

**GFMD 2017-2018 Fourth Meeting of the Friends of the Forum  
Wednesday, 22 November 2017  
14.30 to 17.30 hrs  
Salle XXI, 1st floor, Building E  
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Delivered by Prof. Dr. Parvati Nair  
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on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)**

**On behalf of the GMG Chair**

**Introduction**

- I am honoured to address you on behalf of the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2017 and Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Dr. David Malone. He extends his good wishes and appreciation to the co-Chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), their Excellencies Ambassador Schmidt-Bremme and Secretary-General Nadir, for inviting GMG to participate today.
- This has been a busy and productive year for all of us involved with international migration policy. We have had an intense period of learning and exchanges of views during the six thematic sessions on the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration as well as during ongoing regional and national consultations and multi-stakeholder hearings. Together these meetings have resulted in rich debate, learning, awareness raising and collectively contributed to preparing us for the stocktaking meeting which takes place in Puerto Vallarta from 4-6 December.
- May I on behalf of the GMG congratulate the GFMD on its significant contribution in support of the global compact process this year, under the able leadership of Germany and Morocco. This work is culminating at this stage in GFMD's important and detailed input to the process in the form of a GFMD

Input to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) which is being considered today. The insights given throughout that input, which draw upon your 10 years of debate, include useful policy and practice examples, as well as concrete recommendations, are an invaluable contribution to the GCM.

### **Work of the GMG**

- I welcome this opportunity to update you on the work of the GMG, the now 22-strong UN inter-agency coordination group on international migration. The strength of the GMG is that it brings together diverse expertise and operational capacity from across the UN system. The GMG has a history of close engagement with Member States, civil society and social partners through engagement with the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, through the preparations for the New York Summit in September 2016 as well as through preparations for the thematic sessions this year.
- Much of our effort in 2017 have been devoted to supporting the intergovernmental process and the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, and Secretary-General of the Conference, Ms. Louise Arbour.
- As mandated by the modalities resolution for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (A/RES/71/280) the GMG provided assistance to the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) with organizing the thematic sessions as well as drafted inputs to the issue briefs prepared in advance of each of the sessions by the SRSG. GMG colleagues worked in an excellent spirit of collaboration to provide consolidated inputs for the issue briefs that were accessible, evidence-driven, concrete, human rights-based and gender responsive, recognising the distinct experiences, needs and vulnerabilities of women and men in migration. Additionally, individual GMG members participated in each of the thematic sessions and also contributed to the Secretary-Generals' report on the GCM.

- We now have a body of six issue briefs which we consider as an ongoing resource for member states as the consultation phase has concluded and we move to the stocktaking and negotiation phases. We are also pleased to note that the issue briefs and their recommendations have been drawn upon in the GFMD input to the GCM.
- In addition, while devoting efforts to support the GCM process, work has continued in some of our working groups and task forces (WG/TF). For instance:
  - The **WG on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies** launched over the summer a GMG Guidance Note on Integrating Migration and Displacement in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).
  - The **WG on Migration, Human Rights and Gender** continues to make progress on the draft GMG Principles and Guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. It is expected that the Principles will be submitted to the 37th session of the HRC in March 2018.
  - The **Working Group on Data and Research**, with KNOMAD's Thematic Working Group on Data, commissioned a GMG *Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development* which will be formally launched in New York on 18 December.
- Principals of the GMG members have met in formal Principal-Level GMG Meetings twice this year, most recently on 7 November in New York. Interest in and support for the global compact process remains strong, with Principals fully engaged in the process and committed to providing support to Member States, both from their individual entities and collectively through the GMG. Indeed, at the November PLM, Principals reiterated their commitment that the GMG will continue to be at the service of the GCM process over the coming important period.

## **GMG-GFMD Collaboration**

- GMG continues to value the role of the GFMD and encourages your on-going efforts to support consensus-building towards the global compact. A consensus outcome, as well as one that is ambitious and which mainstreams a gender perspective, is essential to the success of the GCM. Indeed, it is likely that without GFMD as a driving force over the past 10 years we would not be in a position to discuss a global compact today. Your continued efforts are especially critical as we enter the stocktaking and negotiating phase.
- We note that, against the backdrop of the negotiation process and outcome of the GCM, the GFMD will engage in a process to review its future role. Over the past 10 years the GFMD has clearly demonstrated the value of voluntary state cooperation, debate and learning, and trust building amongst the various stakeholders on international migration. The GMG and the different agencies that comprise the GMG, with our respective mandates and comparative advantages, stand ready to continue our collaboration with the GFMD over the coming year and to support your deliberations on your future in whatever way is appropriate.
- Since I last had the honour of addressing this Forum in April on behalf of the GMG, the GMG has selected as incoming co-Chairs the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). They will assume their new role on 1 January 2018. They remain committed, along with all members of the GMG, to continue the positive collaboration between the GMG and the GFMD.

## **Conclusion**

- I will conclude by underlining that the GMG is fully committed to supporting Member States, in collaboration with stake-holders, work over the next year towards the adoption in Morocco in 2018 of a concrete, action-orientated and forward looking global compact that builds on the commitments agreed to in the New York Declaration, ensuring that the first blueprint for international



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migration is truly people-centered, human rights-based and gender responsive.

Thank you.