



Civil Society Programme 2012
Global Forum on Migration and Development

***Operationalizing Protection and Human Development
in International Migration***



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1. Civil Society Objectives 2012

In 2012 the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for the first time takes place in Africa, chaired by the government of Mauritius. Civil society organizations will meet in Mauritius on 19 and 20 November before the governments convening the following two days, bridged by a Common Space of civil society and governments the morning of 21 November.

The theme that States have chosen for the GFMD 2012 meeting is *“Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their contribution to the Development of Communities and States.”*¹ While maintaining a global focus, the 2012 GFMD has a special emphasis on south-south migration and on the development opportunities and challenges of the African continent, its migrants and diaspora.

2012 is a critical year for the GFMD. This 6th GFMD meeting concludes the first series of Forum meetings since 2007. States will further conclude a two-year process of internal assessment of the GFMD, which will inform decisions on the future of the Forum, its structure and focus. At the same time, the MacArthur Foundation has commissioned an assessment of the GFMD, with a particular focus on civil society’s role in it.

2012 is also the last Forum meeting before the UN General Assembly’s second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), in September, 2013. While the HLD will certainly consider the GFMD and its role and impact to date, the HLD’s focus and possibilities are far broader. Many stakeholders, including civil society organizations and migrants, are advocating for the HLD to adopt commitments and outcomes on substantive themes, including on the importance of rights-based and comprehensive global governance of migration.

¹ The States’ GFMD 2012 Concept paper can be downloaded here: <http://www.gfmd.org/en/docs/mauritius-2012>.

From continuity to impact

Against this backdrop civil society continues to step up its role, responsibility and leadership in the GFMD process, building on what has been achieved in the first six years. In 2011 civil society for the first time designed its own focus and programme within the GFMD. In this direction civil society developed a framework for continuity and ownership, including a strengthened civil society network on migration and development and a small GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office.

The next milestone that civil society has set itself to achieve is to translate this ownership and continuity into *impact*: impact on the global migration and development agenda, impact on the outcomes of the UN High Level Dialogue in 2013 and impact on the ground for the benefit of migrants, families, communities and states.² To achieve this milestone, civil society will:

1. reinforce the global civil society network of migrant rights and development leaders, to further develop and implement GFMD recommendations
2. continue forging constructive and focused dialogue and partnerships with governments
3. achieve a broader, more sustainable and multi-annual resource base, adequate to:
 - a. expand civil society follow-up and preparation capacity between GFMD meetings, including in regional formats and a small set of working groups; and
 - b. increase participation of migrant, diaspora and grassroots groups and organizations from developing countries.

2. Civil Society Preparations and Format 2012

Organizing for impact

Impact cannot be ensured solely through a global voluntary, non-binding event, such as the annual GFMD meetings. Follow-up will be needed on the ground through policy discussions and concrete projects. Nor is impact achieved overnight: it requires solid preparation, long-term commitments and the engagement of relevant stakeholders. In the run-up to this year's GFMD, as well as the follow-up, civil society will work to broaden and strengthen the global network of migrant rights and development leaders. This will enhance its capacity to prepare and follow-up on GFMD recommendations, as well as HLD outcomes, together with national governments and international organizations.

Preparatory and follow-up activities

Resources permitting, the format for civil society activities within the framework of the GFMD 2012 will be facilitated by the following structures:

- **Working groups:** A core of substantive work will be channeled through the creation of three global working groups, time-limited, organized around three thematic tracks that have been key to civil society in GFMD meetings, with rights and protection cross-cutting for all three groups:

² The focus on impact also corresponds to the first objective of the 2012 GFMD government concept paper, putting up-front “outcomes that will make a difference for migrants, diaspora, their families, and communities and states of origin and destination” (States’ GFMD 2012 concept paper, page 2).

1. A working group on **global governance of migration and the High Level Dialogue 2013** to elaborate suggestions for global migration governance that is human rights-based, transparent and accountable, with positive development impacts, and within which civil society secures and productively occupies its proper place at the table where decisions are made.
2. A working group on **labour mobility, recruitment and labour matching** to promote the organization of labour mobility and matching that is fair, ordered and monitored, including considerations of the role of recruitment agencies, employment practices, analysis of labour market data and conditions, the matching of education/training programmes and skills with labour market needs at home and abroad and the recognition of credentials, while taking into account local job prospects, wages and working conditions.
3. A working group on **migrants/diaspora and development** to focus on the empowerment of diaspora and migrants to contribute to development in their countries of origin as entrepreneurs and social investors, by financial and knowledge transfer, and as advocates for policy reform, working in particular with governments to establish conditions that are conducive for development.

With 10-25 members each, the working groups will pool and organize civil society expertise, and frame recommendations of annual GFMD meetings in advocacy statements and action steps with an emphasis on operational models and mechanisms.

- **Action Papers:** In the remainder of 2012, established Working Groups will in particular be tasked with creating an action paper each that will include (a) a consolidated overview and analysis of past GFMD recommendations made by civil society and by governments on the relevant themes, (b) a small set of recommendations and actions points and (c) next steps to be taken by civil society to move these actions points forward. The Action Paper will feed into the working sessions during the Civil Society Days, and will further be distributed among civil society and government participants.
- **Regional Preparatory meeting(s):** A preparatory meeting of civil society in Africa is being organized in September by the Pan-African Network for the Defense of Migrant Rights (PANIDMR)³. Among the principal objectives of the meeting is to reinforce the participation and perspectives of African civil society actors, to ensure a special emphasis on the development opportunities and challenges of the continent.
- **Online surveys:** A survey among former and current civil society participants and networks will gather innovative ideas and practical experiences on the themes on the GFMD agenda and to make an inventory of follow-up achievements and lessons learned in relation to implementing last year's GFMD recommendations. In this direction, a report will be compiled on the survey that the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office conducted of nearly 600 applicants to the Civil Society Days of the 2012 GFMD, wherein each participant was asked to describe their follow-up on specific recommendations of last year's GFMD.
- **National civil society process** - A distinct preparatory process will be organized for Mauritian civil society organizations (*also see section 5. on organization and planning*).

³ For more information see: <http://www.panidmr.org/>

Participation in the GFMD Civil Society Days

- **Numbers and sectors:** Comparable to previous meetings, the Civil Society Days 2012 will engage 150 - 180 delegates of all sectors of civil society, including diaspora and migrant organizations, human rights and development groups, labour unions and representatives from academia and the private sector⁴. In addition, a smaller number of observers, governments and special guests are welcomed by invitation.
- **Selection and balance:** Selection of delegates began with a public call for applications, which was open from 16 May – 8 July. The number of applications received was more than three times higher than the number of delegates' seats available. As in all prior years, the necessary selection is performed by the International Advisory Committee, working closely with the Civil Society Coordinating Office to ensure inclusive and diverse participation. A balance is struck between new participants and those that have participated in previous forum meetings, aiming for a mix that promotes both continuity and new leadership. In 2012, additional efforts are being made to include more participants from African organizations and development NGOs than in prior years, and from national and regional platforms engaged at the intersection of migration and development.
- **Timing and preparation:** Applicants will be notified by the beginning of September of the results of the selection process. Selected applicants will be asked to choose one of the themes on the agenda they would like to focus on, and to engage in preparatory work and activities, including the online surveys.

Civil Society Days 2012

- **Mixed format and parallel working sessions:** Building on the preparatory work and action papers put forward by the working groups, the Civil Society Days will consist of a few plenary debates, smaller, more interactive sessions, including parallel working sessions, and open spaces for smaller and bilateral meetings to plan partnerships and actions and advocate with governments.
- **Shared spaces:** Building on achievements of the previous two years, civil society will drive for more dialogue and connection with governments within and beyond the Common Space with governments on the first day of their GFMD meeting (*see section 4 on connecting with governments*).

3. Civil Society Thematic Programme 2012

The GFMD Civil Society Thematic Programme 2012 is based upon (1) [the set of recommendations](#) made by civil society in the 2011 GFMD; (2) recommendations received in the [GFMD civil society evaluation survey 2011](#); and (3) the themes [on the 2012 GFMD government agenda](#). Within the set of 17 civil society recommendations in 2011, four recommendations were in particular noted to be “within direct reach” and have been expressly put up front in this year’s GFMD Civil Society Programme:

⁴To date, funding available to support the participation of civil society delegates is very limited. Given that funding opportunities continue to be actively explored, if funding becomes available priority will be given to the funding of the grassroots organizations and groups from developing countries. To be clear, delegates selected for participation are strongly encouraged to look for funding opportunities to support their participation.

GFMD 2011 Civil Society Recommendations identified as “within direct reach”:

1. Measures to improve recruitment and placement processes and cooperation on piloting mechanisms for labour and skills matching
2. For each national government to institutionalise a platform for constructive dialogue with migrant/diaspora representatives
3. Ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention
4. For civil society to formulate modalities for future migration and development governance

Overarching theme: Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration

During the Civil Society Days 2011 one of the participants observed: “*somebody said that everything that could be said has already been said. That might be very true. But not everything has been done.*” Hence, instead of new themes, the GFMD Civil Society Programme 2012 focuses on deepening and ***operationalizing*** in cooperation with governments and international organizations the main themes relating to ***protection and human development in international migration*** that have consistently been at the center of civil society’s attention in the GFMD.

The discussion of what “development” means has gradually evolved in the GFMD. At first the focus was largely on economic development and growth, and in particular on the role of remittances in increasing macro-indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP), gross national income (GNI), and household incomes. Taking up strong calls from civil society, international organizations and a number of governments, the GFMD gradually adopted a more comprehensive and “human” approach to development, looking more broadly at improvements in the overall quality of life and the expansion of opportunities and freedoms. This approach also includes a greater focus on protecting people’s human rights. Development is now widely understood in the GFMD as “human development”, which includes economic development, as expressed in the titles of both the States’ concept paper 2012 “*Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States*”, and this Civil Society Programme: “***Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration***”.

By focusing on operationalizing themes that have consistently been on the GFMD agenda before and linking these to the government agenda, civil society is determined to complement aspirational recommendations with concrete implementable proposals and operational mechanisms. Therefore each of the thematic tracks and related focus themes will be geared towards putting forward a mechanism or tool, including examples of “good” practices, existing partnerships and success stories, as well as a proposal for the next 3-5 steps to take by relevant actors, in particular governments, civil society actors and the private sector. Where feasible each focus theme will also formulate some benchmarks for the next years and indicators of success that allow for better impact evaluation and monitoring.

Four GFMD Civil Society Thematic Focuses for 2012

1. Operationalizing a rights-based approach to labour mobility, markets and matching
2. Operationalizing human development in international migration
3. Operationalizing the protection of migrants and their families
4. Operationalizing the future of migration & development governance

Civil Society Theme 1: Operationalizing a Rights-based Approach to Labour Mobility, Markets and Matching

GFMD 2011 Civil Society Recommendations linked to theme 1:

- **Regular avenues for migration:** Civil society urges governments to work with employers, labour unions and other social actors to create more regular and safe migration channels that address labour market and protection needs, and ensure family (re)unification (Rec. 2.1)
- **Labour, skills and education matching:** Civil society urges governments to invest together with businesses, academia and other civil society actors in labour market analysis to better understand short and long-term needs regarding the number of foreign employees and kinds of skills demanded, so as to make labour mobility work better for migrants, employers, and communities in both countries of origin and destination; and to develop mechanisms for the “matching” of education and training programmes with labour market needs “at home and abroad” and to organize skills, credential recognition and up-scaling in a just and more effective way so as to address present and future mismatches between labour supply and demand (Rec. 3.1)
- **Recruitment and employment practices:** Civil society calls for governments to better regulate and monitor recruitment and employment practices, by creating sound and transparent licensing systems, simplifying procedures, instituting sanctions, and ending visa-systems that tie migrants to specific employers (Rec. 3.2)

GFMD 2012 States’ Concept Paper linked to theme 1:

- Roundtable 1.1 is: *Beyond-the-Border Skills and Jobs for Human Development*

The vast majority of international migration flows, both south-north and south-south, are driven by labour dynamics: a lack of decent jobs at home and/or the prospects of work motivate many to seek employment abroad. As observed in the States’ GFMD concept paper for 2012, “*employment abroad can accelerate human development if, in addition to assuring protection of basic human rights, it allows mobile workers to acquire new skills, use their skills productively, and return with savings or invest in the development of their family and communities*”. However, basic human rights are too often not assured. Some of the worst human rights abuses of migrants occur during the recruitment and placement process, and abusive working conditions are commonplace. In addition, many policies obstruct the mobility of workers and families and the transferability of social benefits. Barriers to

mobility, employment and rights impede the human development gains for the migrant him/herself as well as the family and communities involved.

A number of promising practices and signs of a paradigm shift are emerging, including the recent adoption and first ratifications of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (ILO Convention 189). However, an enduring contributor to many of the existing problems continues to be a massive mismatch between the supply and demand of workers and skills, exacerbated by the further mismatch of channels for workers to migrate legally. Without the right policies in place, shifting global demographics, including ageing workforces and societies, are expected to worsen these mismatches.

Increasingly, and notwithstanding global economic crises, employers and economies in both developing and developed countries are experiencing the consequence of labour shortages in the full range of skills levels. Large numbers of migrants resort to irregular means of migration and employment, within and across all regions of the world. Regardless of their immigration status, even skilled workers often work far below their skill-level, and/or are unable to move from one employer or employment situation, due to deficient skills recognition mechanisms and restrictive visa and employment regimes.

Recruitment and employment agencies play a critical role in matching migrant workers with jobs abroad but abusive practices are widespread: outrageous placement fees, confiscation of identity papers, false information, and human trafficking. These malpractices need to be weeded out and replaced by much better organized labour mobility schemes. Working together with global leaders and champions in the recruitment industry, governments, the ILO and other international organizations, civil society is convinced that reducing recruitment abuses is within direct reach.

Building in this direction, this thematic track will look at promoting the organization of labour mobility and matching that is fair, ordered and monitored, including considerations of the role of recruitment agencies, employment practices, the matching of education/training programmes and skills with labour market needs at home and abroad and the recognition of credentials, while taking into account local job prospects, wages and working condition. The group discussions during the GFMD Civil Society Days will be centre around the following two subthemes:

1.A Regulating and Monitoring Recruitment, Placement and Employment Practices

Operational mechanisms to be discussed could include (successful and future) campaigns for the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 181 (“the Private Employment Agencies Convention”), the abolishment of sponsorship systems tying migrants to a specific employer, creation or strengthening of independent national monitoring agencies, a global standard for recruitment agencies, strong (national) accreditation systems, industry codes of conduct, multi-stakeholder memorandums of understanding and monitoring protocols, and public awareness- raising.

1.B Improving Jobs, Skills and Education Matching

Operational mechanisms to be discussed could include public-private partnerships and twinning arrangements for the co-development of skills, global standard setting for training and education per sector, development of global curricula for certain professions (e.g. in the

medical sector), corporate social responsibility guidelines against brain drain, forgivable loans, current or potential frameworks for recognizing credentials across borders, the removal of barriers for labour migration and matching, such as double nationality, multiple entry-visa, the transferability of pensions and other social benefits, the right to family reunification, and pathways to permanent residency and citizenship.

Civil Society Theme 2: Operationalizing Human Development in International Migration

GFMD 2011 Civil Society Recommendations linked to theme 2:

- **Migrant/diaspora partnerships:** Civil society recommends to migrant/diaspora organizations to involve local stakeholders, create trust relationships, and forge partnerships with the private sector; to share experiences and knowledge, to replicate and scale up projects and build a common vision on specific themes that enable advocate with one cohesive voice and asks governments in countries of origin and destination to institutionalise migrant/diaspora engagement in development programming and to create a platform for constructive dialogue with migrant/diaspora representatives (Rec. 4.2)
- **Diaspora, entrepreneurs & Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):** Civil society recommends to adjust legal and financial frameworks to promote migrants as entrepreneurs, provide access to credit and skills development, and promote SMEs which can play a critical role in job creation (e.g. by governments of countries of origin providing low interest loans to migrants abroad towards income generating investments back home) (Rec. 4.3)
- **GFMD at the national level:** Civil society recommends to institutionalize a national dialogue with civil society organizations, migrant and diaspora organizations in particular, to explore how to work together to implement previous GFMD recommendations (Rec. 5.4)

GFMD 2012 States' Concept Paper linked to theme 2:

- Roundtable 1.2 is: *Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socio-economic Change*

While it is clear that migration can contribute to human development of the migrant, families and communities involved, civil society in the GFMD has consistently emphasized that (1) migration should not in and of itself be used as a development strategy through which people are compelled to leave; and that (2) the root causes of migration must be addressed. Last year's Civil Society Days concluded: "a *rights-based approach to development that addresses economic and social rights, including decent work and essential public services (chiefly education, vocational and technical training programmes), is necessary to truly expand choices and opportunities either to stay at home or go abroad*".⁵

Migrants and diaspora can play a critical role in spurring this development and expanding choices. "*Diaspora and migrants contribute to development and job creation; as*

⁵ From the 2011 GFMD Civil Society Report, p. 35

*entrepreneurs, investors, consumers; by financial and knowledge transfer, but also as advocates for policy reform working with governments to establish conditions that are conducive to creating jobs, such as access to justice, protection of property rights, good infrastructure, access to credit and skills development.*⁶ This role of migrants and diaspora - whether based in the north or the south - as development agents in their country of origin has been central to the GFMD dialogue, both in the government agenda and in civil society's work. Indeed, international attention to the role of diaspora in development has been booming with many changes in recent years. For example there has been an enormous increase in data collection on remittances accompanied by significant reduction in rates for remittance transfers; diaspora organizations have increasingly formed networks among themselves for joint projects and advocacy, and many governments have formed specific departments and ministries dedicated to diaspora engagement. At the same time many barriers and challenges remain for diaspora and migrants when investing in development in their countries of origin, including tax and property barriers, limited access to financial capital, corruption, weak infrastructure, mistrust, and limited multi-stakeholder partnerships.

One particular challenge is the limited linkages between migrant/diaspora projects and more mainstream development planning and development actors, as well as with the private sector. However, in contrast to diaspora/migrant organizations⁷, these more "mainstream" development actors, such as local development NGOs, international development agencies (working on issues such as poverty reduction, health care, education, water management, environmental sustainability, gender equality, etc.), government representatives from development ministries, as well as the private sector, have largely been underrepresented in the GFMD, both in the States and civil society components. And yet many development-related planning processes and policies have direct and indirect links with migration dynamics. The States' concept paper 2012 includes a comprehensive list of migration-interlinked development policy areas including: *"employment; labour market planning; economic growth; trade and investment policies; human capital formation and skills development; brain drain and brain waste; social protection; [...] human rights and migrant protection; health services; [...] leveraging remittances for local investment and development; environmental factor"*.

This thematic track proposes to resume the attention to engaging diaspora and migrants, as well as other development actors in migration-related development planning that genuinely makes migration an opportunity and choice, not a necessity. The group discussions during the GFMD Civil Society Days will be centre around the following two subthemes:

2.A Engaging Diaspora as Entrepreneurs, Social Investors and Policy Advocates

Operational mechanisms and policies to be discussed could include: conducive legal and financial policy frameworks, access to financial capital and matched investment funds, reforming tax laws, access to property rights, diaspora entrepreneur councils, diaspora bonds, partnerships for thematic diaspora platforms (e.g. information technology, agriculture, etc.), national and regional diaspora platforms (e.g. African diaspora in Europe), examples of government-diaspora dialogues.

⁶ From the 2011 GFMD Civil Society Report, p. 35

⁷ In 2011, for example, the largest group of civil society delegates to the GFMD were from diaspora and migrant-led organizations. For the 2012 GFMD, almost one in three of the applicants (pre-selection) were from diaspora or migrant led organizations.

2.B Rights-based Development Solutions and Migration

Operational mechanisms and policies to be discussed could include policies improving livelihoods that offer choices in migration, multi-stakeholder partnerships for development among “mainstream” development actors, national/local authorities and diaspora/migrants, national and local migration and development planning, education systems and skills development, social protection and policies that prevent brain drain/waste.

Civil Society Theme 3: Operationalizing the Protection of Migrants and their Families

GFMD 2011 Civil Society Recommendations linked to theme 3:

- **Advocacy for ratification and review of national laws:** Civil society encourages civil continued strong advocacy on the ratification, implementation and enforcement of relevant legal instruments that ensure the equal treatment and protection of migrant workers, to collect, share and showcase successful relevant advocacy campaigns; and organizing on the national level so as to undertake a comprehensive review of national laws and policies that infringe the rights of migrant workers, their families and children, using such reviews as advocacy tools (Rec.1.1)
- **Access to rights, basic services and redress:** Civil society calls upon governments to ensure that the human rights of all migrants, irrespective of their immigration status, are protected and enforced, including the right to a dignified living, food, health, education for children, labour protections and justice for victims of crime and violence; protection against *refoulement* for those facing a risks of irreparable harm at home; and to remove legal barriers that prevent irregular migrants from exercising these rights, for example, by guaranteeing access to redress for all migrants (Rec. 2.2)
- **Protection of irregular migrants** [...] Civil society recommends to institute sanctions against law enforcement officials who commit acts of violence against irregular migrants at borders, in transit and at destination (Rec. 2.3)
- **Family unity and well-being:** Civil society calls on governments to ensure that the rights to family unity and reunification and the well-being of the family are cornerstones of migration policies, to provide psychological support to members of families separated by migration (Rec. 1.2)

GFMD 2012 States' Concept Paper linked to theme 3:

- Roundtable 3.2 is: *Migrant Protection as Integral to Migration Management*
- Roundtable 3.3 is: *Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers: Enhancing their Human Development Potential*

From the very beginning of the GFMD civil society has advocated for the protection and promotion of the human rights of all migrants as central to human dignity and human development. The protection of human rights is an imperative in itself; it is further clear that without adequate protection, large numbers of migrants are severely constrained from improving their own human development, that of their families, communities, countries of origin, transit and destination.

The protection of migrants has increasingly been included in the States' GFMD agenda. This year the States are devoting two roundtables are devoted to this topic: (1) a roundtable looking at migrant protection as integral to migration management and (2) a roundtable specifically dedicated to the protection of migrant domestic workers, which may confirm civil society's observation of last year that the beginning of wide ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention was within direct reach.

But not only migrant domestic workers are prone to vulnerability and abuse, many other migrant workers, and their families and children, find themselves in dangerous, demeaning and deplorable working and living conditions. In particular migrant workers in irregular status are categorically vulnerable to abuse and are often left without access to remedies.

The theme of migrant protection has been gaining momentum, including with regards to responding to migrants trapped in dire humanitarian situations often arising in transit. Specific scenarios for example are situations where migrants are trapped in countries affected by larger humanitarian crises due to armed conflict, civil unrest or natural disasters. Sir Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative to the UN Secretary General for Migration is suggesting to include this theme, often referred to as "stranded migrants", in the agenda of the UN High Level Dialogue in 2013, to increase awareness about these acute humanitarian situations and to identify challenges and ways to address them based on existing international law and accepted principles and practices.

Building upon this momentum, this thematic track proposes to explore benchmarks and mechanisms to address the needs and protect the rights of migrants in vulnerable situations irrespective of status, in particular migrant domestic workers and migrants trapped in dire humanitarian situations. Group discussions during the GFMD Civil Society Days are proposed to focus on these two subthemes:

3.A Protecting Vulnerable Migrant Workers

Operational mechanisms and policies to be discussed could include campaigns for the ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention and the recognition of domestic work as work and to end the "kafala" and similar sponsorship systems, the right to unionize, educating the local population on abuses, action to provide legal assistance to victims of abuse, regularization, establishing national hotlines and contact points for human right abuses of migrant workers - all gender sensitive and irrespective of the status of the worker

3.B Protecting Migrants in Dire Humanitarian Situations

Operational mechanisms and policies to be discussed could include: the establishment of safe houses (e.g. for victims of trafficking and crime in transit), effective access to basic health care and other humanitarian needs, protection and funding for NGOs to operate in dire humanitarian situations, legal and social protection to migrants, shared programming for evacuation (e.g. for migrant workers trapped in humanitarian crisis situations), cooperation in achieving durable solutions (e.g. through relocation/resettlement, return or integration).

Special focus theme: Operationalizing the Future of Migration and Development Governance

GFMD 2011 Civil Society Recommendations related to the special focus

theme:

- **Global Governance and the Road towards the UN HLD, 2013** - Calls upon all actors [...] to further reflect upon the possibility of integrating the GFMD within a rights-based, accountable and transparent framework with binding engagements and promises to formulate proposals on potential modalities for future governance [...] (Rec. 5.1)
- **Rights-based Development:** Insists to governments to regard their primary responsibility for sustainable and human development thus adopting a rights-based approach to development which addresses economic and social rights - including decent work and essential public services; to abandon aid conditionality and to detach development programmes and assistance from the repatriation of irregular migrants and (ex)asylum-seekers (Rec. 4.1)

GFMD 2012 States' Concept Paper related to the special focus theme:

- Roundtable 2.1 is *Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies*
- Special States' Session on: *Assessment and the Future of the Forum*

With an eye on the second UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013, civil society pledged during last year's GFMD "to formulate proposals on potential modalities for future governance of international migration and development." Acting upon this promise, a civil society working group will be working on proposals relating to the global governance of migration and development, including suggestions on indicators of success, target outcomes, modalities and actors, with a particular focus on how a stronger partnership for global governance of migration between governments, civil society, international organizations and private sector can be operationalized.

However, the GFMD and the HLD are not the only international processes for acting upon the interlinkages of migration with development. As the Millennium Development Goals approach expiration in 2015, the United Nations has launched a process of elaborating the post-2015 development framework. The new framework is likely to be a new set of development goals, but their focus, scope or accountability mechanisms are still to be defined. These discussions on post-2015 present an excellent opportunity for a global civil society movement that can help governments to put migration much higher on the international development agenda, including a focus on protection and partnerships. Therefore a special track and sessions will be dedicated to global migration governance that is human rights-based, transparent and accountable with a development focus, centered around:

- A. Preparing for the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013; and
- B. Preparing for the post-2015 Development agenda, e.g., next/migration steps on the Millennium Development Goals

4. Connecting with Governments

The GFMD States' website (www.gfmd.org) asserts that an *“important objective [of the GFMD] is to enhance coherence in policy making and institution building – at the national, regional and international levels - where civil society actors are considered as contributors and partners. Civil society input to GFMD activities and dialogue between governments and civil society is thus recognized as both useful and necessary.”* One of civil society's key objectives in the GFMD is to continue forging constructive and focused dialogue and partnerships with governments. All themes on this proposed Civil Society Programme have a direct link to the States' agenda, albeit with a distinct civil society focus. The results of this year's civil society discussions—recommended benchmarks, mechanisms and next steps—will directly feed into the States' roundtable sessions – primarily through the report of the Civil Society Days presented to governments at the opening of the States' meeting, bilateral meetings between GFMD civil society delegates and their governments and Common Space.

Common Space 2012

The Civil Society Coordinating Office, with guidance from the International Advisory Committee, works with the Mauritian Chair and supporting governments on further developing the Common Space, which will again comprise three hours of interactive sessions during the first morning of the States' GFMD meeting. Common Space will feature a cross-section of panellists from governments, civil society and international organizations. As framed by the Mauritian Chair of the 2012 GFMD, the central theme for this year's Common Space is ***“Migration and Development: Common Ground and Partnerships in Action, aiming to increase dialogue, enhance trust between stakeholders and inspire new partnerships and concerted action in migration and development”***.⁸ In order to increase this dialogue on themes shared by both the Civil Society Days and the States' meeting, the 2012 Common Space will feature a plenary kick-off and a plenary concluding session, with three parallel thematic break-out sessions in between. The themes of the three break-out sessions are:

- Break-out session 1: Diaspora alliances and partnerships for development
- Break-out session 2: Common ground and partnerships to protect migrants in crisis
- Break-out session 3: Labour mobility and skills development for inclusive growth and jobs

5. Organization and Planning

GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office

At the invitation of the Mauritian GFMD Chair 2012, ICMC continues to serve as the Coordinating Office for GFMD-related civil society activities.⁹ Working closely with an International Advisory Committee of civil society leaders from around the world, and with civil society partners worldwide, the Coordinating Office has taken up the critical challenge to fundraise for and to organize activities of civil society within the process of the 2012 GFMD towards the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in

⁸ Common Space proposal 2012 presented by Mauritius to governments at the Friends of the Forum meeting on 29 June.

⁹ Upon the invitation of the Swiss GFMD Chair in 2011, the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office was established under the auspices of the [International Catholic Migration Commission](http://www.icmc.ch) (ICMC), an internationally operating NGO based in Geneva.

2013 and beyond. This very much includes engagement with governments and private donors interested in strengthening civil society actors, advocacy and action worldwide in regional and inter-regional networks that complement and link to these global processes on migration and development. The Coordinating Office works under the leadership of Mr. John K. Bingham, head of policy at ICMC, assisted by two full-time staff members and a corps of volunteers.

International Advisory Committee and the Consultation Circle

At the core of Civil Society's migration and development network is the International Advisory Committee (IAC), a group of 25 civil society leaders in migration and development with sectoral, geographic and gender diversity. The IAC advises and assists ICMC's Coordinating Office in developing, implementing and monitoring the Civil Society programme and its link to the government GFMD programme. The current IAC comprises a number of IAC veterans from prior years, as well as new members, in particular from African and diaspora groups, along with Mauritian and Swedish civil society representatives.¹⁰

Complementing the IAC is an open global network called the Consultation Circle, which ICMC established in 2011. Currently comprising 100 civil society representatives active in migration and development around the world, the Consultation Circle is regularly consulted on civil society thematic focuses, formats, selection of speakers and outcomes.

Organization in Mauritius

In Mauritius, the Coordinating Office is working with the Chair and local partners. The Coordinating Office's presence in Mauritius is the national Caritas organization. Since January, the Coordinating Office has been working closely with Caritas' head Mrs. Patricia Adèle Félicité on the preparations for the Civil Society Days in Mauritius on 19 and 20 November. Side by side, the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) has taken up the key role of organizing the engagement of national civil society organizations in the GFMD, led by Mr. Ram Nookadee.

Relations

Continuing from last year, the Civil Society Coordinating Office will maintain a number of relationships vital to the GFMD civil society process. First and foremost the Office will be in continuous communication with the Mauritian Chair and supporting governments for synergies and collaboration. Working relations will also be maintained with the Global Migration Group (GMG) and its member agencies represented herein, the UN Special Representative for Migration, and the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI).

Beyond 2012

The International Advisory Committee, the Consultation Circle, the Working Groups described earlier, as well as the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office will largely remain in position after the Civil Society Days in 2012 to ensure continuity and follow-up on GFMD recommendations and outcomes, among other things feeding into the UN High Level Dialogue in 2013, the GFMDs in 2014 and 2015, and the post-2015 global development agenda.

¹⁰ A list of IAC Members can be found on the website: www.gfmdcivilsociety.org

Important dates

Month	Activities
May –July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 15 May – 8 July: Call for applications to participate in the GFMD Civil Society Days- Develop and circulate draft Civil Society Concept Paper 2012 for feedback by 5 August- Invitations and first meetings International Advisory Committee
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Complete selection of civil society delegates (around 15 August)- Invitation to observers and special guests
August – October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Final concept paper and provisional agenda (September)- Start up of 3 working groups- Preparatory process: thematic and logistical, registration of delegates, observers and special guests- Action papers Working groups ready by October
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 19-20 November: GFMD Civil Society Days 2011, Mauritius- 21 November: Common Space (including GFMD civil society delegates)- 21-22 November: GFMD States' Summit

Annex 1: Table links GFMD Civil Society Programme 2012

Overarching theme: Operationalizing Human Development and Protection in International Migration

Civil Society Thematic Focuses 2012	Working session themes Civil Society 2012	Links with Civil Society GFMD Recommendations 2011	Links with States' GFMD Programme 2012
<p>[1] Operationalizing a Rights- based Approach to Labour Mobility, Markets and Matching</p>	<p>1.A Regulating and Monitoring Recruitment, Placement and Employment Practices</p> <p>1.B Improving Jobs, Skills and Education Matching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.1: more regular and safe migration channels that address labour market and protection needs -2.3 / 3.2: reduce economic incentives to hire and exploit irregular migrants / better regulate and monitor recruitment and employment practices - 3.1: labour, skills and education matching: labour market analysis and “matching” of education and training programmes and credential recognition - 3.3: transparent bilateral, circular/temporary migration schemes with equal access to rights and entitlements 	<p>RT 1.1: Beyond-the-Border Skills and Jobs for Human Development</p>
<p>[2] Operationalizing Human Development in International Migration</p>	<p>2.A Engaging Diaspora as Entrepreneurs, Social Investors and Policy Advocates</p> <p>2.B Rights-based Development Solutions and Migration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4.2/5.4: Migrant/diaspora partnerships and engagement: ... to replicate and scale up projects and build a common vision on specific themes...advocate with one voice.... Government-civil society platform for constructive dialogue - 4.3: Diaspora, entrepreneurs & SME: adjust legal and financial frameworks to promote migrants as entrepreneurs, access to credit and skills development 	<p>RT 1.2: Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socio-economic Change</p>
<p>[3] Operationalizing the Protection of Migrants and their Families</p>	<p>3.A Protecting Vulnerable Migrant Workers</p> <p>3.B Protecting Migrants in Dire Humanitarian Situations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.1: to collect, share and showcase successful relevant advocacy campaigns for the ratification, implementation, and enforcement of legal instrument for the protection of migrants / to undertake a comprehensive review of national and policies that infringe the right of migrants - 1.2: to ensure the rights to family unity and reunifications and the well-being of the family are cornerstones of migration policies - 2.2: access to rights, basic services and redress...and to monitor and report on the access of (irregular) migrants / 2.3 Sanctions against law enforcement officials committing violence / 2.4 Alternatives to detention 	<p>RT 3.2: Migrant Protection as Integral to Migration Management</p> <p>RT 3.3: Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers: Enhancing their Human Development Potential</p>
<p>[Special focus] Operationalizing the Future of Migration & Development Governance</p>	<p>A. The UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013;</p> <p>B. the post-2015 Development Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.1/5.2: integrating the GFMD within a rights-based accountable and transparent framework /formulate proposal on potential modalities for future governance - 4.1: to abandon aid conditionality and to detach development programmes and assistance from the repatriation of irregular migrants and (ex)asylum-seekers 	<p><i>Assessment/Future GFMD-Session</i></p> <p>RT 2.1: Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies</p>

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