



International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Chairmanship Summary Report 1 January – 30 June 2007

I. Overview

The Global Migration Group (GMG)¹ is an inter-agency group established in 2006, bringing together agencies working on migration issues to promote the wider application of relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration. The GMG encourages the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration.²

IOM chaired the GMG from January – June 2007, as the second chair to assume office, following the chairmanship of UNHCR from July – December 2006. IOM dedicated its chairmanship of the GMG to the theme ***Integrating Migration into Development Planning Agendas***, with the overall objective of enhancing dialogue on mechanisms and modalities for successfully integrating migration into development planning agendas, at the **national, regional and global level**.

II. Achievements

- As GMG Chair, IOM convened and led several **meetings at the principals and working level**, as reflected below:

Principals Level Meetings	Working Level Meetings
27 February 2007 (Geneva)	22 January 2007 (Geneva) ³
2 May 2007 (New York)	20 April 2007 (Geneva)
8 June 2007 (Geneva) ⁴	30 April 2007 (Geneva) ⁵

¹ The GMG grew out of an existing inter-agency group, the Geneva Migration Group, which was established in April 2003 by the principals of the International Labour Organization (ILO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

² See GMG website at <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/en/what-is-the-gmg>.

³ European Commission (EC) representatives attended the meeting to brief GMG members on European Union (EU) policies on migration and planned migration-related initiatives.

⁴ The meeting was convened at the request of SRSG Sutherland, who attended together with the representatives of the Belgian GFMD-Chair-in-Office (2007) and incoming Philippines GFMD Chair (2008).

⁵ Geneva based GMG colleagues attended the meeting, together with other agencies participating via video conference, to discuss a draft document on international migration for the Policy Committee, at the request of UNDESA.

- During this period, the outputs of the GMG included the formulation of a **joint programme and workplan** and agreement on the **schedule of GMG meetings**.
- IOM led the **coordination and finalization of GMG contributions** to the UN General Assembly, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and other international fora.
- IOM also advanced research and advocacy activities concerning the **mainstreaming of migration and gender in policy** formulation and programmatic areas, setting the foundation for the development of the *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning*⁶. The Handbook was later adopted and launched by the GMG in 2010.
- In assisting governments at the **national level**, IOM in its capacity as GMG Chair, established a platform of engagement for GMG agencies to contribute to mainstreaming migration and related issues into poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), and other national level development planning and poverty reduction mechanisms.
- Under this chairmanship significant strides were made at the **regional level** in encouraging regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) to consider migration and development in their work, very few of whom had migration and development on their agendas previously. Similarly, individual governments and the international community were also encouraged to integrate development-related issues into their migration policy planning and implementation agenda.
- The IOM chairmanship also focused on **global efforts** to integrate migration into development planning and conveying the message that migration is a positive force for development, most notably through the first GFMD held in 2007.
- IOM in its capacity as GMG Chair provided extensive substantive as well as operational support to this first GFMD, as it has done subsequently. IOM **coordinated and delivered statements on behalf of the GMG to the GFMD**, including the first meeting of the Friends of the Forum (FoF) on 30 January 2007 in Brussels and a subsequent FoF meeting on 27 March 2007 in Geneva.
- In the course of the chairmanship, IOM coordinated the development of the following **GMG joint documents**:
 - **GMG Brochure**, providing an outline of GMG members and their respective areas of work on migration⁷;
 - **GMG Information Note on the Involvement of Participating Agencies in the Preparations for the First Meeting of the GFMD**, shared with the GFMD⁸;
 - **GMG: Questions and Issues of Relevance to the Interlinkages Between International Migration, Gender and Development**, shared with the GFMD⁹;
 - **GMG Matrix of Projects and Activities of Potential Interest to GFMD Participants**, detailing the expertise of GMG agencies and the support that

⁶ IOM (2010), *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners*.

⁷ The GMG Brochure has been subsequently updated to reflect the current GMG membership of 16 agencies.

⁸ See http://www.gfmd.org/documents/brussels/gfmd_brussels07_contribution_gmg_input_en.pdf

⁹ See http://www.gfmd.org/documents/brussels/gfmd_brussels07_contribution_gmg_survey_md_projects_activities_en.pdf

agencies could offer in relation to the thematic areas of focus for the GFMD¹⁰;

- **GMG Survey of Migration and Development-related Policy Research, Data Collection and Publications**, providing an overview of the activities of GMG members in this area¹¹;
 - **GMG Survey of Migration and Development Projects and Activities**, prepared in the context of the GFMD¹²;
 - **GMG Survey of Capacity Building Initiatives**, identified gaps, overlaps and potential synergies of capacity building activities undertaken by GMG agencies¹³.
- On 2 May 2007, the GMG Troika, comprising IOM, UNHCR and UNDESA provided a **briefing to UN Member States in New York**, informing participants of GMG and agencies' activities in the migration and development field.
 - The working level and principals meetings under the chairmanship of IOM, **expanded the existing terms of reference of the GMG, developed a dedicated GMG website and established criteria for the admission of new members**. The GMG under the IOM chairmanship also developed a template to be completed by agencies seeking to join the GMG and considered the membership applications of UNESCO, UNITAR, and the UN Regional Commissions, in the course of IOM's chairmanship – all of which were later admitted into the GMG.
 - Throughout the course of the IOM chairmanship, GMG agencies were continuously engaged and updated on key developments and initiatives in areas of shared interest. GMG agencies as well as partner NGOs, migrant associations, diaspora groups, migration policy and research institutes, and business entities were engaged to promote their participation in and support to the GFMD Civil Society Day, held on 9 July 2007.

III. Challenges

The growth of the GMG since its inception in 2006 (as of June 2007 there were 10 members¹⁴) bears testament to the importance of migration as a global issue and the need for greater dialogue and coordination on the multi-dimensional opportunities as well as challenges of contemporary migration.

- The major challenges of the GMG are linked to the lack of structural mechanisms and comprehensive operating modalities to ensure the efficacy of the GMG. Ideas for improving the way in which the GMG works were discussed and included the following key aspects:
 - A longer and more empowered chairmanship;

¹⁰See

http://www.gfmd.org/documents/brussels/gfmd_brussels07_contribution_gmg_matrix_of_projects_activities_en.pdf

¹¹ See

http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/partnerships/docs/gmg_mpr.pdf

¹² See

http://www.gfmd.org/documents/brussels/gfmd_brussels07_contribution_results_of_the_gmg_survey_en.pdf

¹³ See

http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/partnerships/docs/GMG_survey_CB%20final_29June07.pdf

¹⁴ The number of GMG members has since grown to 16 agencies – as at 31 August 2012.

- A strengthened troika system;
- A multi-year workplan approved at the start of the chairmanship period;
- Comprehensive reporting on outcomes, recommendations and handover at end of chairing cycles;
- A more empowered working level group.