

# Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD): Politics, Process and Prospects

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# Overview

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# GFMD Genesis

1. Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) 2003-5 at the initiative of the Doyle Report and spearheaded by Sweden and Switzerland
2. International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM) out of Berne Initiative, ends 2005
3. First UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2006
4. First Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2007
5. Global Migration Group (GMG) 2006
6. Launch of ICMC's 'Conversations' 2009
7. GFMD Assessment 2011, 2012
8. Second UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2013

# Top-down precursors: GCIM & IAMM

## IAMM 2005

- Output (non-binding):
  - «Common Understandings»
  - «Effective Practices»
- Institutions
  - Secretariat at IOM Geneva
  - Regional Consultations among states
  - Expert Meetings in Berne
- Process
  - “Berne Initiative” as a reference system and non-binding policy framework
  - “States as the principal actors”, with advice of IOs, NGOs and independent migration experts
  - IAMM ends work in 2005, but IOM Secretariat continues to support RCPs

## GCIM Final Report 2005

- Output (non-binding):
  - «Recommendations»
  - «Principles for Action»
- Institutions
  - core group of 32 countries as informal consultative body for Commission
  - Co-chairs Sweden and Switzerland
  - Commission members
  - Executive Director
  - Secretariat
- Process
  - regional and international thematic meetings
  - Recommends to create **Interagency Global Migration Facility** as a “a high-level interinstitutional group”

# Bottom-up, «evolutionary» GFMD?

## Actors

- States (chair, troika, steering group, FOF)
- Observers (including Ios, GMG agencies, RCPs, others)
- CSOs

## Output

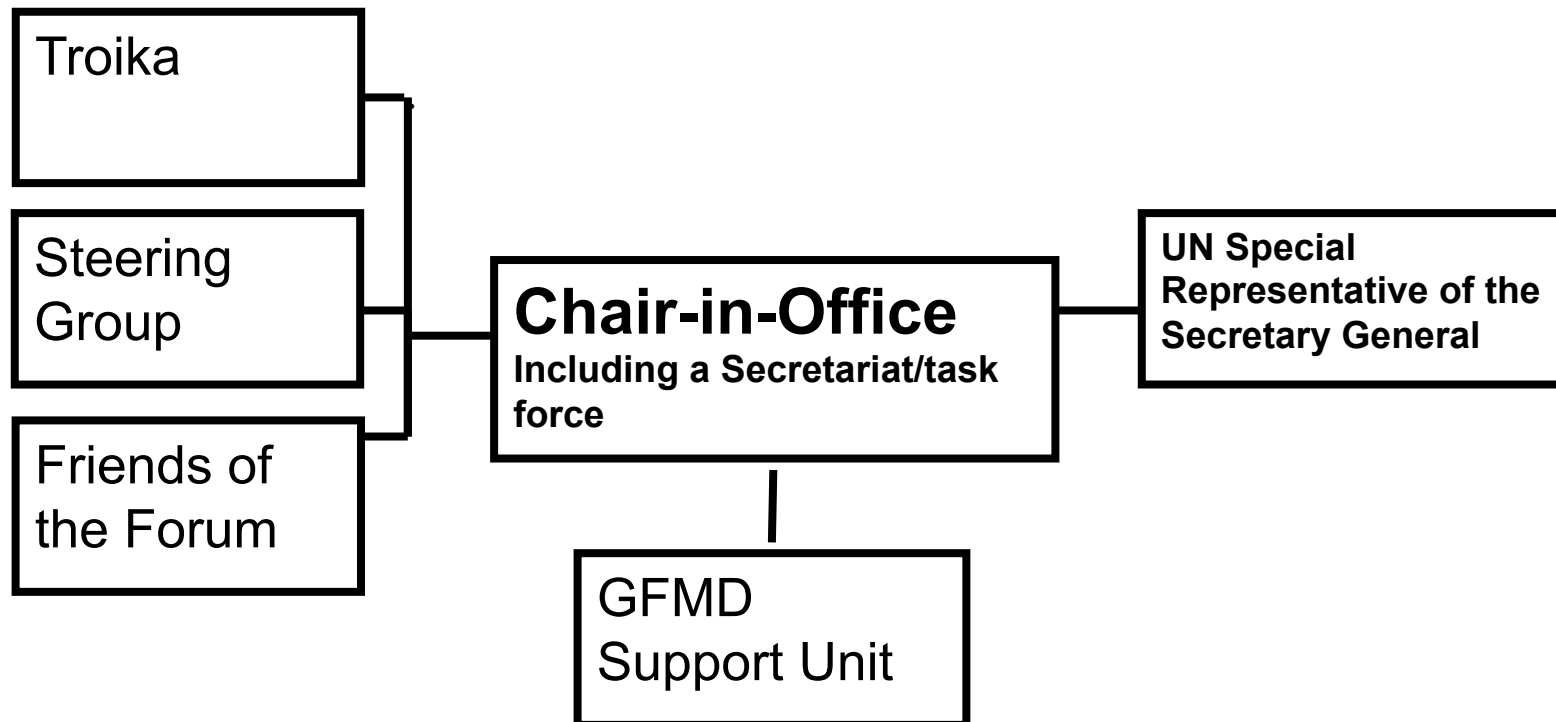
- Roundtable Sessions
- Light support unit to ensure institutional memory from one forum to the next
- Difference to «coordination model» of the GMG & «policy network» of UN-HLD?

## GFMD Goals

- “largest and most comprehensive global platform for dialogue and cooperation on international migration and development”.
- “a living process – searching for better solutions to common challenges, promoting good practices, capacity-building and knowledge, and urging governments and other stakeholders to forge partnerships and cooperation in the fields of migration and development.”
- “is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcomes-oriented dialogue.”

source: GFMD website

# GFMD Governance

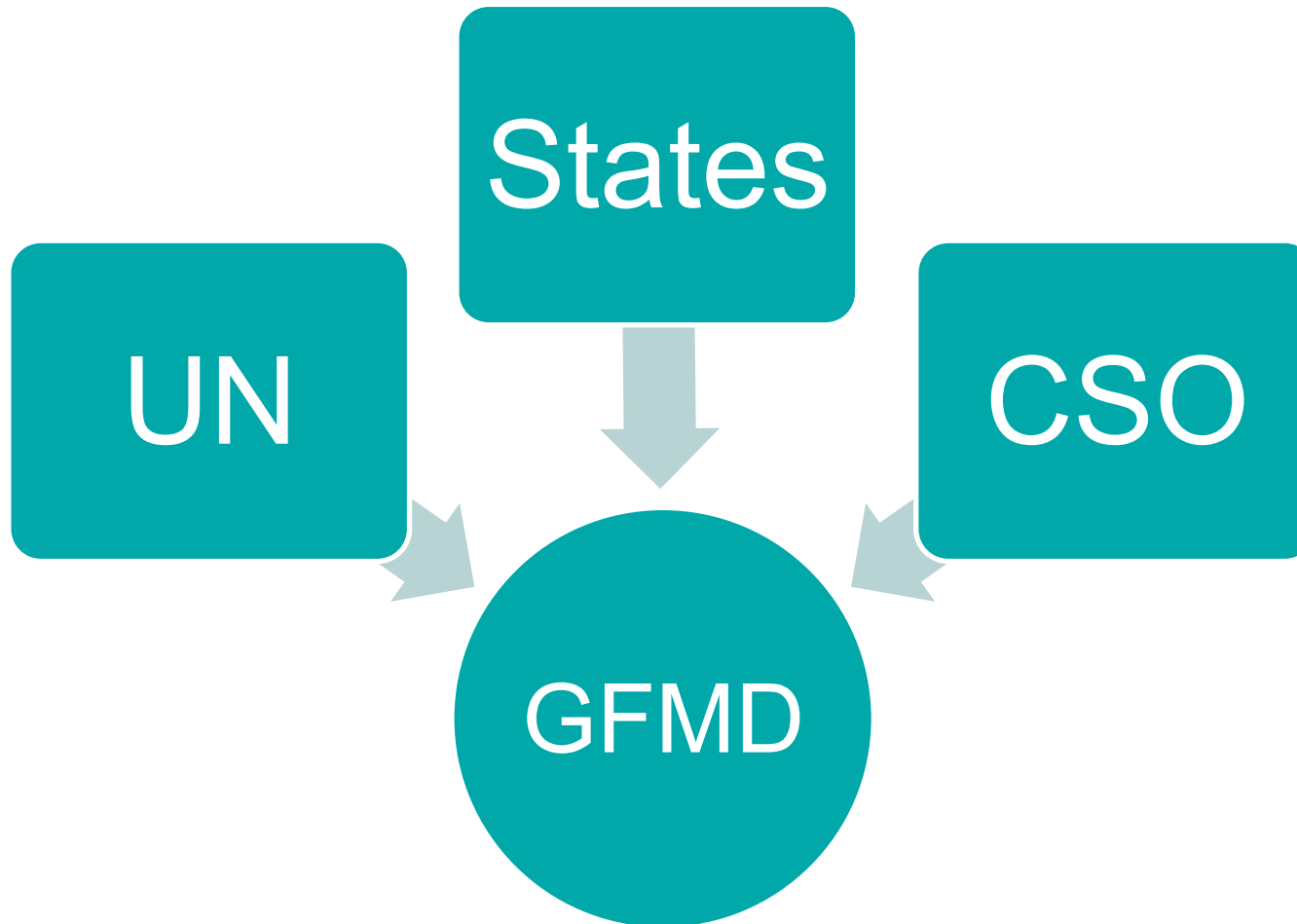


## 7 Presidencies (Chair in Office)

- annual meetings around a topic provided by the host government in which 160 governments on the average and 45 IOs take place
  - Belgium (2007)
  - Philippines (2008)
  - Greece (2009)
  - Mexico (2010)
  - Switzerland (2011)
  - Mauritius (2012)
  - Sweden (2013-14)
  - Turkey (2015)



## 3 stakeholders of the GFMD process



## Process & Decision-making

- Preparatory Process
- Civil Society Days **since 2011**
- Government Days
  - Plenary
  - Common Space
  - Roundtables
  - Working Sessions  Main output form for Partnerships
  - Special Session on the Future of the Forum **since 2011**
  - Concluding Plenary Session

# Output

Current  
chair

Concept  
Paper

Work Plan/  
Programme  
Document

Past  
chair

Report of the  
Proceedings

Recommendations/  
guidelines? These are  
outcomes of GFMD  
Roundtables. See  
[http://www.gfmd.org/  
en/recommendations-  
follow-up-actions](http://www.gfmd.org/en/recommendations-follow-up-actions)

## link btw UN and IOM?



## GFMD is a forum that is...

- more inclusive than GMG (these should not be compared because the latter merely supports the work of the GFMD.)
- even if informal, it facilitates formal venues like RCPs & bilat agreements (e.g., EU-Mauritius on circular migration)
- information-sharing, dialogue and partnerships
- Roundtables are constantly evolving – there is always something old and something new in the treatment of the RT topics
- “behind-closed-doors dialogue” among states Not really. It is a states-led process, so most meetings are between and among states. But it dedicates a segment of the meeting to interaction with the CS and non-govtal partners (i.e, the Common Space)

# GFMD Politics

- Why migration **and development**?
  - Focus on development lets migrant receiving countries avoid exposing to public scrutiny issues of migration control, combatting irregular migration and border securitization
- protecting broadly, including but also going beyond migrants in distress “Lybia-type situations”
  - multi-stakeholder dialogue/private sector
  - national consultations
- Recommendations and guidelines? Only embedded in report of proceedings?

## Scholars on GFMD

- “facilitative multilateralism” “outside formal UN---based multilateralism” (Betts 2010)
- Is GFMD bottom-up, “evolutionary” approach (Newland 2010) ? It is, by building on evidence from the ground.
- need to move from “talking to active mode” (Marchi 2010) This is the reason why Switzerland chose the theme, “Taking Action on M&D – coherence, capacity and cooperation,” introducing the concept of thematic meetings in the GFMD preparatory process
- Two positions on migration and development (Martin & Abella, 2009)
  - win-win-win solutions?
  - impossibility to protect migrant workers’ human rights?

# Conclusion

1. State-led process, but who writes reports is crucial (so far, WB, ICMPD, ICMC) The annual report of proceedings is prepared by the GFMD Chair's Taksorce and the Support Unit, not WB, ICMPD or ICMC. These are checked against verbatim transcripts of proceedings.
2. «Ad hoc working groups» not operational in 2013-2014, «network of focal points» and «platform for partnerships» still need more work  
Strengthening of latter 2 mechanisms are part of priorities of Swedish Chair.
3. Since Swiss presidency, Civil Society Organizations led off by ICMC have had an increasing impact
4. Two-year long Assessment completed in 2012
5. Recommendations and guidelines are up to the participants (states and IOs) to take forward and implement unilaterally or in partnership with other government(s) and other concerned stakeholders
6. Is there venue-shopping or duplication of efforts (GMG; GFMD; IOM, ILO; UNHCR) and is this a good or bad thing?



**Thank you for your  
attention!**

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