

## **15<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting on International Migration**

Thursday 16 February 2017, 10.15 -11.45 am  
Trusteeship Council, UN Headquarters

*Salutation,*

It is a special honor for me and pleasure to respond to your invitation and to address you today, as GFMD Co-Chair on behalf of Germany.

➔ In assuming the GFMD Co-Chairmanship in 2017 and 2018, Germany and Morocco intend to send a strong signal for bridging the Mediterranean Sea, for linking Africa and Europe at a time when migration issues are on top of the political agenda in large parts of the

world. Germany and Morocco both possess long standing experience with all aspects of migration and a successful bilateral migration partnership. They aim to offer their respective expertise during the course of their Co-Chairmanship.

- ➔ Following the high-level meeting of 19 September 2016, and consistent with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, this year's GFMD activities will be focussed on the process leading to the intergovernmental negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018, through the coordination of the SRSG for International Migration. Thus, the Co-Chair intends to add the combined expertise gathered within the GFMD framework.

- ➔ With this objective in mind, our concept paper is currently being finalized. The six GFMD roundtable topics are being linked to the six cluster themes that form part of the draft modalities resolution.
  
- ➔ Let me add a few words on what our concept paper is about. The overarching theme of this year's GFMD activities is "Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development". It reflects different governance levels, addressing local, national, international as well as cooperative strategies. Through inclusion of all stakeholders, GFMD pursues the objective to reach a mutual understanding of how best the international community can advance international migration issues and

leverage the positive linkages between migration and development. As the GFMD is not a decision-making body, it offers a framework to discuss even controversial issues without inhibition and more openly than in more formal contexts.

- ➔ During the GFMD Summit meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh in December, once again applause to Bangladesh for chairing the summit, it was decided that the Ad hoc Working group on the Agenda 2030 will also cover the Global Compact on Migration. This Working group will survey the outcomes of all GFMD meetings since its inception in 2007, including the good practices of cooperation between states. They have been added to the Migration & Development Policy and Practice Data Base which is an important element of the GFMD's Platform for

Partnerships. The Working group will then produce an initial draft on the GFMD contribution to the Global Compact.

- ➔ Meanwhile, preparatory work of the six GFMD roundtables will proceed, and a second Dialogue meeting will be held in Geneva on April 6th, bringing together the GFMD family, the moderators of the Global Compact negotiation process and the SRSG on International Migration. This one-day event is to inform GFMD participants on the way ahead with a focus on substance.
- ➔ The first round of these dialogue meetings was held just two weeks ago, on 2nd February and attracted considerable attention from the Geneva-based migration experts, representing states, international

organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

- ➔ This May, on 24 May, our Co-Chair Morocco will invite to a GFMD thematic workshop on Migration and Climate Change, which will create additional findings that will feed into the GFMD contribution to the Global Compact.
- ➔ From June 28th to 30th, this year's GFMD summit will take place in Berlin. Its results will be consolidated in a Chairman's Report, then being used in the drafting of the GFMD's contribution by the Working group. We expect this Chairman's Report to particularly reflect the outcomes of the six GFMD roundtables.
- ➔ Further on in 2017, the German Co-Chair will invite to a thematic

workshop with a special focus on the contribution to the compact. This one-day event will take place in Geneva in early September. Based on a draft to be provided by the Working group, it will aim at reuniting input from all GFMD sources.

- ➔ Towards the end of this year, the Co-Chairs will ensure that GFMD will be represented at the stocktaking conference in Mexico in November.
- ➔ The GFMD Co-Chairs will be in close contact with the incoming SRSG for International Migration and Development, the Global Compact on Migration co-moderators and the international organizations that will provide support to them in order to ensure the timely and adequate provision of this contribution. Furthermore I would like to emphasize the

importance of the current GMG chair, the UNU.

- ➔ I deeply regret that SRSG Peter Sutherland cannot be with us today. I have always sought his advice which now is badly missing. I hope for his full and swift recovery. His final report will be an important source for this year's GFMD work oriented towards the Global Compact.
- ➔ Let me conclude by stressing that GFMD is fully dedicated to the challenging objective that lies ahead of us: to reach agreement on a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility.
- ➔ On behalf of Germany we pledge all our endeavour, all our effort for an convincing Migration Compact, a compact for safe, orderly and regular



migration.

➔ Thank you for your attention.