



# unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

## GMG Work Plan June 2009 – July 2010

UNITAR, as Chair of the Global Migration Group during the second half of 2009, in coordination with UNDP, prospective Chair of the GMG during the first half of 2010, proposed the following three-tiered work plan for consideration by the Group at the time of the GMG working level meeting on 2 June 2009.\*

### (I) **Thematic focus on the global financial and economic crisis and its impact on migration and migration policies**

At the last GMG Principals meeting in December 2008, there was widespread agreement that the Group should provide policy guidance and timely analysis on the global financial and economic crisis and its impact on migration and migration policies to UN Member States, and the third meeting of the GFMD. In addition, GMG Principals repeatedly expressed the wish to remove themselves from purely procedural discussions, and to also focus on substantive questions.

The Principals would partake in two forms of activity during the period of the proposed workplan:

1. **A one-day Principals retreat**, to be held in Menthon Saint-Bernard (France) on the outskirts of Geneva on 9 October 2009, which will deliberate on the urgency of a United Nations response to the current global economic crisis and its impact on migration, together with expert speakers, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland. The outcome of the retreat will be a joint statement by the GMG Principals to be shared by the chair at the GFMD3 in November 2009. A first draft of the statement is being developed at the working level prior to the retreat.

In addition to serving the short term goal of articulating a common position of the GMG towards the GFMD, the retreat will also provide the opportunity to agree upon appropriate methods of work that will facilitate the development of future joint GMG positions, as well as the ongoing coordination between GMG members, e.g. in the areas of information sharing, research and policy advice. To this end, the retreat will discuss the findings of the working level deliberations on the GMG mandate and working methods (see below) and will serve to endorse the recommendations emerging from this review process.

2. **A public conference**<sup>†</sup> on the topic of Migration and the Global Financial and Economic Crisis. Through an inter-active approach and drawing on well-known personalities with expertise on the subject, this event will dynamize the public on this issue, and will serve to stimulate a frank and

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\* UNESCO, having tentatively confirmed its readiness to assume the GMG chairmanship as scheduled during the second half of 2010, has also signaled its intention to build on the proposed workplan in order to ensure the continuity of the Group's work.

† The date of the Conference will be the subject of further consultations within the Group and between UNITAR and the successive chair of the GMG, UNDP.



open exchange on the current challenges for migrants and migrant communities, in light of the global economic crisis. The public conference will serve as an opportunity for the United Nations (and other agencies) to more clearly articulate its positions on this challenge. In so doing, the conference will raise public awareness of the GMG and sharpen the group's profile as convener, coordinator and 'think tank' on contemporary challenges and policy responses in this field.

UNITAR is mobilizing resources for these activities on behalf of the Group. The public conference would be convened under the GMG chairmanship of UNDP in close collaboration with UNITAR.

2. **Fact sheets** highlighting the manifold impacts of the current financial and economic crisis on migration and migrants. All member agencies are invited to produce and/or comment on fact sheets that concern their respective areas of expertise. The short sheets (2 pagers) can be written, updated and published on an ongoing basis, serving to showcase GMG members' research findings and policy recommendations as they evolve. They will serve as tangible output of the Group for the GFMD3 in Athens. This format also leaves open the possibility to eventually compile all fact sheets into an edited volume, should the GMG so decide.

In addition, UNITAR is supporting the thematic focus through the ongoing activities of its Migration and Development Series in New York, such as the seminar organized on 21 May 2009, prior to the General Assembly's high-level Conference on the Global financial and economic crisis and its impacts on development (held on 24-26 June 2009). All GMG members were invited to participate in this event, and the substantive report of the 21 May seminar is available on the GMG website (see below).

***Outputs for the thematic focus:***

- i) Substantive report on the Seminar on Migration and the Economic Crisis in New York;
- ii) Joint GMG statement on migration and the global financial and economic crisis to be shared at GFMD3 in Athens;
- iii) One-day Principals retreat outside Geneva;
- iv) Public conference (venue tbd).

***Proposed timeline:***

- i) Principals' retreat: 9 October 2009
- ii) Proposed conference: To be confirmed
- iii) Joint statement:
  - ▶ After June 2009: First draft for circulation to the Group at the working level
  - ▶ September 2009: Circulation of revised draft at the working level
  - ▶ October 2009: Finalization of the joint statement
  - ▶ 4-5 November 2009: Presentation at GFMD3

**(II) Mandate and Working Methods of the GMG**

Putting the financial crisis aside, the GMG has experienced a crisis of its own, evidenced in part by the difficulties in securing a chair for the first half of 2009. The Group agreed to undertake a collective effort at the working level to review the mandate (Terms of Reference) of the GMG and develop a shared understanding of its role and value-added, and to work on establishing proper working methods (WM). This process began with an assessment of priorities and the gathering of concrete proposals from all Group members. On this basis, an analytical assessment was elaborated,



resulting in concrete suggestions on the GMG's priorities and working methods, which will be submitted to the Principals of the Group for decision at the 9 October retreat.

Overall, 3 working level meetings will be held in 2009, chaired by UNITAR's Executive Director: Following the first working level meeting that took place on 2 June, the second meeting was held on 1 September 2009. The last meeting is planned for December 2009. Throughout, UNITAR is in sustained consultation with the GMG focal points.

***Outputs for the mandate and WM review:***

- i) Draft recommendations on mandate and WM review (September)
- ii) Recommendations on next steps regarding the implementation of mandate and WM review (December)

***Timeline:***

Proposed pre-2 June consultation process:

- ▶ Discuss workplan during informal meetings and circulate draft prior to first working level meeting;
- ▶ Get confirmations by agencies who wish to contribute to 21 May seminar on migration and the economic crisis in NY;
- ▶ Initiate dialogue on the issue of mandate & working methods

Proposed timeline June - September:

- ▶ Prepare and circulate questionnaire for focal points on the issue of mandate & working methods;
- ▶ Conduct research on lessons learned in other coordinating mechanisms;
- ▶ Share draft recommendations on mandate & working methods reform for discussion at the second working level meeting

***Proposed working level meetings:***

- ▶ 2 June 2009;
- ▶ 1 September 2009 (pre-Principals retreat);
- ▶ December 2009.

**(III) Support for GFMD3**

The last GMG Principals meeting deemed it useful to collect and share information on ongoing and planned activities among GMG members.‡ In preparation for the GFMD3 in Athens, UNITAR is restructuring the GMG website ([www.globalmigrationgroup.org](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org)), so as to include an online inventory of relevant GMG member events, activities and resources (research, substantive reports etc.) UNITAR supports the GFMD3 through the Migration Series at the UN, extending the Series' reach to all GMG agencies.

In addition, as mentioned above, the Institute is engaging the Secretary-General's Special Representative Peter Sutherland, as well as the Greek Government, GFMD host in 2009, in the one-day Principals' retreat in October. UNITAR represents the GMG in meetings of the Friends of the Forum and circulates minutes among the Group.

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‡ UNITAR is preparing a draft communication strategy to be presented for consideration by the Group. It will encompass the use of the GMG website, the GMG internal workspace and other mechanisms, and will be taken forward by UNDP.



***Outputs to support GFMD3:***

- i) Substantive reports of events organized by GMG members prior to the GFMD3 (e.g. 23-24 March seminar in the 2009 Migration and Development Series on the topic of policy coherence);
- ii) Online inventory of GMG member activities and resources related to the GFMD3.

***Timeline for GFMD support:***

Online resources published on GMG website:

- ▶ June – Nov. 2009: Maintaining calendar of GMG activities and outputs (prior to GFMD)
- ▶ June – Nov. 2009: Publication of relevant materials on GMG and GMG member activities and findings



## **UNDP GMG Chairmanship**

### **Preliminary ideas for GMG Work plan**

### **First semester 2010**

The economic and social consequences of the global financial crisis will continue to be felt over the next two to three years. Moreover, unemployment figures in OECD countries and the developing world are likely to increase in 2010 before subsiding further on as the effects of the stimulus packages and other measures adopted by national governments and IF institutions yield results.

In this context, it is proposed that the GMG continue to monitor the implications of the global economic and financial crisis on migration and migration policies (thematic focus of the proposed GMG work plan during UNITAR's tenure) over 2010.

In addition, UNDP's Human Development Report 2009 to be launched in September focuses on human mobility. UNDP would like to propose a discussion among agencies in the GMG of the HDR and its recommendations.

Finally, UNDP would like to promote continuity to the discussion and work undertaken during UNITAR's tenure as Chair of the GMG. In this context, it is expected that follow up activities related to among others, the deliberations of the public conference<sup>5</sup> and the technical level recommendations on improvements in the GMG working methods will be facilitated during UNDP's Chairmanship in 2010. Follow up as necessary of GFMD3 outcomes will also be considered.

#### **Thematic focus**

1. Implications of the global financial and economic crisis on migration and migration policies.
2. Discussions on UNDP Human Development Report 2009 on *Human mobility*.

#### **Tentative activities**

1. Working level meetings
  - a. Follow up on working methods discussions
  - b. Monitoring of implications of the economic crisis on migration and migration policies
  - c. Follow up to the GFMD3 as appropriate.
2. Principals meeting(s)
  - a. Substantive discussion on thematic topic and review of follow up of outcomes from public conference, as appropriate.

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<sup>5</sup> The date of the Conference will be the subject of further consultations within the Group and between UNITAR and the successive chair of the GMG, UNDP.