

Civil Society “self” Organizing towards the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Update for UN Member States by the HLD Civil Society Steering Committee

11 April 2013



“Ever since national frontiers were invented, people have been crossing them – not just to visit foreign countries, but to live and work there. In doing so, they have almost always taken risks, driven by a determination to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Those aspirations have always been the motors of human progress. Historically, migration has improved the well being, not only of individual migrants, but of humanity as a whole.” --- Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations in the lead up to the HLD 2006

HLD Civil Society Steering Committee

Since the organization of the first UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) in 2006, civil society organizations across the world have increasingly been working and moving together on migration and development advocacy and work. With an eye on the upcoming HLD, civil society organizations present at the 2012 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD Mauritius) and at the World Social Forum on Migration (Philippines) a week later, achieved broad agreement on establishing a Civil Society Steering Committee to coordinate civil society engagement in the 2013 High-level Dialogue and its preparatory process.

In March 2013, the 30-member Civil Society Steering Committee was established with utmost respect to sectoral, geographical and gender balance, and representativity. The membership of the Steering Committee reflects a balance of civil society sectors working on migration including migrant/diaspora, labour, rights and development organizations, academia and organizations working with the private sector (*see last page for a list of member organizations*). The GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) was tasked with convening this Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will advise the President of the General Assembly on participant, speaker and theme selection for the Interactive Hearings with civil society taking place on the 15th of July at UN Headquarters, and modalities for the selection of civil society speakers at the High Level Dialogue on 3 and 4 October.

Civil Society Proposal for a 5-Year Plan as a formal HLD outcome

Civil society looks to the next HLD in 2013 with great hope and expectations to find longer term solutions, commitments and institutional changes that address migration comprehensively at the global level. Beginning in working sessions of the GFMD in Mauritius and the World Social Forum on Migration in the Philippines, over 100 national, regional and international civil society organizations have submitted a proposal to UN Member States, which envisions a concrete action agenda coming out of the HLD for a period of 5 years with benchmarks, mechanism and monitoring.

(the proposal is available here in English, French and Spanish:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/hld2013.html>)

The Action Agenda should be framed around a limited set of key issues where there is a broad sense that progress is, ambitiously but reasonable achievable. Civil society proposed seven key issues for on this agenda.

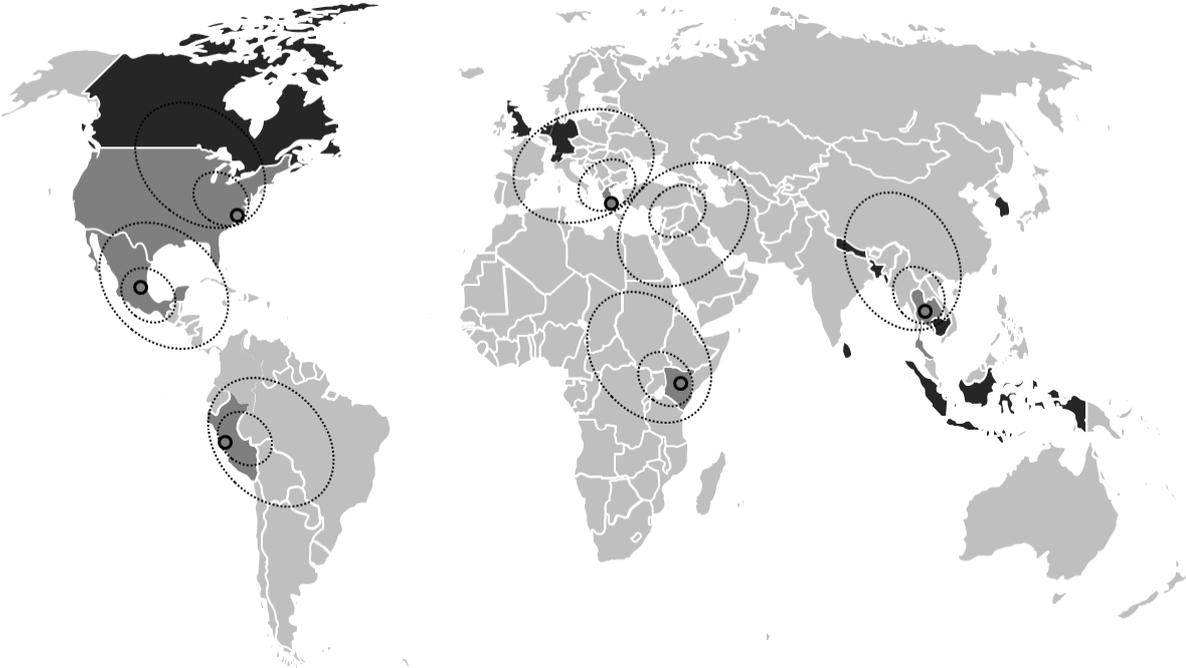
Key issues for an Action Agenda

1. Regulating the migrant labour recruitment industry
2. Addressing protection needs of migrants stranded in distress, including migrants in transit
3. Ensuring migrants’ and migration’s rightful place on the post-2015 development agenda (i.e. in the “next generation” of Millennium Development Goals)
4. Guaranteeing labour rights and decent work for migrant workers
5. Addressing vulnerabilities and rights of migrant women and children
6. Promoting the implementation of national legislation reflecting international standards regarding migrants and their families
7. Redefining the interactions of international mechanisms for migrants’ rights protection

Regional, thematic and national civil society preparations

Across the world civil society networks are organizing preparations and consultations among themselves and with governments around these themes, directly linking them to the four round table themes proposed for the HLD. The indicative map below shows some of these meetings taking place in the coming months, with more meetings to be added.

(map as of the 11th of April 2013)



<p>Regional civil society consultations in:</p> <p>Thematic civil society consultation in:</p> <p>National civil society consultations in:</p>	<p>Africa (Nairobi), Asia-Pacific (Bangkok), Central America & Mexico, Europe (Athens), South America (Lima), U.S. & Canada (Washington D.C.), West-Asia (tbc)</p> <p>Germany (diaspora), the Netherlands (diaspora), Switzerland (HLD themes)</p> <p>Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Nepal, South-Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, USA</p>
---	--

Civil Society Participation in the Interactive Hearings and the HLD

A considerable number of civil society organizations will be able to attend the HLD, but the General Assembly's (GA) "modalities" resolution adopted in 2012 sets a limit on civil society participation and speaking roles during the HLD plenaries and roundtables. To ensure wider engagement and input by civil society, the GA resolution set forth to organize "*one-day informal interactive hearings in 2013 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector*". The Interactive Hearings will take place on the 15th of July.

The UN has launched a website for these Interactive Hearings, including links to the registration system both for civil society organizations with and without ECOSOC-status, including NGO's, the private sector and academic institutions. The deadline for **pre-registration is 15 May**, for both the Interactive Hearings and the HLD. Organizations without ECOSOC status, will have to be approved by Members on a non-objection basis before the 15th of June. See:

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/hld2013.html>

Limited financial support is expected to be available for civil society participation in particular from developing countries and migrant communities. The Civil Society Steering Committee will set transparent and fair selection criteria and procedures to allocate the limited funding to participants who otherwise would not be able to participate in the Interactive Hearings or HLD. Information about the funding application procedure will be available soon at www.hldcivilsociety.org

Members of the HLD Civil Society Steering Committee

Organizations on the HLD Civil Society Steering Committee as of 8 April 2013:

- AFL-CIO
- African Foundation for Development (AFFORD-UK)
- Bancomer Foundation
- Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI)
- Caritas Internationalis - *tbc*
- Caritas Sweden
- Centre de Derechos Humanos, Universidad Nacional de Lanus
- Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, India
- Cordaid
- Education International (EI)
- Espacio Sin Fronteras
- International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), Georgetown University
- International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI)
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
- Migrants' Rights International (MRI)
- National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
- National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) - *tbc*
- New York Host Committee
- NGO Committee on Migration (CoNGO)
- Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants' Rights (PANiDMR)
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrant Workers (PICUM)
- Programme for the Study of Global Migration (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva)
- Public Service International (PSI)
- Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo (RIMD)
- Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)
- Transnational Migration Platform (TMP)
- United Methodist Women
- Verité
- World Economic Forum (WEF)

*For more information visit: www.hldcivilsociety.org (coming soon)
or contact us at: contact@hldcivilsociety.org*