

**ILO DG Guy Ryder and 2014 Chair of the Global Migration Group
Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Special Session**
*Enhancing Coordination between the GFMD and the United Nations System:
SRSG Sutherland, Global Migration Group and the GFMD*

Friday 16 May 2014

12h15 – 13h00

Venue: Mässhallen

Thank you very much indeed Peter [SRSG Sutherland]. I will try to say what I have to say in the most direct and concise way possible to facilitate this process. Firstly, let me say that within the architecture that has been constructed to address migration and development questions in the international community over recent years, how important it is that the Global Migration Group (GMG) fulfils its own function and that it can only do so by linking -- and I think that the notion of linkage is extremely important -- effectively with the other parts of the architecture. You set out what I tend to think of as this “Golden Triangle” with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, the Forum here, and the GMG. I am going to say something from the perspective of one apex of that triangle. But what I said about the work of the GMG I think only makes sense. It [this work] only has value to the extent that it can be articulated effectively with the work of the Forum and with others and this is I think some of the key issues that we have before us.

There are other linkages which I will come to in a moment. Now, the first thing that I wanted to say is that the GMG has clearly evolved pretty considerably, as indeed has the Forum in the years since its creation. It has become bigger. More organizations are participating in it. Rather like the European Union, that has merit but it also brings complications.

I think we are on the right trajectory. I think that the GMG -- the challenges of coordination being what they are -- has performed reasonably well -- I am pleased to hear the positive comments that have been made -- in actually pursuing its work. When reference is made to the need to tap into greater expertise in this Forum, [and] to have expert knowledge at the disposal of the work of this Forum, I think that is one of the things that the GMG should at least be contributing to responding to. If you look at the different working groups and task forces that the GMG has set up - we have five; the first is on data and research and that should be responding to some extent to the need for expertise. We have another working group on human rights, gender and migration, and another on the mainstreaming of migration into development planning, and another on migration and decent work, and a further one on capacity development. Now these are all areas which have been referred to by the Forum and where the GMG should be feeding in, usefully, services and ideas.

The second level of linkage is external to this triangle - at least primarily so. It is extraordinarily important, it seems to me, that the outputs and the content and the nature of discussions that are taking place in multilateral settings and in international fora such as this do find some sort of reflection and a consequence in what is going on in our different Member States. We really do have to make sure that what is discussed here in Stockholm drills down to the realities on the ground. One way to do that of course is for the GMG to work effectively to provide this sort of guidance that is required for migration to be

integrated properly, [and] planned properly, in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks – something that the GMG is certainly turning its attention to.

At the same time, and this has been referred to, I also took good notes of the call that I heard this morning for migrants to be present. We have got to be interacting more with migrants and yet the common space seems to provide us with the opportunity already for that and the numbers that have been cited seem to say that we are doing it and it is somewhat paradoxical, is it not, that despite those realities, some of us still feel there is a deficit and it seems to me that it is up to all of us, be we from international organizations, from governments or indeed from civil society itself, to find a way to make sure that our different areas of conversation inter-penetrate a little bit better so that all voices are heard and are felt to be heard in our work.

From a purely parochial point of view, I think the labour migration -- the decent work part of our agenda -- has figured very, very highly in the Forum's work. I am anxious that the ILO play its role in carrying forward that part of the agenda, both in its own work and in the post-2015 development agenda and elsewhere. But I think also we need to think in the Forum how that angle can be best addressed. Is there a space for a labour forum within the work that we do? We have a business roundtable after all – it [the labour forum] seems one idea worth pursuing. That said and I will close with this, I think that this Global Forum - [and] we have to thank the Swedish colleagues very sincerely for this – has marked some very important steps forward. I think the GMG equally is following forward in a positive trajectory. We have a lot more to do; we have a lot of effort to put in. As migration figures more prominently in national and international policy debates, I think that we cannot do otherwise but to continue on the progress made here, taking forward with our Turkish colleagues in the year ahead and beyond that.

Thank you.