

FRIENDS OF THE FORUM – TERMS OF REFERENCE ¹

In line with the Operating Modalities endorsed at the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Brussels on 9-11 July 2007, the Friends of the Forum (FOF) is open to all States that are Members or Observers of the United Nations. The FOF also includes some GFMD Observers² comprised of specialised agencies of the United Nations, international organisations, regional consultative processes and select non-government stakeholders on migration and development issues.

A: Mandate

The Friends of the Forum (FOF):

- a. serves as a consulting body that endorses and challenges policy/strategic issues concerning the Global Forum as a process;
- b. discusses other issues of substance, such as those being dealt with by the GFMD Platform for Partnerships and preparatory meetings leading to the Forum meeting;
- c. provides a platform for regular exchange between the GFMD and the Global Migration Group (GMG).

B. Responsibilities and expectations of Friends of the Forum members

- a. Keep abreast of all Forum-related developments; participates in FOF meetings held usually in Geneva and informs respective government offices/organisations of the on-going work.
- b. Support GFMD initiatives aimed at promoting the evidence base and delivery power of the Global Forum; shares policies and practices through the GFMD Platform for Partnerships and GFMD thematic surveys.
- c. Participate in the Future of the Forum sessions at the Forum meetings, where decision on the process and working methods of the GFMD are endorsed.

C. Membership

Principles for Membership

Participation in the Friends of the Forum is guided by the defining elements of the Global Forum -- voluntary, informal and state-led. Active participation is encouraged to ensure broader ownership of the process.

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¹These Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Friends of the Forum GFMD were elaborated based on the GFMD Operating Modalities developed in 2007 and the Reports of GFMD Assessment Phase I and II prepared under the Swiss and Mauritian Chairmanships, respectively.

² See <http://www.gfmd.org/observers> for the complete list of existing GFMD Observers.

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Emerging UN Member States will be invited to future GFMD meetings. Interested organizations, processes and other bodies may indicate their motivation to join the GFMD Observers and, where possible, their intended contributions which can be either substantive or financial.

Request to become GFMD Observers

Based on expression of interest, the Steering Group will deliberate on possible additional requests to join the GFMD Observers. The main factors would be the relevance of the organization's work to the GFMD agenda and work streams, as well as indication of commitment to fulfill the mandates and responsibilities of the FOF.

The Troika may also suggest to the Steering Group the inclusion of other organizations, processes and bodies that could enrich GFMD debates and offer meaningful contributions to the Chair-in-Office and to the overall GFMD process.

- D. Chairmanship** – The Friends of the Forum meetings are convened and chaired by the Chair-in-Office.
- E. Funding** – Costs of participation in the meetings of the Friends of the Forum are borne by the respective Governments / GFMD Observers.
- F. Schedule and venue of Meetings** – The Friends of the Forum meetings are held, in principle, at least twice in between each Forum meeting. The FOF meets in Geneva, unless otherwise agreed by the members.