to leverage the contribution of migration to national development; and address South-South migration and development issues;
3. *Managing migration and perceptions of migration for development outcomes* - to ensure migration management strategies protect migrants in vulnerable and irregular situations, and to foster more informed, balanced public debate about migrants and migration;
4. *Gender, Human Rights and Migration* – to reinforce gender as an important means of analyzing the migration-development connections; and strengthen the protections of migrant domestic workers.

Roundtable 1: Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development

This roundtable would continue earlier GFMD debates on labour and skills circulation in globalized economies, and the policies to improve the conditions of migrant workers which enable such circulation. Employment abroad can accelerate human development by allowing workers to use their skills productively, acquire new skills, return with savings or invest in the development of their families and communities. This is of special concern in the South-South context, where an estimated 90% of movement is about labour and employment opportunities. A significant number of migration origin countries in the global South have also become destination countries as intra-regional migration increases. The roundtable would also examine how to engage, and strengthen the capacities of diaspora to invest their skills and assets in the development of their home countries. These issues would be discussed in both South-North and South-South contexts, and with a view to engaging and incentivizing the private sector and diaspora more in partnership with governments and other civil society actors, thus ensuring a wider and more inclusive distribution of the developmental benefits of migration. The challenge for governments and private sector in both origin and destination countries is how to leverage the beneficial effects of labour and skills circulation, while protecting and empowering their emigrés abroad.

This Roundtable would build on previous GFMD debates and the efforts of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development, which to date has explored and tested some good practices in financial, income and social protection of mobile workers. The focus on skills development and job-matching takes this work to the next level of empowerment, where migrants and diaspora are better able to utilize their skills and assets abroad and in the country of origin for optimal development outcomes.

Session 1.1 Beyond-the-Border Skills and Jobs for Human Development?

This session would focus on improving the knowledge, skills and employment prospects of persons seeking to work abroad, including when they return home, particularly in the context of circulating labour. It would examine workable strategies by public and private sectors at origin and destination points to enable the accumulation, enhancement and utilization of skills, knowledge and competencies required for the performance of labour and the production of economic value both at home and abroad. The session could take forward the proposals of GFMD 2011 for governments in destination countries to invest in workforce training and job generation schemes in countries of origin, or to offer incentives for businesses interested in investing in those countries to help train the local workforces, for example by match-funding the training.

The session could rehearse the challenges and solutions for skills development, recognition, certification and utilization of an overseas contract worker at strategic points in the migration cycle along a major international labour corridor. It could showcase effective models of vocational training, skills enhancement and skills recognition, both for purposes of human resource development and employment opportunities at home and to assure better job-matching abroad. This could help minimize the incidence of irregular or exploitative forms of labour migration, and raise the gains for development. The session will seek to better understand the individual and joint roles that countries of origin and destination can play in these areas, including the private sector in both countries.

The session could aim for the following practical, achievable outcomes: a) Strategies and facilities that support learning to improve human capital in countries of origin, both as a development strategy and a business strategy for labour exchange with employers abroad; b) skills recognition models in countries of destination and origin; c) skills upgrading mechanisms in countries of destination; and d) effective methods of matching migrant skills with real jobs abroad; as well as with jobs in the country of origin upon return.

Session 1.2 Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socioeconomic Change.

This session would build on discussions of 2011 and earlier about how to strengthen the propensity, potential and interest of migrants and diaspora to engage or invest in specific development activities in their countries of origin. Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations all have a role to play in supporting and advocating for such engagement. The session could showcase innovative transnational and trans-local partnerships between governments, particularly local governments, business and migrant or diaspora organizations that spur migrant/diaspora entrepreneurship and investment in countries of origin. There could be a specific focus on women migrants and diaspora.

Governments, private sector and diaspora could discuss and rehearse concrete schemes to engage diaspora skills, expertise and talents for augmenting capacity to produce country and regional public/private goods, particularly in areas of health, education and agriculture etc. They could look at coordinated activities of professional networks, groups and associations, also in the context of labour mobility policy initiatives such as circular migration. The session could identify policies, vehicles and instruments to facilitate diaspora businesses and investments that create jobs and employment, for example by leveraging and securitizing remittances for investment, and through multipurpose facilities such as Diaspora Investment Funds, and Diaspora Bonds/Funds for infrastructure financing, etc. The critical roles of the diaspora, African Governments, donors, private sector companies, and international financial institutions would be discussed, as well as possible knowledge exchange platforms.

Achievable outcomes of the session could include: a) matching grant schemes to encourage migrants to invest in a business on return; b) databases for the diaspora and its mobilization for investments and skills; c) model public-private partnerships to improve the business climate in countries of origin; d) information portals that can inform migrant/diaspora decisions to invest in countries of origin; and e) participating African countries to design/develop and adopt comprehensive national policies for engaging the diaspora as development partners; and initiate specific actions to implement such policies within a specific timeframe.

Roundtable 2: Factoring Migration into Development Planning

This Roundtable would sharpen the focus on how migration can contribute to development, and on the practical tools for governments to factor migration into development planning through a process that links migration and development data with coherent and effective policies and programs. Poverty reduction and other development strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals would be reviewed on the basis of Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, which in turn can be supported by Extended Migration Profiles reflecting the full range of developmental and other information required for such processes.

Particular attention would be given to South-South migration and its positive or negative impacts on national development and social conditions in origin and destination countries, including gender implications and the situation of families left behind. The RT would build on previous activities of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, and those planned in 2012.

Session 2.1 Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies

This session would take further the GFMD discussions on the tools available to governments to factor migration into development planning, including migration's impact on development and poverty reduction. The session would pursue the debate on the *concepts of these tools*, essentially those of Mainstreaming into Development Planning and Extended Migration Profiles, and take stock of progress made by governments in using these and other tools for implementing more effective policies. The GFMD 2011 Concluding Debate, including the series of practice-oriented workshops leading up to this meeting, helped deepen the understanding of these planning tools and allowed governments to share their initial experiences and practices.

The session would discuss those areas and sectors which governments need to include in migration and development mainstreaming processes and poverty reduction strategies, such as employment; labour market planning; economic growth; human capital formation and skills development; brain drain and brain waste; social protection; diasporas; human rights and migrant protection; health services; the needs of women and children; leveraging remittances for local investment and development; environmental factors, demographic forecasts; and migration in-and-out flows.

Concurrently, interested governments would be invited to update session participants on national experiences with Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and, where applicable, Extended Migration Profiles and Migration and Development Mainstreaming projects. To prepare this review, the Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research may conduct a concise informal survey⁵ with interested governments and relevant international organizations, including information on intra-governmental coordination arrangements that facilitate such processes.

The outcomes sought by this session could include models of effective programs that factor migration into development planning, based on updates by governments on current practices related to PRSPs, Extended Migration Profiles, Migration and Development Mainstreaming processes and related policy assessments. The session would also promote a more in-depth understanding of the concepts underlying these tools and the required technical capacity to implement them.

Session 2.2 Addressing South-South Migration and Development Policies

This session would deal with migration and development issues in the South-South migration context, an aspect to which the GFMD has so far not paid sufficient attention. An estimated 60% of all migration occurs between developing countries, and many countries in the global South have become destination and transit countries. In Africa, for example, some 80% of the migrant population stays on the African continent.

Notwithstanding the significance of political instability, civil conflict, war and natural disasters that also spur South-South movements, most South-South migration is for labour and employment purposes. Most movements occur between countries with contiguous borders and small differences in income. As many of these migrants moving to another country are poor, even small increases in income can have significant impacts on their human development and that of their family.

The session would discuss the linkages of these movements with development, and examine the development deficits and other drivers of South-South migration. While recognizing the prevailing lack of data and

⁵ The Working Group had on previous occasions conducted such informal and voluntary surveys with GFMD participating governments, on issues related to policy and institutional coherence, data and research, and to policy impact assessments.

information on social and economic conditions in many developing countries, it would also assess the positive and negative impacts on national development and social conditions in origin and destination countries, including gender implications and the situation of families left behind.

It would further assess capacity building gaps in developing countries, explore cooperative partnerships among countries, and between countries and international organizations, to build such capacities, in particular for data collection and analysis, and enhanced migration governance. The session could be prepared in coordination with interested Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa and relevant Regional Processes (RCPs) to benefit from sub-regional migration and development practices and experiences. In turn, GFMD concerns on Migration and Development Mainstreaming and Migration Profiles could be shared with interested RECs and RCPs in a mutually reinforcing approach.

Outcomes of this session could include strengthening national capacities to manage migration and development activities through improved data gathering procedures, cooperative research and information-sharing between countries of origin and destination in the South-South context. Other outcomes could consist of effective models for government cooperation with civil society to address the social conditions and well-being of migrants and their families in origin and destination countries.

Roundtable 3: Managing migration and perceptions of migration for development outcomes

This Roundtable would address two separate but interrelated themes: a) how to manage public perceptions of migrants and migration, especially as these can in turn influence the protections and support given to migrants and consequently their capacity to contribute to development; and b) how to ensure that migration management policies and programs adequately protect migrants and their families in vulnerable circumstances.

The Roundtable sessions would build upon discussions begun in Puerto Vallarta in 2010 and taken further in the Swiss thematic meetings in 2011, particularly in the context of irregular and involuntary forms of migration that can severely hamper the human development capacities of migrants. The sessions would aim for concrete solutions that involve a shared responsibility of all key actors – countries of origin, transit, and destination; the media; private sector; civil society; and migrants and diaspora themselves.

Session 3.1 Shaping Public Perceptions of Migrants and Migration

This session would examine the relevance of public perceptions of migrants (immigrants and emigrants) and migration for successful development outcomes of migration. It would discuss the critical role of the media, not just as a neutral purveyor of “news” but also as a semi-autonomous mediator of public opinion, and by extension an agenda-setter for public policy. The session would explore how different facets of migration (especially irregular migration) influence and shape public perceptions, and the political and policy measures most effective in creating an open space for healthy public discourse around immigration to enable a depoliticized debate and consideration of legitimate areas of concern.

The session could rehearse how the growing evidence about migrant/diaspora-led development efforts and contributions to development may be utilized to change negative perceptions of migration and foster a more balanced debate by and among the public and policy makers about international development issues, global interdependence and how these are especially challenged by migration. Innovative approaches could include migrants and diaspora telling their own stories, to create more balanced public understanding of migration and its contributions to development, both in countries of origin and destination.

The session would aim to raise awareness of this issue and identify workable models of public debate and interaction between policy makers, politicians, the media and the community, that can shape public perceptions of migration in positive ways. The session would draw upon contextualized case studies (i.e., taking account of the political culture and history of migration) from a range of countries, such as Canada and Australia, that have adopted inclusive, community-based approaches to addressing perceptions of migration, as well as other approaches by migrant sending/receiving countries in both the global South and North.

Concrete outcomes could include model programs and practices at national and local levels in developed and developing countries that engage migrants, diaspora and the host communities in mutually beneficial ways; innovative media programs (including those using social media) that broaden public understanding and appreciation of the contributions migrants make to their home and host countries; shared understanding of the critical role that political leaders play in framing debates about migrants and migration; and strategies by countries of origin to shape in positive ways the public image of their emigrés while abroad and after return.

Session 3.2 Migrant Protection as integral to Migration Management

This session would examine migrant protection and migration management issues, particularly where migrants are in involuntary and/or irregular migration situations, including in the context of mixed flows of migrants, and involuntary movements as a result of climate change and natural disasters. One potential approach would be for interested countries to analyze innovative national, regional, provincial or local initiatives to protect vulnerable migrants while enhancing migration management objectives. To allow for an in-depth and constructive discussion within the time available, such a meeting would likely limit its discussion to a few illustrative initiatives. The goal of the session would be to generate information on tools that GFMD member states could voluntarily employ, either unilaterally or in partnership with other interested states, to achieve overall migrant protection and migration management objectives that reflect the principle that those objectives are mutually reinforcing and can and must work in tandem.

The session would examine measures that states can implement themselves, rather than measures that states or international organizations would impose on others. The meeting would also highlight the responsibility of all states - including countries of origin, destination, and transit - to ensure and improve the protection of vulnerable migrants who happen to be within their borders, within the overall migration and development objectives of the Roundtable theme. Any number of possible scenarios, whether actual or hypothetical, could be employed to develop the discussion to best effect. For example, one focus could be on mass involuntary movements across borders that place migrants at risk and in irregular migration situations. Another might be human trafficking, where a legislative scheme serves both protection and law enforcement objectives, such as providing victims with some form of legal status if they cooperate with law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute traffickers.

The session could employ a case study or “scenario” approach and the outcomes sought would be the articulation of good practices, policies, and/or programs by countries individually or jointly that (1) offer or guarantee significant protection to irregular migrants, or migrants in highly vulnerable situations; (2) seek to accomplish critically important migration management and/or law enforcement objectives; (3) offer the prospect of a significant impact on participating states’ protection or migration management objectives; and (4) are replicable from one country to another or one region to another.

Roundtable 4: Gender, Human Rights and Migration

Previous GFMD meetings placed gender and human rights central to the global migration and development discourse, as men, women, boys and girls experience migration differently depending on socio-economic and political circumstances and the impact of gender-based stereotyping. The increase in women’s overseas labour migration and their consequent contribution to the development of families, communities, countries of origin and destination through social and financial remittances, investments in human capital, productive assets and provision of labour have been well documented. Migrants, their families and wider communities have benefited most from improved standards of physical, emotional, economic and social well-being where the prevailing policy environments guarantee their basic rights and support them in exercising their rights and obligations. This Roundtable responds to the repeated call by governments and their international partners for the GFMD to reinforce its engagement with gender and the special case of migrant domestic workers.

Addressing the gender dimensions at all stages of migration can help empower women socially and financially. There have been some efforts by government and civil society in this direction, but many challenges still

persist in countries of origin and destination, limiting the full development impact of women's labour mobility. Actions are needed to give more visibility to women in migration statistics, address women's specific problems at all points of the migration cycle, and provide front-line social, economic and financial services to the women and their families. This Roundtable will identify such actions through two sessions that address human rights and migration from the gender angle and the specific case study of migrant domestic workers, to build on work commenced in 2011 on this issue.

Session 4.1 Enhancing legal, social and financial protection of women migrants and their families

This session seeks to foster understanding of the gendered dimensions of international migration and highlight the vulnerabilities of female migrants to discrimination, exploitation and abuse throughout the migration cycle. It will raise awareness of the persistent exclusion of women in labour legislation, social protection and health benefits; and the impacts of this on the potential capacities of women migrants. Participants will exchange ideas, suggestions, initiatives and advances in women's empowerment and how to put these into practical effect. The session will explore policies, legislation and programs that address increasing vulnerabilities and inequities in countries of origin and destination and the protection support systems available to make women migration work for development.

The objective of the session is to highlight the policy challenges, and discuss initiatives by countries of origin and destination, including policy, law enforcement, awareness-raising and effective local redress mechanisms to prevent the abuse of rights of women migrants. The session will examine some good practice case studies from various parts of the world, such as the legal protection mechanisms for migrant women workers in the states of New York and California, initiatives in Sri Lanka and the Philippines, and protection tools for women health workers from Kenya. It will call for stronger international resolve to ensure full recognition of women's work, rights and entitlements in the labour market. It will take the gender debates of GFMD 2010 and 2011 to the next level, where governments invest in health, legal and social protection as part of migration policy to address the risks of exclusion and vulnerability.

Achievable outcomes for this session could include: i) developing gender sensitive protection policies, programs and good practices that respond to women's rights and enhance their access to these support systems, particularly in the case of the global South; ii) capacity building of ministries of women and labour and effective enforcement of existing national policies and laws to protect migrant women; iii) outreach and awareness-raising programs to disseminate information for women migrants; iv) cooperation initiatives by country of origin and destination to prevent abuse of women, e.g. mandatory pre-departure training v) models of legal, social, health, financial protection for migrant women, particularly young women and children; vi) testing their applicability in other countries and rehearsing how gender can effectively be factored into migration and development policies.

Session 4.2 Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers: Enhancing their Development Potential.

This session would build on the work of GFMD 2010 and 2011 on the special case study of migrant domestic workers at the interface of migration and development - one of the largest categories of marginalized migrant workers. It would discuss the contribution of migrant domestic work to development; current gaps in data collection and analysis on migrant domestic workers and ways in which these can be addressed, including through Migration Profiles as tools for appropriate policy formulation; models of legal, social and financial protection for domestic workers, including a gender sensitive checklist as an aide to governments developing and implementing gender sensitive legislation, in line with the new ILO Convention 189. The session could explore international best practice models in South Africa, France and the Middle East, but will also highlight policy challenges, as well as regulatory and good practice deficits in the implementation of Convention 189. It could present coherent recommendations and a feasible international action plan to address these deficits and propose the strengthening of capacity of stakeholders for effective enforcement and monitoring. It will also explore opportunities for mapping out a professional trajectory of domestic workers, to break their very low career ceiling and improve their access to alternative job opportunities.

The session could aim for the following outcomes: a) models of legal, health, social and other protections available to migrant domestic workers, and their applicability for policy makers in all countries; b) finalization, dissemination and utilization of the gender sensitive checklist (discussed at GFMD 2011) for the protection of domestic workers; c) factoring international domestic work in country and regional Migration Profiles; and d) country reports on legal and social protections for domestic workers.

5. GFMD Assessment - Phase II

The Chair will pay particular attention to Phase II of the overall assessment of the GFMD and guide this activity in 2012. The process will be conducted with full transparency, and the Chair and the Assessment Team will consult closely with all governments at all stages of the process, as well as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on International Migration and Development. In line with the scenario agreed at the 2010 GFMD meeting in Puerto Vallarta, the assessment will be concluded by the end of 2012.

The 02 December 2011 Special Session on the Assessment unanimously endorsed the Survey and Assessment Report on Phase I which examined the way the GFMD operates as a process, including its structures, the impact and relevance of its outcomes, and its relationship with other stakeholders.⁶ On the basis of this Assessment Report, Phase II will be dedicated to a political and strategic discussion among all GFMD participating governments on possible options for the future of the GFMD.

This analysis and discussion will be guided by the “Work Plan for the Assessment Team in 2012”⁷ adopted at the 2011 Special Session, which specifies the assessment activities in 2012. While the 2011 Assessment Report will inform the strategic analysis on the Forum’s future, the discussion with the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum will be of a political nature and thus not strictly limited to the actual findings of the report.

Between January and May 2012, the Assessment Team will discuss those specific areas that concern possible improvements of the way the GFMD functions as a process, structured along the related sections of the 2011 Assessment Report. It will concurrently analyze possible options concerning its relationship with the United Nations, the Global Migration Group and other relevant international agencies, and civil society. The results of these reflections will be shared with the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum, to elicit their views on the different options proposed.

In June 2012, the Assessment Team will present a consolidated paper on the possible options for the Forum’s future to the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum. Based on their responses, a revised paper will be prepared in August and re-submitted to the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum. A final consolidated document would then be prepared for discussion and endorsement at the GFMD Summit Meeting on 21-22 November 2012 in Mauritius. The final assessment report would be prepared by the Mauritian Chair before 31 December 2012.⁸

6. GFMD Supporting Structures

The Mauritian chairmanship follows a series of successful GFMD meetings hosted by Belgium (2007), the Philippines (2008), Greece (2009), Mexico (2010) and Switzerland (2011). In line with the GFMD Operating Modalities, the Chair’s preparatory work will be assisted by the following GFMD supporting structures and partners:

⁶ The 73-page Assessment Report was prepared by an Assessment Team comprising Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, India, Kenya, Mexico, Mauritius (Chair), Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. An independent expert assisted in the process, in conjunction with the Swiss Task Force.

⁷ The adopted Work Plan is attached in Annex I.

⁸ Subject to further discussion, this comprehensive report would include the 2011 Phase I Survey and Assessment Report, the final Assessment Document adopted at the Mauritius GFMD Summit Meeting, and also reflect the discussion of the Special Session on the Assessment at this Summit meeting. Subject to the agreement by all Friends of the Forum, the report would be presented to the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue in New York, in a form yet to be decided.

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

The Steering Group, comprising a regional balance of governments firmly committed to offer sustained political and conceptual support to the Forum process and the Chair-in-Office, and ensure continuity of the process. Meetings in 2012 will be held in Geneva.

The Friends of the Forum, which is open to all States Members and Observers of the United Nations. Specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations are invited as observers. There will be at least 2 FOF meetings in 2012, in Geneva.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration and Development, who is invited to the Troika, Steering Group, FOF and Assessment Team meetings, and co-chairs the Special Sessions on the Future of the Forum.

The Chair's Task Force, established to help with preparatory activities, comprising officials from all relevant Mauritian Departments/Ministries, as well as some international advisers mostly funded by other governments, GMG agencies or other partner agencies.

The GFMD government-led *ad-hoc* Working Groups, established by the Steering Group in line with the GFMD Operating Modalities, help prioritize and follow up on outcomes of previous GFMD meetings and link these to current and future thematic priorities.

The Support Unit, which is hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and provides administrative and logistical support to the Chair-in-Office, including maintenance of the GFMD website and Platform for Partnership, financial management of donor funds, and organization of Troika, Steering Group, Friends of the Forum, Assessment Team, ad hoc Working Groups and other GFMD-related meetings.

7. Role of non-state partners

The Mauritian Government proposes to work with the current civil society coordinator, ICMC, and a Mauritian-based civil society partner in 2012. In 2012, it is expected that civil society would continue to develop its own agenda, under the guidance of the technical secretariat of the ICMC and the Mauritian-based civil society partner. However, the Mauritian Chair remains open to at least some themes and outcomes being jointly pursued by governments and civil society, as a possible means of strengthening the interaction with civil society and the Common Space approach.

The private sector and international organizations are also encouraged to identify areas where they could provide support to governments. In particular, the member organizations of the Global Migration Group (see footnote 4 above) could support the Roundtable preparations with their current data, evidence and models of good practices, as has been the custom since 2007.

Special regard will be given to the “Common Space” arrangements developed in 2010 and expanded further in 2011, including possible modifications to the format that will be the subject of further discussions with the organizers of the Civil Society Days and the Steering Group.⁹ In particular, efforts will be redoubled to structure a space facilitative of genuine dialogue and debate. Fundraising will commence to help cover the costs of the Mauritian civil society partner, also with the EU in Brussels.

Mauritius also encourages civil society to organize itself and formulate proposals for achieving, in partnership with governments, concrete outcomes that improve the wellbeing of migrants and strengthen their

⁹ Recommendations for modifications were tabled during the Special Session on Engaging Non-Governmental Partners held during the GFMD Concluding Debate in Geneva on 2 December 2011. The Report of Proceedings of GFMD 2011 is expected to be available in February 2012.

development impacts. Once such proposals have been formulated and are the subject of consensus with governments, they may be showcased on the GFMD Platform for Partnerships to mobilize further support and partnerships from other willing governments or expert agencies.

The Chair will encourage civil society and governments to explore all avenues for deeper interaction throughout the GFMD process in 2012.

26 January 2012