

GMG Work Plan 2010

Chairmanship: UNDP (1st semester) and OHCHR (2nd semester)

Maintaining the momentum created within the GMG under UNITAR's chairmanship during the second semester of 2009, the proposed work plan for 2010 takes forward some of the initiatives coming out of this period of revitalization. The proposed work plan revolves around 2 main axes, both designed to a) produce concrete outputs to promote a coherent and coordinated approach to international migration, including at the country level and through support to the GFMD process; and b) continue to enhance the profile and visibility of the GMG as a critical player in the discussion and emerging international governance structure on migration through active public communication.

1. Thematic focus on follow-up to the 2009 Human Development Report: Mainstreaming of migration in policies for human development

The proposed thematic focus reflects the interest of GMG members in advancing coherent policy-making on migration at the national and international levels. In line with the analysis and recommendations of UNDP Human Development Report 2009, the GMG will focus attention on the need to place people at the centre of migration and development considerations and to ensure that migration policies and practice are rooted in human rights. The thematic focus also ties in with the central theme to be discussed at GFMD IV in Mexico and offers opportunities for cross-fertilization with preparatory work for GFMD IV, including deliberations within the GFMD Ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research, in which several GMG members are actively involved.

First semester outputs:

a) Handbook on Mainstreaming migration in development planning

The handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning is currently a joint initiative by IOM, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF and could be enhanced through buy-in from the GMG as a whole. The Chair during the first semester (UNDP) proposes to open up ownership of the handbook to the GMG as a whole by consulting all member agencies on the final draft of the handbook early in 2010 with the aim of making it *the* tool of reference for governments, the international community and civil society stakeholders. The handbook will be showcased at the GMG symposium (see below), which provides an opportunity to raise awareness among governments and devise strategies for the handbook's dissemination and usage.

b) GMG Practitioners Symposium

The proposed GMG practitioners symposium is an initiative stemming from UNITAR's chairmanship. The symposium will be implemented in close collaboration with the other members of the GMG Troika (UNITAR, OHCHR) and with the support of government funders. The two-day event aims to advance partnerships and the sharing of good practices among national migration stakeholders (at the expert level) on the topic of "Overcoming barriers: Building partnerships for migration and human development". A detailed concept note on the symposium was shared with GMG members for their comments prior to the first working level meeting in February. In addition to expecting participation of the Mexican Chair of the GFMD IV, and the SRSG, Mr. Peter Sutherland, all GMG Principals will be invited to represent

their agencies at this occasion. The symposium outcomes will be shared with Mexico and will be made available in a presentable form for dissemination at the GFMD IV.

c) Joint recommendations/guidance for “Extended Migration Profiles”

The European Commission’s “Migration Profiles” (MPs) initiative is likely to feature prominently on the GFMD’s agenda in 2010, both through its Ad hoc Working Group on policy coherence, data and research, and at the Forum meeting in Mexico. The EC has signalled its interest in working with the GMG on the template for so called ‘extended’ MPs that would give greater regard to the development linkages of migration at the country level. Based on a review undertaken by UNDP in early 2010 that will apply a human development lens to existing MPs, the suggestion is to issue joint recommendations/guidance for the further development of the template and country-level process underpinning MPs. A discussion on this issue with government and civil society stakeholders is also envisaged as part of the GMG symposium.

d) Working group on mainstreaming migration as “One UN”

Between 2010 and 2013, more than ninety countries will establish new UN Development Assistance Frameworks. It is thus a timely moment for the GMG to start collective thinking about guidance that could be provided to UN Country Teams on how to include migration and development in the UNDAF framework with a view to supporting the mainstreaming of migration in national development policies. The Chair thus suggests convening a meeting of interested agencies to consider the establishment of a GMG working group on this issue.

Second semester outputs:

e) Annual retreat of GMG Principals

The meeting will provide an opportunity for a thematic discussion to further elaborate on the key message of the GMG agreed upon by Principals during the 2009 retreat that “migration policies and practices must be rooted in human rights”. Moreover, guidance and endorsement will be sought from Principals concerning GMG common activities and strategies.

f) GMG briefing during the Human Rights Council

The briefing would provide an opportunity for the GMG to inform and interact with Member States on how the United Nations system and the IOM coordinate their work and support States in the area of migration.

g) Preparation and organization of one Roundtable session during GFMD IV

It is expected that the GMG will be invited to chair/moderate one Roundtable session during GFMD IV in Mexico. If a formal request is received in that respect, it is recommended that the GMG accepts the proposal and organise such a session, possibly the session dedicated to the sub-theme of “Labour, health and education: strategies for human development” under Roundtable 2 (Human mobility and human development).

h) GMG expert meeting on human rights approach to migration relevant to GFMD IV Roundtable

The issue of human rights protection, as an essential element for the achievement of human development figures prominently in the preliminary concept note of the GFMD IV. **The organization of this meeting and its focus will be further discussed within the GMG in the light of the specific topics that will be identified for GFMD IV roundtables and of the role which the GMG may be given in the organization of a roundtable session.**

First semester timeline:

a) Handbook:

- Circulate handbook text end of February for endorsement by the Group
- Publish handbook by May 2009
- Present and disseminate handbook at practitioners symposium at the end of May

b) Practitioners Symposium:

- Circulate concept note with detailed timeline in early January
- Proposed date: 27-28 May or 30 May-1 June 2010
- Venue: Geneva

c) Joint recommendations/guidance for "Extended Migration Profiles"

- Invite EC to join first GMG WL meeting in early February 2010
- Provide feedback to the EC on the EMP template in late February
- Circulate results of UNDP review of MPs in May
- Discuss EMPs at GMG symposium in May
- Share recommendations on EMPs (based on UNDP study + outcomes of symposium discussion) with the EC in June

d) Working group on mainstreaming migration as "one UN"

- Organize conference call with interested agencies in March
- Circulate outcomes of the call to all GMG members
- Decide on the establishment of a working group on this topic at WL meeting in April/May

Second semester timeline:

e) GMG Principals Meeting

- Proposed date: 1/2 day in Geneva during week of 13-17 September
- Venue: Geneva
- Tentative agenda for meeting circulated prior to third GMG working level meeting on 1 Sept.

f) Briefing on the GMG during the Human Rights Council

- Date and modalities to be discussed

g) GMG expert meeting on human rights approach to migration relevant to GFMD IV discussions

- Proposed date: 6 October
- Venue: Geneva
- Draft concept note and background document circulated prior to third GMG working level meeting on 1 Sept.

h) Preparation and organization of GFMD IV Roundtable session (pending invitation from GFMD Chair)

- Date: Nov. 2010
- Assignment of tasks to be discussed within GMG: initial discussion between GMG members to start at first working level meeting on 8 February
- Preparation of background papers etc. in close consultation within GMG and with GFMD Chair/Steering Group

2. Ongoing production and dissemination of analysis

Building on the thematic focus of the GMG work plan during UNITAR's tenure, it is proposed that the GMG continue monitoring the implications of the global economic and financial crisis for migration and migration policies over the course of 2010. Indeed, the economic and social consequences of the global financial crisis will continue to be felt over the next two to three years. Moreover, unemployment figures in OECD countries and the developing world are likely to increase in 2010 before subsiding further on as the effects of the stimulus packages and other measures adopted by national governments and international financial institutions yield results.

UNDP and OHCHR will ensure that the findings and analysis of the GMG on this and other topics will be continuously disseminated through the Group's public website and an active communication strategy.

Outputs:

a) Fact sheets

Building on the work that was done prior to the GFMD III in Athens, the GMG decided at its last working level meeting in December 2009 that it would continue to update existing fact sheets on the economic crisis and migration and publish them on its website. Furthermore, new fact sheets on a broader scope of topics were envisioned. UNDP will coordinate the production of the fact sheets and ensure their dissemination in electronic form and in hard copy where appropriate (e.g. at GMG symposium).

b) Communication strategy

In order to guarantee the public presence and visibility of the GMG, the Chair proposes to: a) over the course of the first semester of 2010, maintain and prop up the GMG website with new content; b) prepare a joint press statement and/or organize a joint press event in conjunction with the GMG symposium in late May; c) prepare a joint OpEd or another piece of public communication (e.g. 'talking points' for circulation to GMG member agency staff, providing key facts and highlights on the importance of migration issues in conjunction with major international days), giving enough lead-time to allow for consultations and clearance from all Heads of agencies; d) in close consultation with the SRSB for Migration and Development, explore possibilities for enhancing GMG visibility through engagement with the Secretary-General.

At the first working level meeting, the Chair will consult GMG agencies to provide an indication of particularly important dates or events that may merit a joint OpEd or communication. Further, the Chair will use GMG online workspace to regularly share information, looking into ways of making the workspace a more frequently used and inter-active tool.

Timeline:

a) Fact sheets

- Update of existing fact sheets: March 2010
- Production of new fact sheets: ongoing
- Dissemination of fact sheets: ongoing through public website; hard copy distribution at the GMG symposium

b) Communication strategy:

- Joint press statement/event around the practitioners symposium at the end of May 2010
- Joint OpEd/'talking point' upon occasion
- Website and internal workspace maintenance: continuous
- Outreach to SG through the SRSG on Migration and Development
- Joint Principals' statement to GFMD IV, Nov. 2010
- Joint press statement / guidance note for UN system on International Migrants Day and 20th anniversary of ICRMW, 18 Dec. 2010

3. Proposed working level meetings:

- First meeting: 8 February 2010
- Second meeting: April/May 2010
- Third meeting: June 2010
- Fourth meeting: 1 September 2010
- Fifth meeting: 15 December 2010