



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Chairmanship Summary Report 1 July – 31 December 2012

Introduction

UNODC officially assumed the Chairmanship of the Global Migration Group (GMG) on 1 July 2012, for a period of six months. In the absence of an immediate predecessor in the Chairmanship, UNODC informally began chairing the GMG in May 2012.

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief summary of the specific activities and achievements under UNODC's Chairmanship of the GMG.

1. What is the GMG

The Global Migration Group (GMG), established in 2006, is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. In particular, the GMG aims to achieve greater coherence in the interagency response in addressing the challenges and in capitalizing on the opportunities of international migration. In 2012, the GMG included sixteen members, being fifteen United Nations entities and IOM¹.

At present, the Chairmanship of the GMG rotates between the member organizations every six months. The Chair/s takes the lead responsibility in guiding the implementation of an annual work plan with the full cooperation of GMG members; promoting the visibility of the GMG within the United Nations system, among Governments and non-

¹ International Labour Office (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Regional Commissions, the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO)

governmental stakeholders; disseminating information through public and internal channels; ensuring cooperation and coordination among the GMG agencies; and representing the GMG in official functions and meetings, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

2. UNODC's Chairmanship of the GMG

UNODC assumed the Chairmanship of the GMG at a particularly challenging time in the GMG's history. There was no sitting Chair whose efforts UNODC could sustain as the foundation for ongoing work and build from in establishing new priorities. Further, with no agreement within the GMG regarding who would succeed UNODC as Chair, the longstanding practice of maintaining an active GMG troika had lapsed. The previous meeting of the GMG Principals had raised key questions regarding the GMG's effectiveness, while working level interaction was limited and uneven.

In the absence of a sitting Chair, UNODC took up its presiding role in May 2012 in advance of the official assumption of the Chairmanship. Reengaging the GMG agencies in dialogue, transparency and coordination became the dominant feature of UNODC's GMG chairmanship and significant resources were committed in support of this effort. Additionally, UNODC was also able to advance a thematic work programme through its chairmanship.

UNODC's commitment to intensively strengthening the collective work of the GMG has laid the groundwork for long-term gains in system-wide cooperation. In the immediate term, positive results achieved include:

- a tangible increase in the level of cooperation and coordination among the GMG members;
- the successful conduct of an internal review of the GMG since its establishment; and
- progress in the collective contribution to preparations for the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

UNODC actively supported the GMG activities led by other agencies, and also used its core expertise on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants for several thematic outputs, including a thematic paper on exploitation of international migrants and a GMG joint thematic statement.

3. Key achievements and activities of the GMG during UNODC's period of the GMG Chairmanship include:

As a guiding principle, UNODC sought to conduct the collective work of the GMG in an inclusive and transparent manner, with informed, extensive and frequent discussions between all the member organizations. This commitment was pivotal in taking tangible steps forward in all of the activities, detailed below, that were undertaken during UNODC's Chairmanship.

i. Strengthening GMG cooperation at the working level

The activities of the GMG are coordinated by the GMG working level, consisting of migration experts from all sixteen GMG members. As a general guideline noted in the GMG Working Methods, the working level meetings should be held at least quarterly via video (or audio) link. The GMG Chair is responsible for organizing and moderating the meetings, circulating an agenda and additional background information, and preparing the minutes of the meetings.

During its GMG Chairmanship term, UNODC held ten working level meetings, including a face-to-face working level meeting in the margins of the 2012 Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit in Mauritius².

The following key activities and achievements were the direct result of enabling discussions and decisions made at the GMG working level meetings during UNODC's Chairmanship:

- The GMG internal review, a process conducted in three stages to produce action-oriented and forward-looking recommendations for the Principals' consideration. The three stages included: 1.) an inventory of accomplishments and challenges of the GMG since 2006; 2.) an inventory of comparable United Nations inter-agency mechanisms; and 3.) formulation of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the GMG.
- Support to the 2012 GFMD Summit Meeting, including regular exchanges with the GFMD secretariat, the support to the Roundtables and Mr. Fedotov's speech on behalf of the GMG Principals.
- Preparations for the Principals meeting in November 2012 to produce final action-oriented outcomes from the GMG internal review .
- Preparations for the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including a system-wide set of draft outcomes and recommendations on migration, coordinated by IOM and UNFPA, for discussion at the 25th session of HLCP and for endorsement by Executive Heads of CEB at their Spring 2013 session.
- Agreement on the GMG Chairs in 2013.
- Inputs to the GMG Thematic Report on Youth Migration and the International Migration and Development Submission to the Policy Committee, a concise analytical report to be prepared by OHCHR by mid-2013.
- Regular exchange of knowledge and information on various specific migration-related issues, events, etc.

² The working level meetings took place on: 29 May 2012, 5 July 2012, 26 July 2012, 31 August 2012, 1 October 2012, 19 October 2012, 6 November 2012, 20 November 2012 (face-to-face meeting in Mauritius), 5 December 2012 and 14 December 2012.

ii. GMG internal review

At the previous meeting of the Principals of the GMG, in April 2012, it was decided to undertake an internal review of the GMG's achievements and challenges since 2006 to improve the interagency response to international migration ahead of the second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

UNODC, together with UNDESA and UNESCO, led the review process at the working level, with the aim of producing agreed recommendations on how to improve the GMG's future work. Six key agreed recommendations were directed to the GMG Principals for their consideration during the Principals meeting on 14 November 2012. In response to the working-level recommendations arising from the review, the GMG Principals have taken a set of decisions that place the GMG on a clear path to enhance the GMG's effectiveness and the underlying cooperation between the agencies. As a next step, the GMG Principals requested the working level to develop detailed arrangements based upon the decisions taken and report back to the Principals by 31 March 2013.

iii. Enhancing Effectiveness: the GMG Principals meeting (November 2012)

The GMG holds a Principals meeting at least once a year for an in-depth strategic discussion. Under UNODC's Chairmanship of the GMG, the Principals meeting took place in Vienna on 14 November 2012.

The meeting was primarily focused on the outcomes of the GMG internal review (see below for more details), from which the Principals took six important decisions to improve the GMG's response to international migration (full decisions reproduced below).

Mr. Fedotov, the Executive Director of UNODC, also engaged the Principals in a short discussion (tour-de-table) on the second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the planned activities of the GMG members regarding the High-Level Dialogue. Several Principals noted the importance of ensuring joint preparations of the GMG for the High-Level Dialogue, and connecting these preparations to the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Ahead of the second High-Level Dialogue, it was agreed that it is pivotal that the GMG agencies speak with one voice, with common goals and shared intention to continue to improve the GMG's work further.

Decisions taken by the GMG Principals on 14 November 2012:

1. The working level is requested to work out detailed arrangements for a small, time-bound, administrative, non-bureaucratic Secretariat.

2. The working level is requested to develop a multi-annual work plan to be submitted for approval by the Principals.

3. The working level is requested to review and revise the GMG chairing arrangements with a view to:

- introducing a clear selection procedure; - extending the term of Chairmanship to one year; - exploring the added value of co-Chairmanship and/or vice-Chairmanship; - clarifying the role of the Troika; and

- mandating the preparation of a brief annual report to showcase achievements.

4. Noting the reservations discussed, the working level is requested to develop a detailed proposal on a funding mechanism for joint GMG activities, including its purpose and administration.

5. The working level is requested to discuss and prepare proposals for the possible establishment of new working groups/task forces, and the common parameters, funding arrangements and Terms of Reference for all GMG working groups.

6. The working level is requested to hold a strategic retreat in early 2013 to respond to the above-noted decisions and report back to the Principals by 31 March 2013.

iv. Thematic outcomes of UNODC's Chairmanship of the GMG

The GMG Chairs generally select a thematic focus to guide the work of the GMG under their Chairmanship. Given the wide variety of mandates of the sixteen different member organizations, it is important to select a thematic focus that allows for the Chair to bring its added value to the Group and to discussions on migration and development.

UNODC focused its Chairmanship on its core related mandate and expertise, namely the comprehensive response to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The thematic focus for the Chairmanship was: "A comprehensive approach to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants anchored in human rights: a contribution to the security and safety of migrants and human development".

The UNODC period of Chairmanship results in a thematic paper on the topic "Exploitation and abuse of international migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation: a human rights approach". This publication, addressing the security and safety of migrants, will be publicly launched in the first half of 2013, with substantive inputs solicited from all GMG members.

It is practice for the Chair of the GMG to prepare a joint GMG thematic statement, agreed on and endorsed by all GMG agencies, to address a burning issue related to international migration. The resulting GMG joint thematic statement on violence against migrants and their families will be publicly launched with the associated thematic paper, as a result of UNODC's Chairmanship. The primary draft of the forthcoming GMG joint thematic statement was used as a basis for Mr. Fedotov's statement at the GFMD Summit and on the International Migrants Day, 2012.

v. Strengthened links between GMG and GFMD

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is a voluntary, informal, non-binding and government-led process open to all Member States and Observers of the

United Nations, to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationships between migration and development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes. Each year the GFMD is organized by a different host government. For its sixth year in 2012, the

Chair was the Republic of Mauritius and the 2012 GFMD Summit Meeting took place in Pailles, Port Louis, Mauritius from 21 to 22 November 2012.

Since the GFMD's establishment, the GMG members have, together or individually, assisted the GFMD in organizing meetings, implementing activities, taking forward GFMD outcomes, and participating in debates, meetings and roundtables. There is an ongoing discussion at the GMG working level on the GMG's support to the GFMD. Several GMG agencies stress the need for clarification on the relationship between the GMG and the GFMD, including the question whether the GFMD should communicate with the GMG Chair or with individual agencies.

Mr. Fedotov attended and represented the GMG at the 2012 GFMD Summit in Mauritius. Mr. Fedotov, in his capacity of the Executive Director of UNODC and the current GMG Chair, delivered a statement on behalf of the GMG Principals on Combating violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families. The statement also focused on the progress in the work of the GMG (as detailed above), with Mr. Fedotov communicating key decisions taken by the Principals in November 2012 to Member States.

vi. Contribution to International Migrants Day 2012

Mr. Fedotov, in his capacity of the Executive Director of UNODC and current GMG Chair, addressed the topic of violence against migrants and their families on International Migrants Day (18 December 2012), reflecting the content of the forthcoming GMG joint thematic statement as developed collectively by the GMG agencies.

UNDESA, in collaboration with UNODC and IOM, held a briefing on the occasion of International Migrants Day entitled Towards the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development: Joint Activities at The United Nations. The purpose of the briefing was to inform Member States and NGOs about the GMG's achievements in 2012 and planned activities in 2013, including the related preparations for the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

vii. Various inputs to GMG agencies' papers

During its Chairmanship, UNODC actively supported activities led by other agencies. These include the forthcoming GMG Thematic Report on Youth Migration, led by UNICEF, Paper on Behalf of Agencies of the High Level Committee on Programs and the Global Migration Group (Proposed Recommendations and Outcomes for the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development), coordinated by IOM and UNFPA, and International Migration and Development Submission to the Policy Committee, led by OHCHR. In its capacity of the GMG Chair,

UNODC played a supporting role in soliciting inputs from the member organizations, distributing draft documents and communicating deadlines to all relevant agencies.