



## NGO Committee on Migration

*A committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations*

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Excellencies,

The NGO Committee on Migration very much appreciates the intention of the Government of Mauritius, expressed in its first draft concept paper, to emphasize a close coordination with Civil Society to jointly work with Governments in achieving agreed outcomes at the GFMD 2012 on *Securing development through achievable improvements of migrants well being*.

Based on the outcomes of the Civil Society Days and Common Space meetings of the 2011 GFMD in Geneva, our Committee would like to use this opportunity to submit two preliminary recommendations – one substantive and one procedural – for consideration at the brainstorming meeting scheduled to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in Mauritius.

On substance, we respectfully urge -- in concordance with the outcome Statement of the 2011 Civil Society Days -- that the right of migrants to family unity and reunification must be the cornerstone of migration policies. We therefore recommend that consideration of this matter be mainstreamed into all Round Table discussions. Policy outcomes could include:

1. Ratification and implementation of national, regional, and international instruments for the protection of migrant workers and members of their families, regardless of their migration status;
2. Crafting of alternatives to current national detention policies which separate family members and include minors;
3. Crafting of alternatives to circular and temporary migration programs which involve family fragmentation;
4. Including family members in work visas; and
5. Monitoring the impact of international trade policies to ensure that persons can find decent livelihoods for themselves and their families at home, and migration becomes a choice, not a necessity.

On procedure, we are encouraged by the willingness of Governments to partner with Civil Society in the common endeavor of making migration and development a win win situation for all stakeholders, and for that purpose to meet together during the common space sessions of the Global Forum. However, In order for that common space to accomplish its purpose, ways must be devised to move beyond a formal speech making session to one in which an actual dialogue

takes place, allowing for a genuine exchange of information and views leading to agreed upon time and place specific outcomes.

The NGO Committee on Migration and its local and global partners look forward to our cooperation with the Government of Mauritius, and all States members, in preparing for the GFMD 2012 as well as the UN High Level Dialogue at UNHQ in 2013. We will gladly share our human resources, and partner with interested stakeholders, to improve the well being of migrants and the achievement of people centered development worldwide.

Yours sincerely,

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