

Civil Society

"Stockholm Agenda"

on migrant and migration-related goals and targets

in post-2015 global and national development agendas

Point 1 of the "5-year 8-point Plan of Action" that global civil society presented to the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013 (HLD) calls for the integration of migrants and migration into the post-2015 development agenda "to address not only the contributions that migrants make to development in countries of origin and destination, but also the possibilities for better policy planning and coherence that can make migration more genuinely a choice and not a necessity, and greater gain than drain."

Before, within and in follow-up to the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Stockholm, civil society came together to assert the following framework and a set of goals and targets that connect migrants and migration with human and economic development that is decent, sustainable and transformative.

Many of these goals and targets match and take forward important emphases of the consensus Declaration of Member States at the HLD and the work of a range of post-2015 processes, including the UN member states' Open Working Group and the April 2014 Dhaka recommendations.

Civil society proposes to collaborate with UN member states to ensure that the forthcoming post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development agendas reflect these goals and targets, and to together achieve, monitor and measure progress on them over the 15 years through 2030.

I. Over-arching framework

Migrants and migration belong in international and national post-2015 development agendas, as both actors and subjects of human and economic development that is sustainable.

As a first matter, SDGs must address root causes and conditions that force people to migrate, especially surging global inequalities driven by current development and economic paradigms. We must move towards people and nature-centered, rights-based development. This is an urgent practical matter, but also a clear moral imperative, not least so that migration can be a choice, not a necessity. In this direction, the SDGs must include strong goals for:

- decent work for all, with labour rights, as a goal for all countries but with explicit reference to protection of migrant workers regardless of status
- universal publicly-funded and delivered social protection in critical areas of community well-being

Migrant earnings and remittances are important contributors to family and community development. Remittances however, are private transfers: they should not be diverted or used as the "answer" or substitute for development policy or assistance.

The SDGs must point to and incorporate full participation of migrants and diaspora as partners in public policy planning and implementation, development and data collection.

As described on the next page, a number of migrant and migration-related targets may fit either under broader SDGs (such as ending poverty; fair, accessible and adequate healthcare, education and governance; empowering girls and women, etc.) or together as a logical set for transformative human and economic development, including:

- decreasing remittance transfer costs
- reducing risks to migrants on the move, in particular: recruitment costs; lack of fair, regular and orderly channels of migration; criminalization of migrants; and risks to women and to children in contexts of human trafficking, transit and crisis
- portability of social security, pension and skills, including recognition of qualifications

II. Targets under goals similar to the current MDGs or focus areas of the Open Working Group.

GOAL 1

Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth

- Create and preserve decent work opportunities in countries of origin which make migration and re-migration an option instead of a necessity and mitigate brain drain
- Ensure that migrants enjoy decent working conditions and social protection that conform to international human rights and labour standards
- Ensure portability of skills and benefits

GOAL 2

End poverty

- Reduce costs of labour migration, with priority to abolishing debt bondage and recruitment charges to migrant workers
- Reduce the cost of sending remittances
- Protect and promote the private use of remittances for family and community development

GOAL 3

Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality

- Provide access to social and legal protection and decent work to migrant women and girls, including domestic workers

GOAL 4

Provide quality education and lifelong learning

- Ensure migrants' access to education, particularly for children who are migrants themselves or the children of migrants

GOAL 5

Ensure healthy lives

- Ensure that all migrants have access to adequate and quality healthcare

GOAL 6

Ensure good governance and effective institutions

- Ensure that all migrants have access to justice and due process equal to nationals
- End policies and practices that criminalize and detain migrants based upon their migration status
- Increase participation and contribution of migrants in public policy planning and implementation
- Ratify and implement core UN and ILO instruments

GOAL 7

Ensure stable and peaceful societies

- Increase public awareness of cultural, social and economic contributions of migrants and diaspora
- Institutionalize mechanisms that embrace and integrate or reintegrate migrants and their families into their countries of origin, heritage and destination

GOAL 8

Create a global enabling environment for development with new partnerships

- Ensure that migrants and diaspora are fully engaged as partners in development
- Expand collaboration on and access to migration and development data

III. Targets under a stand-alone goal for multi-actor global and national collaboration.

Civil society believes that this goal uniquely frames four targets to remedy inefficiencies and obstacles that block migrants and migration from achieving greater human and economic development.

GOAL 9

Enlarge human security and human development benefits of migration

- Prevent and address international human trafficking and violence against migrants
- Improve systemic responses to forced migration, including migrants uprooted by crisis and climate change
- Facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, through enhanced international cooperation
- Reduce inefficiencies that generate large numbers of migrants lacking proper documentation

IV. Measurable indicators for all of the above targets are being developed separately.