



## Report on Activities 2015



The World Bank held the Chair of the GMG for 2015

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is thanked for its support for GMG activities during the year.

## **A review of the year 2015**

At the request of the 2014 GMG Chair, the World Bank agreed to step in as the chair in 2015 since the UN-Women decided to take its turn at a later stage as defined in the rotational system established by alphabetical order as the selection procedure for the Chair. The World Bank undertook the functions of the GMG Chair according to the GMG Terms of Reference and the working methods.

The World Bank approaches migration from a development perspective. The overall objectives of the World Bank chairmanship were two-fold: (a) to continue deepening the linkages between migration and development, based on the multi-annual work plan (MAWP) of the Global Migration Group covering the three-year period from 2013 to 2015; and (b) strengthen team work among the 18 GMG agencies. A minor objective will also be to further deepen the link between the GMG and the KNOMAD.

2015 was an important year for migration given the different events that took place including the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The GMG endeavored to contribute to the different fora and discussions moving the migration and development agenda further.

The major achievements of the year which included the GMG's advocacy during the negotiations on the Third Financing for Development conference and its outcome document, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The GMG organized an international conference on May 26-27 that brought together major actors. The state of technology demonstrated that a target of reducing remittance costs to 3% was probably even too conservative. Further, the GMG organized a side event with OECD Development Centre at Addis Ababa during the Financing for Development conference pointing to the \$100 billion that could be raised: \$50 billion by tapping diaspora savings through diaspora bonds, \$20 billion each in lowering recruitment costs and remittance costs and \$10 billion by diaspora philanthropy. It was an important year of engagement. For the first time G20 hosted three different events on migration. At the G20 Development meeting, for the first time, there was a G20- GFME-GMG event on migration. Migration featured in both the Employment and Development Working Groups of G20. The GMG also worked closely with the GMFD. The GMG provided inputs for several thematic round tables and meetings. During the GFMD Istanbul meetings were held between the GMG and GFMD troikas and the SRSG. In response to the issue as to why GMG was not involved in the September migration High Level Side Event, it was agreed that if there is anything in UN on migration GMG should be informed. Regular meetings of GMG and GFMD troikas and SRSG would be planned as part of the Friends of the Forum. The year began with strengthening of teamwork in the GMG Working Level retreat. That spirit continued throughout the year. The Working Groups and Task Forces continued their work, making progress with reports and outcome documents such as the Introductory Chapter of the Handbook on Migration.

The World Bank proposed the following activities to be undertaken in 2015:

## Major Activities

- 1) **GMG Deputy and Working Level Retreat - February 10-11, 2015 New York:** The goal of the retreat was to foster interactions among GMG members at the working level, to discuss strategic issues and to design the work program of 2015. The Retreat served the purpose of facilitating brainstorming on where to place focus as a collective and in order to avoid duplication and promote complementarities in the work undertaken by individual agencies.

Strategic Role of the GMG in 2015: The group discussed how the GMG could contribute to the different processes and initiatives that would be taken place in 2015. Participants underscored the importance of placing migration in the development agenda. The following key points were agreed:

- Remittances could be a possible entry point but there was need move beyond this to a consideration of other possibilities – including human rights, labour mobility, and the diaspora as a source of technological innovation.
- GMG teamwork had continuously improved over the years and products were enriched when more agencies were included in the work.
- Enhance the working relationship with the GFMD, SRSG as well as other fora for a global agenda on migration and development, and convene meetings on the margins of the Coordination Meeting on International Migration.

Strategic Priorities and Work Programs for 2015: The group brainstormed on the strategic priorities and work programs for 2015. The following highlights of the work program that drafted during the retreat include: the Development of UNDAF guidance; Handbook on Migration; key messages on human rights, indicators (OHCHR; KNOWMAD); support to GFMD roundtable on migrant rights; Joint side event on women migrant workers at 3rd GFMD Thematic meeting by Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender; and inventory of capacity building activities (2nd phase); and continue ongoing work on the development of the databases on good practices on labor migration,

Enhancing the GMG's Methods of Work: Modalities of membership and alternative forms of engagement and sustainability of the GMG were discussed.

Outcome of the GMG working level retreat: All the issues discussed during the retreat as part of the multi annual work program for 2015 have been accomplished.

- Continued work by the GMG Working Groups and Task Forces to develop synergies in their work and linkages with each other, as well as other fora and constituents/ stakeholders, including civil society.

- Agencies agreed to prioritize work to give effect to the Principals’ decision to take stock of all the existing efforts on crisis-related migration and protection at sea and analyse them ahead of the next Principals’ meeting.
- There was consensus on the importance of strengthening synergies between the GMG and KNOMAD. The synergies were established through the work on the SDG indicators, the Handbook on migration, the development of human rights indicators and the activities of the capacity building task force and the working group on migration, human rights and gender as well as the working group on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies and the working group on data and research.

## **2) 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

Advocating for the inclusion of international migrants, migration and mobility in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been a major focus of the GMG’s work over the last two years. The GMG also worked on the development of possible indicators to be included in the targets and on the prioritization of additional migration indicators.

At the GMG retreat, GMG agencies committed to the multi-annual work plan, to collaborate and support Member States in the formulation of migration-related targets and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda.

Some of the activities included:

- Side event at the Statistical Commission by the GMG Working Group on Data and Research; (successfully completed – 60 participants) in March 2015.
- Presentation of indicators at various GFMD events through the year and submission of indicators
- The GMG has submitted inputs and contributions to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals on possible indicators to monitor the implementation of migration related goals and targets, and has made practical suggestions for the disaggregation of all relevant targets and indicators by migratory status in the spirit of “leaving no one behind” as promised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are looking forward to playing a constructive role in this process.

Outcome: Important milestones have been achieved with the support evidence-based advocacy work of the GMG in collaboration with civil society, the GFMD, Member States, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for International Migration. Advocacy on indicators including reducing remittance costs and recruitment costs were incorporated in the Financing for Development outcome document and in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

## **3) Migration and remittances in the Financing for Development (FfD)**

In the context of the global deliberations on Financing for Development (FfD) and on the Post-2015 development frameworks, the Global Migration Group (GMG) organized a two-day conference, a side event in Addis Ababa and a joint G20/GFMD/GMG event to inform policy

makers on how migration, remittances and diaspora can be leveraged for financing for development.

- **International Conference on “Harnessing Migration, Remittances and Diaspora Contributions for Financing Sustainable Development”, May 26-27 2015 New York:** The Conference was organized to propose recommendations related to migration, remittances and diaspora contributions for the Financing for Development (FfD) and Post-2015 development agendas. It served to present the latest insights and showcase good practices in harnessing migration and remittances, both at the micro and macro level. Discussions explored how migration can be leveraged to raise financing for sustainable development via reducing remittance costs, lowering recruitment costs for low-skilled migrant workers, mobilizing diaspora savings and diaspora giving. It also explored the potential of remittances and other diaspora contributions as innovative sources for financing including the use of new technologies to facilitate cross-border financial transfers, diaspora bonds and securitization of remittances. Speakers were invited from diverse fields including academics, practitioners, private sector experts, remittance market participants and technology entrepreneurs dealing with money transfer and virtual currency technologies. Participants included government representatives who are involved in the related negotiation processes, in addition to field practitioners, academics, non-governmental representatives, private sector representatives, international organizations and other leading partners. The principal recommendations of the conference summarized in a paper related to:

The following are key recommendations of the conference:

- a) Recognizing the positive contribution of migration to sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination
- b) Lowering recruitment costs
- c) Reducing remittance transfer costs
- d) Leveraging remittances for financial inclusion and financial literacy
- e) Improving the regulatory framework to increase competition
- f) Advocating for migration data, migration-related targets in the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and exploring the use of “Big Data”
- g) Enhancing the recognition of foreign qualifications, education and skills
- h) Mobilizing diaspora savings via diaspora bonds
- i) Enhancing country creditworthiness using remittances
- j) Using remittances as collateral - future flow securitization

Outcome: several of the issues discussed in the conference were incorporated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) including reducing recruitment costs, lowering remittance costs and addressing the obstacles for the continue the flow of remittances such as bank withdrawing services, recognition of skills and exploiting new technologies, promoting financial inclusion and financial literacy as well as data collection.

- Conference Report including the main messages from each session (see attachment)

- **Side event co-organized by the GMG, the OECD Development Centre and the World Bank at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development organized on July 13, 2015 in Addis Ababa.**

Leveraging mutual resources and building bridges to finance development were equally at the heart of the discussion on the role of migration, remittances and diasporas in financing development. The event recognized migration's prominent place in the post-2015 agenda, given the inclusion of migration-related targets in the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals.

Emigrants contribute to the development of their countries of origin probably more than most other sources of finance for development. Remittances sent by migrants represent more than 3 times the global flows of aid to developing countries in 2014. These remittances feed the economy of many developing countries. In some instances, they help finance productive investment projects. The role of diasporas in the development of their countries of origin is also key.

The impact of migration, remittances and diasporas is felt not just in countries of origin, but also in countries of destination. Mobilizing domestic resources is key to development. Immigrants are not only workers and consumers, but also taxpayers who contribute to the development of their countries of destination. The event discussed some potential policy recommendations: i) signing bilateral agreements between countries of origin and destination to facilitate labour mobility and reduce recruitment costs; ii) strengthening competition among money transfer operators to reduce intermediary costs on the remittance market; iii) adopting measures to fight discrimination and facilitate the integration of immigrants into the labour market and into society; and iv) creating an enabling policy environment for leveraging migration's development impact.

Outcome: This side event provided a forum for representatives of diaspora organizations to make a call for reducing the time of the achievement of the 3 percent in reducing remittances costs from 2030 to 2020. Since it was not possible to change the outcome document, this suggestion was later incorporated in the Valetta meeting between the African Union and the European Union.

#### **4) Contributions to the GFMD, G20 and other initiatives**

##### **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

The GMG has supported the GFMD Chair by preparing background notes and analytical papers, contributing to thematic meetings, and organizing consultation meetings. This year, in addition, the GMG collaborated with the Turkish Chair in organizing a G-20/GFMD/GMG joint event (see below). In this event, it was the first time that migration was included in the agenda of the Development Working Group.

The GMG provided support to GFMD round tables, workshops, meetings and civil society days, individually and coordinated in the Group, including the following GMG agency contributions to background papers:

- Roundtable 1.1: “Partnerships to promote inclusion and protect the human rights of all migrants in order to achieve the full benefits of migration”, 2015
- Roundtable 2.2: “Making migration work post-2015: implementing the SDGs” - draft paper submission
- Roundtable 3.1: “Enhancing human development and human security for forced migrants, who are compelled to cross international borders, through international cooperation on labour market access, educational opportunity, family reunification, and other avenues of mobility”, 2015
- The GMG has also participated through statements and as panelists at GFMD Workshops, Friends of the Forum, Thematic or Summit meetings and other events including the following:
  - GMG statement at the GFMD Special session on “GMG perspectives and future work on migration in the post-2015 development agenda”, 2015
  - GMG statement at the Thematic Meeting on “The role of communications in promoting widespread recognition of the benefits of migration, improving public perceptions of migrants, combating discrimination, and promoting integration”, 2015
  - Side event on “Migration and Human Mobility in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Perspectives from the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)” organized by the Turkish GFMD Chair and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), on the margins of the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum (HLPF), 2015
  - Side event of the GFMD-GMG-SRSG on International Migration on the margins of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) entitled “From Cairo to Addis: Migration, labour mobility and the renewed global partnership for sustainable development”, 2015

## **G20**

Turkey, chaired the GFMD- in 2015 and concurrently held the G-20 Presidency for 2015. It seized the opportunity of engaging the G-20 member states to discuss the implications of policies relating in particular to financial inclusion, remittances and diaspora investments at the event on June 3, 2015. The joint event explored the role of migration, remittances and diaspora for financing for sustainable development. Concretely, it looked at how contributions of remittances, diaspora and migration can facilitate progress in some of the priority areas of the G-20 Development Working Group agenda, namely: a) resource mobilization and b) financial inclusion and remittances. Member states representatives from Greece, Italy and Spain underscored the importance of the issue on migration, refugees and development and how to achieve policy coherence in the context of migration.

Outcome: The organization of this event was a great achievement in the G20 since it was the first time that the issue of migration was included in the agenda of the G20. Subsequently, labor mobility and refugees were discussed in later meetings in October and in November.

The highlights of the G-20-GFMD-GMG joint event were shared by the leadership of the GFMD and the GMG with relevant processes. It also informed the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit Meeting hosted by the Government of Turkey in Istanbul on 14-16 October 2015.

### **5) GMG Principals' Meeting, 17 November 2015**

The GMG Principals' meeting was held with background of implementation of the new SDGs. The World Bank Principal emphasized the importance to balance the humanitarian, the security and the development aspects of the current refugee crisis. A more coordinated approach would be beneficial.

The meeting discussed four topics: i) crisis related migration; ii) protection at sea; iii) role of the GMG on the 2030 sustainable development agenda; and iv) the decision criteria and alternative forms of engagement.

The GMG's coordinating role would be therefore of utmost importance in dealing with these issues. UNDESA Principal urged that the group take the stocktaking outcomes and feed inputs to the upcoming UN events in 2016. The minutes of the Principals meeting have a complete coverage of the issues discussed. (See minutes)



## ANNEX: ACTIVITIES REPORT OF WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES



### Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender Co-Chairs UN Women and OHCHR

#### ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015

##### WG Meetings

- Met five times in 2015 (March, April, August, September, October) on track for six meetings in total, with the final one scheduled for 2 December.
- Chaired by UN Women.

##### Key Activities/Outputs

- Preparation of background paper “**Partnerships to promote inclusion and protect the human rights of all migrants in order to achieve the full benefits of migration**”, led by OHCHR, for co-chairs of GFMD Roundtable 1.1: Human mobility and the well-being of migrants (El Salvador and Philippines)
- **Discussions with members of the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM)** on 19 March, led by OHCHR, to exchange information, and brainstorm on possible collaboration with civil society, including during the GFMD civil society days.
- **Convoked GFMD side event on human rights of migrants in transit** (OHCHR and UN Women as co-chairs of WG in collaboration with the GMC) during the common space.
- **Commenced drafting key messages on human rights at international borders**, led by IOM, to be fed into new guidance on the protection of human rights of migrants travelling in ‘mixed flows’, led by OHCHR.



## **Working Group on Mainstreaming migration into development planning**

### **Co-Chairs UNDP and IOM**

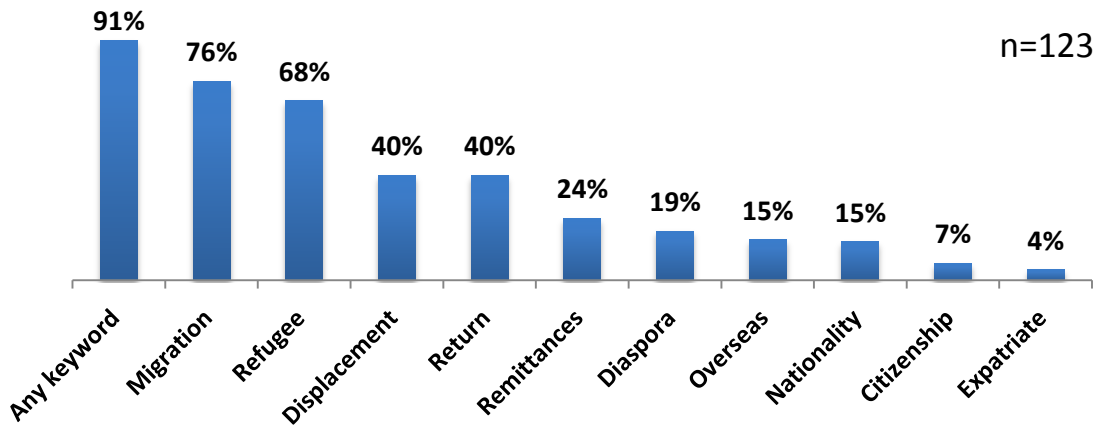
### **ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015**

In July 2014, the GMG Principals tasked the GMG Chair to collaborate with the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office, in the development of guidance on migration for United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and “Delivering as One” initiatives. On behalf of the GMG, the Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies drafted an outline for several thematic briefs on how to guide UN Country Teams to consider migration and displacement into UNDAFs. Taking stock of existing endeavors at the country level, a preliminary content analysis of current UNDAFs revealed that 91% of 123 current UNDAFs contain some reference to migration and displacement. Three quarters of all frameworks refer directly to migration and migrants, while more than two-thirds make mention of refugees (Figure 1). Importantly, migration, return, remittances, refugee and displacement issues are often highlighted in the strategic options and key outcomes.

In collaboration with the GMG’s Task Force on Migration and Decent Work, the Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies organized a retreat on the important link between migration and employment, held on 21 May 2015 in Geneva. The retreat led to a draft Guidance Tool on Integrating the Migration-Employment Nexus in UNDAFs that elicits the linkages between employment, migration, and social, economic and environmental development in countries of origin, transit and destination. The tool includes a focus on legal, policy and institutional frameworks for migration and employment and provides guiding questions for the country assessment and planning options on the conceptual links between employment, migration and sustainable development.

Currently, the Working Group is finalizing the analysis of how migration has been incorporated into UNDAFs, following which the Working Group will engage all GMG Member Agencies on best practices and future directions, considering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Figure 1: Share of current UNDAFs with Migration References**



Regarding the second phase of the global Joint IOM-UNDP Programme *Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies* the inception phase has been completed in Bangladesh, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Moldova, Serbia and Tunisia. In Ecuador, the inception phase extended throughout the first year of implementation. Implementation proper has already started in the seven first mentioned countries with action taken regarding construction of evidence on M&D including situation analyses and commissioning of targeted studies. Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Tunisia have are aiming at institutionalizing coordination for improved data collection and analysis on migration. Other actions have involved introductory M&D trainings or sessions aimed at raising awareness and sensitizing.



**Task Force on Migration and Decent Work  
Co-Chairs ILO and IOM**

**ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015**

In 2015, the principal activity of the GMG Task Force on Migration and Decent Work, was the organization of a retreat on 21 May 2015 in Geneva to support the integration of decent work in the draft guidance on migration and mobility for United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), Delivering as One (DaO) initiatives and other national development processes, which the GMG Principals tasked the working level to prepare at their meeting in July 2014. The retreat was organized together with the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies, co-chaired by the IOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The retreat brought together experts from ILO, IOM and UNDP at the field and global levels, together with experts from other organizations (e.g. UNHCR) to:

- i. Elicit the linkages between decent work, migration, and the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) and agree on a common approach to “integrating” decent work in migration-related UNDAF/DaO guidance; and
- ii. Identify examples where well-governed labour migration can promote the economic, social and environmental development of countries of origin, transit and destination.

The workshop was supported by the ILO-Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) strategic learning partnership, funded by the SDC, which fosters global-field exchange on labour migration and development. The output of the workshop was a draft guidance tool on integrating decent work into the proposed structure of the draft UNDAF guidance note on migration and mobility.

A further activity under the auspices of the Task Force included organization of the Fifth Labour Migration Academy at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin and the collection of good practices from participating GMG agencies and their addition to the “Good practices database - Labour migration policies and programmes” (see <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmain.home>).



## **Working Group on Data and Research Co-Chairs DESA and IOM**

### **ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015**

#### **GMG Handbook for the production and use of migration data for development**

During 2015, the co-chairs continued to review chapters that were contributed by participating GMG entities. Following the issuance of the consultancy contract by KNOMAD in mid-October, the editor started to finalize the manuscript. The electronic copy of the Handbook is expected to be finalized by the end of 2015, while printed copies will be made available during the first quarter of 2016. The Guide will assist GMG entities in their capacity building activities to implement the migration related commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

#### **Inputs on migration related indicators for the IAEG-SDGs**

During 2015, the co-chairs contributed on various occasions to the work of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on sustainable development goals (SDGs) by preparing and submitting migration related indicators, including metadata. This work was undertaken in collaboration with the World Bank and the SRSG on International Migration and Development.

#### **Thirteenth coordination on international migration, New York, 12-13 February 2015**

The co-chairs contributed to the session on “Measuring migration related targets in the post-2015 development agenda”, held during the 13<sup>th</sup> annual coordination meeting on international migration, organized by DESA. One of the co-chairs made a presentation on the challenges and opportunities of measuring the implementation of SDG target 10.7, that is, to “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”.

#### **Forty-sixth session of the UN Statistical Commission, New York, 4-6 March 2015**

The co-chairs organized a side event on “Migration statistics in the context of the post-2015 development agenda” during 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission. They presented an illustrative list of migration indicators and made a presentation on capacity building for the production and use of migration data and the implementation of the SDGs.

#### **GMG meeting on financing for sustainable development, New York, 25-26 May 2015**

The co-chairs contributed to the session on the role of big data in implementing the 2030 Agenda and made a presentation on SDG indicators as part of the “GMG International Conference on Harnessing Migration, Remittances and Diaspora Contributions for Financing Sustainable Development”.

**Global Forum on Migration and Development, Istanbul, 14-16 October 2015**

One of the co-chairs made a presentation on the forthcoming GMG Handbook on the production and use of migration data for development during the session of the Platform for Partnership, which was held during the 2015 Global Forum on Migration and Development.



**Task Force on Capacity Development  
Co-Chairs UNITAR and IOM**

**ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015**

In 2015, the principal activity of the GMG Task Force on Capacity Development, was the updating of the GMG online inventory of capacity development activities and tools [<http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/capacity-development-tools-and-activities>], and its further dissemination during the GFMD in Istanbul in October 2015.

First launched at the GFMD in Sweden in 2014, the GMG Inventory represents an overview of training products and services offered by GMG agencies and by the GMG collective. Its typology is drawn principally from UNITAR's Click4it Wiki, a knowledge base repository of training methods, tools, materials, definitions, resources, and toolkits: <http://www.click4it.org>.

During the World Bank Chairmanship, the GMG Inventory was restructured to reflect the new categorizations of GMG activities, and updated with detailed feedback from 12 GMG agencies and partners. Furthermore, discussions were initiated with the GFMD Secretariat in order to post the Inventory on its website so as to further inform Member States and other interested parties of GMG's training products and services.

By centralizing information on existing capacity development activities and tools, the GMG Inventory aids in:

- Centralizing information on existing activities, tools and initiatives provided by GMG agencies to Member States and the wider public;
- Raising awareness amongst the GMG of different GMG members' capacity development work;
- Promoting synergies and working towards avoiding duplication; and
- Exchanging information and results within the GMG and to a wider public.

Down the line, through a more interactive Inventory, the goals will be: to forge a coherent and comprehensive, systematic and client-driven approach to the training needs of migration stakeholders, and to identify opportunities for imparting new and innovative approaches to capacity development in this field.

Further on-going activities of the GMG Task Force on Capacity Development include: the preparation of a GMG/KNOMAD Workshop on SDG indicators in Washington in March 2016

in partnership with the GMG Working Group on Data and Research, and support to GMG agencies in the development of training activities and online pedagogical tools.