



Meeting of the Friends of the Forum
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Agenda items 3, 6a

Report from Civil Society

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*As prepared for delivery;
referenced Civil society documents available
at www.madenetwork.org*

I first would like to thank the Moroccan Co-Chair for organizing the Thematic Workshop on Migration for Development, two weeks ago in Rabat. It was substantive, timely and hospitality at its very best. It was also a useful reminder, if need be, of the fundamental link between migration and sustainable development, which has been one of the many trademarks and pluses of the GFMD. Thanks again for giving a significant space to civil society in all GFMD fora. This is really appreciated.

Let me start with an update on some of the content that ICMC and the members of the International Steering Committee have been working on in the past 3 months since the last Friends of the Forum on 5th February. Then I will mention some of the questions related to the process itself.

Content

- Two meetings of the International Steering Committee have taken place since the previous Friends of the Forum, one in February and one in March. We have our next meeting scheduled for the 22nd of this month.
- The main issue discussed in both Steering Committee meetings was, logically, the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). This was discussed not so much in terms of the ongoing negotiations, but more so on what the GCM means for the future of migration governance. And importantly for the Steering Committee, what it means for civil society organizing, which until now has included the GFMD spaces since 2011, our self-organizing around the 2nd UN High Level Dialogue on Migration in 2013, and over the past 16 months towards the consultations, stocktaking and the negotiations of the GCM.
- As we reflected on the journey we, as civil society, have taken so far to strengthen this network of actors, through the 8 points of [the 5-year Action Plan](#) that our GFMD organizing has been anchored on since 2013, often working side by side with many of the governments in this room, we realized that these last 7 months of 2018 will be an opportunity that civil society movements such as ours are rarely given: the opportunity to prepare in a collaborative, thoughtful and adaptive way to the changing world of migration governance. This creative transition will be based over 7 years of ground work under our belt already. 7 months to reflect on 7 years of civil society organizing, and to

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come up with a vision for *at least* 7 more years of such work to ~~come (7 appears to be a lucky number ☹)~~

- And so in preparation for the GFMD in December this year, ICMC and its partners are reflecting on ways to consult broadly with civil society, at thematic, regional and national level over the coming months towards this. Some of the thinking has included
 1. A small group of civil society may be drafting a new edition of the 5 Year 8 Point Plan of Action as the starting point for our own organizing going forward.
 2. A representative group of civil society will meet to discuss the way forward for the movement, in particular on how we see the GFMD work connecting to the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM, and on how civil society regional organizing can better inform such global spaces.
 3. Holding meaningful conversations with other stakeholders, including but not confined to states themselves, on how to collaborate and work together - both in shared dialogues but also at the grassroot level.
 4. The Steering Committee thinking of how such activities can be bridged with the GFMD Civil Society Days, and how we can structure those Days around finding a collective vision on the way forward. We are also very much looking forward to working with Secretary General Nadir and his team on a Common Space which, as the Chair's Concept Paper mentions, will also focus on the way forward for the GFMD in terms of the GCM and the various stakeholders committed to its implementation.

I would like now to briefly touch on the **Process** itself, starting with

- **Calendar**
 - The calendar this December is unprecedented, given that the Inter-governmental Conference to Adopt the GCM follows hard on the heels of the GFMD, with just one weekend and a few kilometers separating them. If the traditional structure of the GFMD were used it would mean that many civil society actors would attend events over a period of **9 days** in Morocco. Aside from the mental fatigue this stretch of meetings would cause, the "wallet fatigue" would also be quite significant. So we are working together with the teams of the Co-Chairs to explore alternative timeline scenarios, also learning from the structure last year in Berlin, where a public holiday necessitated a different approach to the GFMD timeline. We look for guidance from the GFMD Co-Chairs on how we can manage to balance necessity with meaningful content for this year's programme.
 - We also hope that a number of civil society participants in the GFMD in Marrakech will participate in the final GCM Conference.
 - We are also considering the possibility of organizing Puerto Vallarta style "tea tables" with governments over the weekend of 8-9 December, to discuss some of the issues central to the GCM as it moves into its implementation phase.
- **Selection** of civil society delegates to the Global Forum:
 - The Steering Committee has already had two discussions on this issue, with already some solid ideas emerging on how to bring new voices and even new stakeholders to the space, while building on the momentum and leadership that has emerged in previous GFMD and ongoing GCM work. There seems to be

general consensus emerging on the use of a network selection procedure similar to that which has been used to identify 50% of participants in the last two Civil Society Days, with the suggestion to even increase the number of participants selected this way to up to 80%.

- This follows another kind of model: the network selection procedure for the Civil Society Stocktaking and Strategy Meeting in Puerto Vallarta, which saw 17 networks identify 70 civil society leaders across regions and themes to participate in the 2-day meeting, and bring the outcomes back to their constituencies.
 - What is good about this network structure is continuity and representation. Meaning, that each participant selected by a network is representing that network and not just its own organization. So they would bring messages from their network partners to the GFMD space, and they would deliver messages back to these groups following the meetings, with this even being considered as a prerequisite of participation in this year's GFMD.
- **Content:** Although no formal decision has been made yet, we are expecting the Civil Society Days programme to focus on the post-adoption phase of the Global Compact for Safe, orderly and Regular Migration, including the interaction between the GFMD and GCM going forward AND to reflect on civil society's own role and organization towards both the old and new mechanisms of global migration governance.
 - **Budget**
 - We have prepared a budget, which is printed at the back of the room and we will also ask for the GFMD Support Unit's help to circulate it electronically.
 - Taking into account that 2018 is a financially demanding year for States with both the GCM and the GCR, we have prepared a conservative budget, amounting to some 750,000 US, compared to some 800,000 US\$ last year.
 - A big thank you to Bangladesh, Canada and the Netherlands who have already offered contributions. Thank you to the Co-Chairs for their openness and thank you to some other delegations who have informally indicated their willingness to contribute.
 - Unfortunately, what we have received to date will not enable us to organize the Civil Society Days. Most of the preparatory work so far has been done by ICMC without much financial backing. We are indeed very happy to advance the money to ensure significant civil society representation, but this is not sustainable in the long run. Thanks in advance for your generous contribution.