



## United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Chairmanship Summary Report January – July 2010

UNDP assumed the Chairmanship of the Global Migration Group during the first half of 2010. Prior to, and throughout its tenure, UNDP worked closely with the previous GMG Chair, UNITAR, and its successor, OHCHR to ensure continuity in vision and operational arrangements, as was expressed in the formulation of joint annual work plans.

UNDP's Chairmanship was focused on three priority areas: 1) the organization of a GMG Practitioners Symposium, designed to enhance the visibility of the GMG towards the Geneva diplomatic community and GFMD stakeholders; 2) the finalization and endorsement of the Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning; and 3) the creation of a GMG Working Group on Migration Mainstreaming with a view to enhancing the relevance of GMG coordination for agencies' operational activities at country-level.

The **GMG Practitioners Symposium** on the topic of *Overcoming barriers: Building partnerships for migration and human development* was held from 27 to 28 May 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Built around the main recommendations of the 2009 Human Development Report (HDR), it was organized with a view to offering a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and producing a set of concrete inputs prior to the GFMD IV in Mexico in November 2010 entitled "Partnerships for migration and human development: shared prosperity – shared responsibility".

The Symposium brought together about 130 representatives of governments, local authorities, development partners, international and regional organizations, civil society, trade unions, the private sector, diaspora organizations, and academia to discuss joint challenges, practical solutions and ways in which partnerships at different levels can serve to maximize the human development benefits of migration in three key areas: 1) improving the evidence-base for policymaking; 2) protecting the rights of all migrants, including stranded and vulnerable migrants; and 3) making migration an integral part of national and regional strategies for trade, employment, human development and long-term prosperity.

The following GMG outputs were produced in conjunction with the Symposium: a series of background papers prepared by GMG member agencies and a summary of the discussions, prepared by the Chair, which included concrete suggestions for GMG follow-up. Both outputs were shared with the Chair of the 2010 GFMD and were made available on the GMG website. The Governments of Switzerland and the Netherlands provided financial support for the Symposium.

The overarching theme of UNDP's GMG Chairmanship – stemming from the topic of the 2009 GFMD in Athens and one of the key recommendations of the 2009 HDR – was that of mainstreaming migration in national development strategies. As such, it facilitated the GMG's involvement in and endorsement of the **Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning** as a joint product. The handbook was launched at the 2010 GFMD in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. In the GFMD outcomes that year, governments endorsed the handbook as a useful tool. The 2011 GFMD, under Swiss Chairmanship, made practical follow-up to the GMG handbook one of its priorities under the thematic Cluster III entitled "Planning tools for evidence-based migration and development policies" and as part of the work of the GFMD Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research.

The handbook brings together the collective expertise of the GMG member agencies and provides governments and their partners, including in civil society and international organizations, with practical guidance. It lays out clearly the different steps and phases that are usually part of the development planning process – from a situation analysis, over the formulation of a plan of action, to implementation planning and the monitoring and evaluation of interventions – and demonstrates how migration can be taken into account at each stage. It also offers an overview of the complex interlinkages between migration and key development sectors, such as health, education, labour and the environment. And, it presents numerous examples of programmes and projects that are undertaken with the aim of creating synergies between migration and development policy goals.

Also under UNDP's Chairmanship, the GMG has set up a dedicated **Working Group on migration mainstreaming**, co-convened by UNDP and IOM. Open to all GMG members, the working group is meant to facilitate enhanced inter-agency coordination at the country level with a special focus on supporting government efforts on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies. The working group serves as a platform to coordinate joint GMG follow-up to the publication of the mainstreaming handbook. It has conducted a survey of UN country teams in 2011, inquiring about migration-related capacities and demands at country level. On the basis of the survey results, the working group has compiled a comprehensive and easy-to-use repository of practical guidance and tools on various migration-related topics, drawing on the resources of various GMG member agencies. This guidance and tools 'package' is accessible on the GMG website under the rubric "UNCT corner". The working group also plays a key role in backstopping the global pilot project on Mainstreaming migration into national development strategies that is managed by UNDP and implemented in four pilot countries in collaboration with IOM and the Government of Switzerland.

Lastly, the GMG working group, led by UNDP and IOM, has been supporting the GFMD process on the topic of migration mainstreaming into development planning. In 2011, as part of the Swiss Chair's decentralized approach to the GFMD, it contributed to the thematic workshop on "Mainstreaming migration into strategic policy development", held in Chisinau, Moldova on 12-13 October 2011. The workshop was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and co-hosted by the Governments of Bangladesh, Jamaica, and Mali, all pilot countries undertaking a migration mainstreaming process with GMG support. The workshop allowed governments and other stakeholders to exchange experiences on tools and approaches for mainstreaming migration in sectoral strategies on health, education, and employment, and to discuss ways of improving the evidence base on migration and development at the national level, including through the use of Extended Migration Profiles. The workshop outcomes report was shared with the GFMD Chair and the results of the workshop were fed into the Concluding Debate of the 2011 GFMD, held on 1-2 December in Geneva. The outcomes of the 2011 Concluding Debate explicitly mention the pilot project on mainstreaming migration into

development planning and request the GMG to report on progress made in the four pilot countries in due course.

This year, the working group has provided support to the organization of a preparatory workshop for GFMD roundtable session 2.1 entitled “Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies”. The workshop was held on 12-13 June 2012 in Mauritius under the theme “Factoring migration into development planning”. It brought together around 80 participants from national and local governments, international organizations, and civil society to discuss existing migration mainstreaming experiences at local and national levels of development planning and identify key lessons and recommendations regarding the institutional, policy, and partnership dimensions of migration mainstreaming. The findings and recommendations of the workshop will feed into the background paper for session 2.1 and the discussions at the GFMD Summit in November.

The GMG’s move towards operating with thematic working groups – so far one on ‘migration mainstreaming’ and one on ‘data and research’ - marks an important advance in GMG collaboration as it allows for greater continuity in its work (beyond the priorities set for the six- months chairing periods and reflected in annual work plans). By bringing together self-selected groups of member agencies that are willing to pool their expertise and resources and to work together to deliver on a set of joint outputs and results, it allows the GMG to act as a credible, outcome-oriented interlocutor for governments and civil society around a certain set of core themes. This trend towards greater functional integration could be advanced by creating additional working groups to reflect the whole range of GMG members’ mandates and competencies, e.g. in the area of migrants’ human rights and labour migration facilitation, and by bringing the work programmes of the different thematic groups together in one joint multi-annual GMG work plan.