

International Labour Organization Chairmanship Report 1 January – 31 December 2014

I. Introduction

The International Labour Organization (ILO) held the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. The theme of the ILO Chairmanship was **"Advancing Strategic Cooperation and Inclusiveness on Migration and Development: Towards the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda"**.

II. Key accomplishments¹

The key accomplishments of ILO's Chairmanship of the GMG in 2014 include the following:

1. Influencing the deliberations and outcomes on migrants and migration related to the post-2015 development agenda

The Chair sought and was able to influence deliberations and outcomes on migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda, with the support of the Group through a number of targeted activities and strategic outputs.

The GMG developed a joint communiqué on "Realizing the Inclusion of Migrants and Migration in the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda", which was adopted by consensus, endorsed by GMG Principals and conveyed to the UN Secretary-General on 12 November 2014 as a contribution to his Synthesis Report on the post-2015 agenda.

Throughout 2014, the GMG was both visible and vocal in the discussions and work related to the development of possible indicators on migration for the post-2015 development agenda, including through the [GMG Working Group on Data and Research](#) and the [Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender](#). This work is set to continue and the GMG may be able to develop joint indicators or advance work on specific indicators in the context of either of the aforementioned Working Groups ahead of the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the Chair supported other initiatives of the GMG Working Groups and Task Forces aimed at influencing the deliberations and outcomes on migrants and migration related to the post-2015 development agenda, including the elaboration of a [position document on Including migrants in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda](#) prepared by the GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender in May 2014.

¹ See Annex B for a comprehensive list of the GMG's activities and outputs in 2014.

The GMG Chair convened a [Technical Working Level Meeting on Realizing Post-2015 Aspirations for Migrants and Migration](#) in New York from 16-17 October 2014 and made use of every opportunity in oral or written submissions in the events the ILO participated in its capacity as Chair to call for the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda and in addressing a wide range of stakeholders at both the global and field levels – which contributed to influencing the outcomes of negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, the deliberations and [proposals of the Open Working Group \(OWG\) on Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), and the [UN Secretary-General's Synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda](#).

2. Reporting on the GMG and UN system follow-up actions to the 2013 UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD)

The GMG Chair, in response to a request from the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and UN Chief Executives Board (CEB); in coordination with GMG agencies as well as non-GMG HLCP agencies, the NGO Committee on Migration, and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau developed a report framed within the structure of the [UN Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action on migration and development](#) contained in his report to the 2013 HLD. The report reviewed follow-up by the UN System on the implementation of the outcomes of the 2013 HLD and made several proposals and key strategic recommendations, specifically:

Recommendation 1: Mainstream migration and the human rights of migrants into the activities of the UN System; and

Recommendation 2: Emphasize the importance of the inclusion of migrants and migration into the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The report also contained an annex proposing broader, area-specific recommendations that will continue to guide the work of contributing GMG and non-GMG agencies through their engagement with the wider international community. The HLCP considered the report at its 27th session held in Santiago, Chile from 17-24 March 2014 and put forward the report and its recommendations to the CEB for decision. The CEB subsequently endorsed both at its first regular session held in Rome, Italy on 8 May 2014.

The Chair produced a specific synthesis report on [Follow-up by GMG agencies to the 2013 UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development \(HLD\)](#) also framed within the structure of the UN Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action on migration and development, which was presented at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit in Stockholm, Sweden from 14-16 May 2014. The report was shared with GFMD participants from government, civil society, organizations of social partners and other stakeholders to apprise them of the work of the GMG in giving effect to the outcomes of the 2013 HLD as set out in the [HLD Declaration](#) (A/68/L.5) and the UN Secretary-General's eight-point agenda.

Both reports provide a good framework for continued HLD follow-up action and reporting by GMG and non-GMG entities. The recommendations in the report as endorsed by the CEB will also enhance the interaction of the GMG with the broader UN system, and anchor migrants and migration more firmly in the work of the UN.

3. Mainstreaming migration into UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), Delivering as One (DaO) initiatives and other development planning processes

The GMG's efforts to mainstream migration into UNDAFs, DaO and other planning processes are in keeping with the outcomes of the 2013 HLD and the UN Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action on migration and development. This work is also aligned to the recommendations included in the HLCP/CEB synthesis paper on UN system-wide follow-up to the HLD outlined above, and subsequently endorsed by the GMG Principals at the Principals' Meeting on 8 July 2014, to be carried out under the auspices of the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies.

The GMG Chair worked closely with the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies in advancing the discussions on GMG guidance notes and tools on migration for the UN system and initiatives to mainstream migration into development planning.

This important work is expected to continue into the future and will be informed by the SDGs and the migration-related targets and indicators that will be adopted in 2015 and 2016. Initiatives to mainstream migration into development planning and action will enhance the GMG's global-field level interaction and develop synergies at a range of levels. The GMG will therefore have more of an operational and durable impact at the country level and in so doing, address calls that have been made in the past to the GMG from a range of actors in the migration field.

4. Closer cooperation and more regularized engagement with governments (particularly those participating in the GFMD)

The Chair, in coordination with GMG agencies, made important strides in promoting closer cooperation and more regularized engagement with governments, civil society, the UN system and other stakeholders – in keeping with the 2013 HLD Declaration (A/68/L.5 – in particular para. 32). Under the ILO Chairmanship of the GMG, particular importance was attached to the greater engagement of workers' and employers' organizations in global migration debates – which greatly enriched the contributions made on behalf of the Group, the interactions and multi-stakeholder platforms and side events which the Chair convened/ co-convened or was invited to participate in, including the following:

- Side event on [Good Practices for Empowering Migrant Domestic Workers](#), at the GFMD Civil Society Days (CSDs) in Stockholm on 13 May 2014;
- Side event on [Migration and Youth: Challenges and Opportunities](#), at the GFMD Summit in Stockholm on 15 May 2014;
- GFMD Special Session on [Enhancing Coordination between the GFMD and the United Nations System](#): Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, Mr Peter Sutherland, GMG and the GFMD troikas at the GFMD Summit in Stockholm on 16 May 2014;
- GMG-GFMD side event with the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN on the margins of the ECOSOC High-level segment on [Fair Migration and the Sustainable Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) in New York on 9 July 2014;
- [Launch of the Turkish GFMD Chairmanship](#) in New York on 22 September 2014;
- [Debate on International Migration and Development](#) at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, 2014 in New York on 27 October 2014;
- Briefing to governments on [The Global Migration Group: Work, Priorities and Future Directions](#) in Geneva on 24 November 2014.

The Chair, in coordination with the GMG Troika gave effect to the call for enhanced engagement between the GMG and GFMD Troikas and the SRSG and his team – with an initial teleconference

meeting on 14 April 2014 to discuss the background and purpose of GFMD, GMG and SRSG cooperation, and explore specific substantive areas of cooperation and possible synergies in their work.

5. Initiating a GMG response to the issue of crisis-related migration and protection at sea

The Chair tabled crisis-related migration and protection at sea for discussion at the 19 November 2014 GMG Principals' Meeting in light of the tragic events that had occurred, GMG working level discussions and a request from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to collaborate with the GMG in addressing related issues.

The GMG Principals decided to task the GMG working level colleagues 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, with a view to informing both the response of the GMG to the IMO as well as preparing a comprehensive GMG strategy on the issue, outlining the extent to which these efforts could be integrated into the GMG's future work or, if this was not within the GMG's purview, considering the recommendations the GMG might make to others with regard to the development of such a strategy.

The Chair presented a read-out of the discussion and decision to the Office of the UN Secretary-General in response to his request, with informal follow-up at the CEB; all of which also fed into subsequent discussions at the [UNHCR High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#), which was focused in 2014 on Protection at Sea, and discussions with the IMO.

This work will be carried forward by the GMG, which is well placed to respond to the challenges of crisis-related migration and protection at sea, in the manner set out by the GMG Principals – drawing on its unique 18-member constituency, individual GMG agencies' competencies, in partnership with relevant stakeholders and bringing broader development perspectives to the table in advocating for orderly, safe, regular and responsible and fair migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (as set out in SDG target 10.7).

6. Completion of the publication initiated under UNICEF's Chairmanship on Migration and Youth: Opportunities and Challenges

The Chair completed the work initiated in 2011 under the GMG Chairmanship of UNICEF on the [GMG publication on Migration and Youth: Challenges and Opportunities](#) which presents cutting edge knowledge, lessons learned, good practices and innovative policy from a score of United Nations agencies, other international organizations, academic experts, civil society and youth leaders.

The Chair provided technical and logistical support in coordination with the GMG and other stakeholders in finalizing the outstanding work on this unique publication that took a comprehensive approach in the analysis of migration and youth and brought together a wide range of contributors and too. The publication was launched on [International Migrants' Day](#) on 18 December 2014, in coordination with UNICEF and UNESCO and a range of other partners.

III. Workplan, objectives and thematic focus areas

Under the theme of, "Advancing Strategic Cooperation and Inclusiveness on Migration and Development: Towards the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda", the ILO Chair sought to promote

greater inclusivity at all levels and closer multi-stakeholder collaboration throughout the year. The GMG's work in this context was centred around two key focus areas, namely:

- a. Greater multi-stakeholder cooperation, coordination and coherence on migration and development; and
- b. The post-2015 development agenda.

The ILO developed its workplan (see annex A) in consultation with the GMG working level colleagues at the advent of its Chairmanship in 2014. The workplan was structured around five objectives directly connected to the overall theme of ILO's Chairmanship, mentioned above, the GMG 2013-2015 Multi-Annual Work Plan (MAWP) and its two overarching objectives,² and the ongoing work of the GMG Working Groups (WGs) and Task Forces (TFs), with a focus on key deliverables and strategic engagement, including follow-up to the 2013 HLD and enhanced collaborative engagement on migration and the post-2015 development agenda.

The five objectives are spelled out below:

Objective 1: Promote closer coordination between the GMG and governments as well as greater opportunities for consultation and information sharing;

Objective 2: Strengthen collaboration between the GMG and representative employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, UN entities and international organizations;

Objective 3: Identify opportunities for the cross-fertilization of experiences and good practices between the field and global levels of engagement and integrate these more closely with the GMG's work;

Objective 4: Increase GMG communication, visibility and information sharing, including in fostering greater multi-stakeholder engagement;

Objective 5: Oversee implementation of the GMG MAWP.

As outlined in the preceding sections, ILO's Chairmanship of the GMG contributed substantively to follow-up activities related to the outcomes of the second UN HLD and deliberations concerning the post-2015 development agenda. The GMG under the leadership of ILO was both more visible and vocal as a collective: issuing statements; developing policy and advocacy documents; regularizing the GMG's engagement with governments participating in the GFMD and the SRSF; convening side events, technical meetings and briefings across the globe; and targeting as well as collaborating with Member States, civil society organizations, representative employers' and workers' organizations, and other stakeholders on a range of levels.

In keeping with the work of previous GMG Chairs, ILO's Chairmanship advanced the GMG's collective aspiration to call attention to the human dimension of migration both within and beyond the context of migration and development, in particular the human rights of all migrants and the labour rights of

² (i) Ensure effective GMG coordination and collaboration, as well as visibility and outreach towards member States and other stakeholders; and (ii) contribute to ensuring that migration is included in the post-2015 development agenda.

migrant workers. In addition to more inclusive, regularized and strategic multi-stakeholder collaboration, drawing on the annual work plan as well as the GMG MAWP, the ILO Chair presided over and facilitated the strengthening of the GMG's internal mechanisms geared to ensure the continuity of the work of the GMG as well as improve the GMG's overall internal coordination and coherence.

In giving effect to the objectives of its Chairmanship of the GMG, ILO put to good use its extensive network of offices all over the world, which ensured that the GMG was represented in a plethora of settings and engaged with a wide range of actors. The ILO Chairmanship of the GMG was a whole-of-institution-initiative, which also engaged the ILO's tripartite constituents, and the GMG benefitted from the expertise and engagement of ILO colleagues from various departments, fields and locations. The ILO Chair was directly supported by a dedicated core team of colleagues in Geneva and New York as well as by the GMG Support Team.

IV. Handover to the World Bank and proposed issues to be carried forward

The last working level meeting of the GMG in 2014 was held on 16 December 2014 and the ILO Chair handed over the Chairmanship of the GMG to the World Bank as the incoming Chair for 2015 at this meeting. Prior to this handover, there were a series of exchanges between members of the GMG Troika with the World Bank, to support the transition process and World Bank preparations. The ILO's Chairmanship of the GMG officially came to an end on 31 December 2014.

The following issues, some of which arose during or prior to the ILO's Chairmanship, warrant the attention of the incoming GMG Chair as well as future Chairs:

From ESCAP's Chairmanship:

- GMG review and assessment, including the development of a 2016–2018 MAWP.

From IOM's Chairmanship:

- Survey of GMG agencies on the perceptions of migrants and proposal for a broader GMG initiative on the image/ perceptions of migrants with contributions from all the GMG agencies (in line with a message emanating from the HLCP paper and HLD outcomes).

From ILO's Chairmanship:

- Continue to foster the creation of greater synergies in the work of the GMG Working Groups and Task Forces and track their activities by way of periodic reports to the Chair and the GMG at large, including on such elements as their membership, deliverables, donors, external partners at the global, regional and country level, and future plans;
- Promote closer coordination between the GMG and GFMD Troikas and the SRSG, and strengthen regularized consultation and information sharing;
- Finalize the GMG post-2015 discussion paper and disseminate the joint GMG communiqué;
- Address the question of GMG membership and alternative engagement mechanisms within the first quarter of 2015, with a view also to deciding on the membership application of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and requests to collaborate with the GMG from various entities;
- Take stock of all the existing efforts on crisis-related migration and protection at sea and analyse them ahead of the first GMG Principals' meeting in 2015, with a view to informing both the

response of the GMG to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and heeding the UN Secretary-General's call for collaboration between the IMO and GMG, as well as preparing a comprehensive GMG strategy on the issue, outlining the extent to which these efforts could be molded into the GMG's future work or, if this was not within the GMG's purview, considering the recommendations the GMG might make to others with regard to the development of such a strategy;

- Institutionalize dedicated GMG briefings to governments, to take place at least once a year;
- Enhance collaboration between the GMG and social partners and other stakeholders, including civil society, UN entities and international organizations;
- Build on the experiences of GMG member agencies with their respective national counterparts to identify opportunities for the cross-fertilization of experiences and good practices between the field and global levels of engagement;
- Develop draft guidance on migration for United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and "Delivering as One" (DaO) initiatives as well as other national development planning exercises;
- Support the processes to develop migration indicators to measure the migration-related SDG targets in the post-2015 UN development agenda and related GMG contributions to the post-2015 development and financing for development agendas;
- Explore prospects for continued GMG engagement with the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB);
- Enhance GMG communication including the finalization of a comprehensive GMG communication strategy, encompassing GMG promotional materials, updated brochure, periodic GMG newsletter, social media engagement and possible translation of the GMG website and materials into French and Spanish as well as other languages.