



NGO Committee on Migration
*A committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative
Relationship with the United Nations*

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**Recommendations for Civil Society's Role
in Preparation for and Participation in the
2013 High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development**

Since the very beginning of efforts to have a second UNGA High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, the NGO Committee on Migration has been in dialogue with various entities regarding the role of civil society in the preparations for, and participation in, the forthcoming HLD. We have submitted examples of best practices carried out by Civil Society in partnership with other stakeholders and have made specific suggestions for concrete actions to benefit migrants and their countries of origin and of destination.

Now, as preparations for the 2013 HLD are proceeding in earnest, especially **in the wake of the just released Report of the SG (A/67/254)**, our Committee respectfully submits our recommendations for modalities and themes of the Dialogue. The presentation follows the topical headings of the SG Report.

IV. Modalities, Format and Organization

A. Scope

We applaud the focus on “identifying concrete measures that enhance the benefits of international migration”, especially measures that enhance human development in countries of origin and destination and for migrants alike (49)

C. Structure and Format of the Plenary Meetings

We welcome the suggestion of having a civil society representative speaking in the opening plenary of States. (54) We recommend that this person be selected by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with civil society.

We strongly suggest that the Dialogue be geared toward a commitment of reachable *actions*, including mechanisms and benchmarks which reflect good practices by governments and other stakeholders to further the human rights of migrants. (55)

D. Participation in the plenary meetings

To promote “coherence and cooperation among all stakeholders” (RT 4), we respectfully maintain that this requires full participation of all stakeholders in the HLD. Therefore we urge further creative thinking about ways to ensure space for civil society. Possibilities encompass such means as: encouragement of Member States to include CS representatives on their delegations ; (56), provision of overflow rooms, use of larger rooms for the roundtables, and provision of webcasts for those persons not able to come to New York.(58)

We strongly welcome the inclusion of civil society speakers in the plenary sessions (58), and urge that these be representative of the large and diverse Civil Society.

We also fully agree that all stakeholders in the HLD will benefit by participating in informal interactive hearings held several months before the UNGA HLD meeting in September .(59)

E. Structure, format, and themes of the interactive round table meetings

We think that the themes for the Roundtables can be very productive, provided there is wide stakeholder participation and that the discussions are geared toward actions to which all stakeholders will commit themselves.

The following are examples of attainable concrete actions (including mechanisms and benchmarks for implementation): (62)

Round table 1 *Leveraging diaspora contributions for development*

Should include best practices on how both countries of origin and destination could *support* diaspora contributions in the following ways:

- Maintaining access to financial capital and matched investment funds;
- Reforming tax laws to avoid double payment on remittances;
- Creating diaspora entrepreneur councils;
- Establishing diaspora bonds;
- Funding capacity building for entrepreneurship;
- Facilitating communication and shared development with local communities.

Round table 2 – *Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights*

Could include best practices on:

- Migrant friendly regulations for temporary work, including preservation of family unity;
- Research on job availability and matching of skills and labour market needs;
- Job specific training;
- Reorganization of visa systems to fit with labour needs;
- Provision of legal assistance, hotlines and contact points for migrant workers exposed to human rights abuses;
- Recognition of the plight of migrants displaced by floods, desertification and other natural phenomena associated with climate change, and provision for their safe migration and relocation;
- Successful collaborations among legal aid, NGOs, and government departments of immigration;
- Memoranda of Understanding among regional groups of countries, especially for stranded migrants;
- Successful strategies to protect and to provide needed services to women and child migrants;
- Humane practices addressing illegal entry, including successful policies of regularization.

Round table 3 *Mainstreaming migration into the development agenda*

Could include:

- Reports of the pilot countries' experience from the GMG's *Mainstreaming Migration*;
- Experiences of countries who have Ministries of Migration;

- Reports from countries who have signed the Migrant Worker Convention and benefited from the suggestions of the Monitoring Committee;
- Strategies for mainstreaming migration issues into post-2015 development processes.

Roundtable 4 *Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration*

Would benefit from inclusion of:

- National Boards composed of Government departments most directly involved in the administration of migration and development policies; NGOs, especially migrant-led organizations; and the private sector;
- Cooperation of the type that has been developing in the GFMD Common Space.

To further the implementation of specific outcomes of the HLD, a representative working group of all stakeholders who will be participating in HLD 2013 could draw up a list of mechanisms and benchmarks from among the best practices and suggestions in the round table dialogues. These could then be piloted by a small number of States, in cooperation with other stakeholders.

F. Participation in the interactive round table meetings

Inclusion of stakeholders from all sectors, including Civil Society (both as participants and as observers), in the round tables is essential to reinforce the commitment of all to coherence and cooperation in achieving migration and development goals. (66)

G. Preparatory Activities

An informal interactive dialogue with civil society organizations prior to the High Level Dialogue is critical for a successful outcome of the HLD. Sequential segments on themes related to the plenary and the round tables would provide an excellent basis for further fruitful collaboration. (69)

- Civil Society's participation must be broadly based, representing its diverse regional and sectoral membership. (70, 71)
- A trust fund would ensure that members of all geographic regions would be represented. (72)
- The focus of the meetings should be on interactive dialogue, including an extensive exchange of views with member states, rather than on prepared statements. This would enhance a collaborative working relationship among all stakeholders, as well as outcomes that are realistic and concrete. (71,73)

H. Outcome

An action oriented document, as suggested in the SG Report, would be essential to the productive conclusion of the High Level Dialogue. It could be in the form of a working group compilation (see above) of suggested mechanisms and benchmarks, to be piloted by countries ready and able to take on this important challenge. (74, 75)

V. Conclusions, recommendations, and the way forward

We strongly concur with the conclusion of the SG that "the 2013 HLD is a crucial step for the international community to guide the global migration policy agenda". (84) We fervently hope that the creation and implementation of the right set of international migration and development policies will ensure better lives and a better future for migrants and their families worldwide.