

NGO COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION

INFORMATION NOTE FOR OUR MEMBERS

September 13TH 2012

GFMD 2012

- This year's Global Forum on Migration and Development will be held in Mauritius, Africa: the Civil Society Days (CSD) from November 19 to 20, followed by the States' GFMD Summit from November 21 to 22. The CS Days are being organized by a small GFMD Coordinating Office, led by John Bingham, at ICMC in Geneva. The Office works together with an International Advisory Committee (IAC) of some 25 members, and with an International Consultation Circle of approximately 100 NGOs. Our Committee is represented on both. The website for all information about the CS Days is: www.gfmdcivilsociety.org
- The overarching theme of the CSD Thematic Programme 2012 is: *Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration*. It builds on the set of recommendations made by Civil Society in the GFMD 2011 in Geneva, and on the themes on the GFMD 2012 Government Agenda under the title, *Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contributions to the Development of Communities and States*.
- Under the CS overarching theme, the focus will be on 4 working session objectives, namely
 - a) regulating recruitment and employment practices;
 - b) rights-based development solutions;
 - c) protecting vulnerable migrant workers; and
 - d) the future of M+D governance.Our Committee's immediate task is to provide our Committee's 2012 GFMD delegates with information they can bring to the table of each of these working sessions., namely: practices of your organizations which translate the recommendations of CS into actual concrete, time framed and monitored policies and practices.

HLD 2013

- The UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2013 will take place in New York City, probably in September, preceded by a Civil Society preparatory meeting, probably in May or June.. The chief organizing entity for the HLD 2013 is UN DESA, as it was for the first HLD in 2006. Bela Hovy, Chief of DESA's Migration Section, is the principal staff person, reporting to Assistant UN Secretary Thomas Stelzer. His office has drafted the report of the UN Secretary General, which has just been released (A/67/254) The final Report contains detailed proposals from the SG for the HLD about themes and modalities of engagement, including of Civil Society, and possibilities for outcomes.
- The SG Report will be the basis for informal discussions among States, and then negotiations in the UNGA Second Committee. That Committee will then forward a negotiated resolution framing the HLD to the UNGA, which is expected to simply approve this resolution by the end of December.

- In the drafting process, DESA has taken note of Civil Society input on the 2013 HLD, including that of our NGO Committee. The office has also pointed out various possibilities for CS input into the HLD before, during, and after the event.
- Next tasks for CS organizations and networks, including our NGO Committee on Migration, are: to agree upon thematic priorities for the HLD and modalities for CS engagement; formulate desired CS outcomes of the HLD; and initiate contacts with individual States and UN entities, encouraging joint efforts to promote HLD outcomes which protect and enhance the human rights of migrants and their families worldwide.

UNHCR NGO CONSULTATION 2013

- Our Committee has participated in the last two annual NGO consultations of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held in Geneva in June. The focus of the workshops which our Committee's Refugee Taskforce helped to organize has been on the protection and empowerment of stateless migrants – especially women and children – regardless of their legal status. UNHCR has just begun a first round of consultations in preparation for the 2013 NGO Consultation, and is asking NGO participants, including our Committee, to make preliminary suggestions for topics and panelists. The initial submission date is September 21, 2012.

UNITAR SEMINARS 2012-2013

- Our Committee regularly takes part in the annual series of Seminars on Migration and Development organized by UNITAR, IOM, UNFPA and the MacArthur Foundation. We are sought out by the Seminar organizers for suggestions on topics and provision of panelists for these Seminars. Since 2010, our Committee has been invited to collaborate in planning the annual UNITAR Seminar to commemorate International Migrants Day, which the UN celebrates annually on December 18th

UN COMMISSIONS (CSD, CSW, POPULATION) 2013

- The 51st Session of the Commission for Social Development will meet from the 6th to the 15th February 2013 at UNHQ. The priority theme will be: *Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, and full employment and work for all.*
- The 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will meet from the 4th to the 15th March 2013 at UNHQ. The priority theme will be *The Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.*
- The 46th Session of the Commission on Population and Development will meet from the 22nd to the 26th April 2013 at UNHQ. The theme will be: *New trends in migration: demographic aspects.*
- The NGO Committee on Migration, as in the past, will address these themes from a migration perspective, in preparing to organize, and participate in, workshops, caucuses and conversation groups.