



THE NGO COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION
A committee of the Congress of NGOs (CONGO) in consultative
status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

STATEMENT
CIVIL SOCIETY HEARINGS FOR THE
GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the NGO Committee on Migration is to promote and encourage the human rights protection of migrants and their families, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. We act as a forum which raises awareness of migration in a human rights framework, and recommends appropriate policies for migration issues in cooperation with UN bodies and consistent with UN frameworks.

In the exercise of these functions and objectives, we are presenting this position statement for the consideration of the participants in the GFMD in Brussels from July 9th to July 11th, 2007. It conforms to the clear consensus expressed by civil society in the summary of the Interactive Hearings at the HLD.

All deliberations at the GMFD must be based on the understanding that international migration, development and human rights are intrinsically interrelated, interconnected and interdependent. Human rights, gender, and root causes of migration must be dealt with as cross cutting issues.

Theme 1
Human Capital Development and Labor Mobility

The NGO Committee on Migration calls for:

- Creation of effective policies which remedy the negative impact of migrant and migrant worker programs on sending countries, such as the loss of highly skilled workers, especially in health and education;
- Institution of effective means to prevent abuse of, and violence against, women and child migrants, especially in the informal sector and domestic work;
- Putting in place policies which do not rely on migration as an alternative to decent employment policies in home countries, thus reducing family fragmentation and making migration a choice, not a necessity;

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- Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and full observance of other international conventions, including the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, which protect the human rights of all migrant workers, especially of vulnerable groups, like children and older persons and those in irregular status;
- Institution of policies that ensure migrants decent work for decent pay;
- Enactment of policies of social inclusion, civic participation, education and skills training, especially for young migrants;
- Ensuring that both migrants and officials, including those charged with law enforcement, in the receiving societies learn about and are fully versed in migrants' rights and responsibilities and act in accordance with them.

Theme 2

Remittances and Diaspora Resources

The NGO Committee on Migration calls for:

- Institution of policies which prevent remittances from being windfalls for governments or middlemen;
- Establishment of effective mechanisms to ensure that migrants—especially women – have a say in determining how remittances may be used for community development;
- Government support for effective capacity building mechanisms to maximize the development impact of remittances, including for families and older persons – e.g., financial literacy programs; skills and managerial training; technical training, and life-long learning programs.

Theme 3

Policy Coherence and Partnerships

The NGO Committee on Migration holds that:

- Addressing root causes of migration requires developed receiving nations to re-examine policies, such as those governing trade, that undermine economic stability and exacerbate outward migration from developing and least developed sending nations.
- Effective institutional and policy coherence regarding migration and development requires Government compliance with existing UN instruments and agreements;
- Furthermore, effective institutional and policy coherence regarding migration and development requires the systematic participation of migrants themselves and the organizations which speak for them;
- Finally, future multilateral dialogues on migration and development require the full and equal partnership of civil society and governments, both with respect to the contents of the dialogue and the process of participation.