



International Human Rights Day 2015

1. We appreciate the invitation of the NGO Committee on Human Rights to join our colleagues from the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and our colleagues from the Committees on Aging, Freedom of Religion, Children's Rights and others in this celebration of Human Rights Day.
2. All of us here are engaged in pushing the human rights agenda; that is what we are at the UN for; and hopefully together—and only together—can we move forward to achieve our common goals, as set forth in the Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on Economic and Social Rights, as well as the 4 Freedoms proposed by Franklin D Roosevelt—especially freedom from fear and freedom from want.
3. The Mission of our NGO Committee on Migration is to empower and to protect the human rights of migrants, in accordance with the UN Charter. In that context, the current focus of our Committee's activities is two-fold: 1) on migrants in crisis in transit, especially the most vulnerable groups such as women and children; and 2) on integrating migration into the implementation of the 2030 development agenda.
4. At the present moment of the global migration crisis, the focus on migrants in crisis, especially in transit, has taken on new urgency, as has the importance of bridging humanitarian and development policies.
5. Regarding Migrants in Crisis in Transit:
 - We have produced a small publication entitled *2015 NGO Practitioners' Survey Results*, based on the responses of some 40 on-the-ground practitioner NGOs who serve migrants in transit. The Survey Results include the practitioners' views about the greatest challenges in serving these migrants in transit, best practices, and important recommendations to States, Agencies, and CSOs;
 - We are in consultation with a State-led initiative on Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC), led by the United States and the Philippines, to ensure that we work in parallel, rather than at cross purposes;
 - We are working together with the International Conference of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) as Friends of the UNHCR High Commissioner's annual protection dialogue, which this year (December 16-17 in Geneva) focuses on the Root Causes of Displacement;
 - We are preparing for the annual UNHCR-NGO Consultation in mid-June, 2016, whose theme is Youth. One of our subcommittees is preparing a

proposal on the educational needs of the littlest, pre-school refugees in camps, especially in the Near East.

6. Regarding mainstreaming migration into the implementation of the 2030 development agenda:
 - We are part of the Informals Group initiated by Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Migration and Development, to mainstream into the 2030 development agenda indicators which measure and monitor the goals and targets of the agenda, especially 8.8 on the human rights of migrant workers and 10.7 on the human right to safe, orderly, regular migration ;
 - We are urging the Commission on Population and Development,(CPD) which meets in mid-April,2016, to put more emphasis on migration issues in its annual sessions, especially given the global migration crisis.;
 - We actively participate in the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). In the recent 2015 GFMD in Istanbul,Turkey, our members organized a working session on MICIT; and a second working session on the role of migrants as contributors to development. We support self sufficiency of refugees and forcibly displaced migrants (the number of displaced make up 1 in 7 of the world's population) and their human right to services, such as schooling for kids, and labor market access.
 - We are preparing for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016, where we strongly support a shift from humanitarian to development policies, especially given the enormity of the current humanitarian crisis, which has drained humanitarian funding. We have some concerns about the anticipated role of Civil Society in preparations for, and participation in, that Forum, based on conversations with the Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at recent briefings, as well as the lack of modalities for the event so far.
7. Finally, we are also in continuous collaborative contact with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), both in Geneva, and, of course, here in New York. During a work visit in Geneva in September, we were invited to a showing of, and consultation regarding, an OHCHR sponsored film on devastating abuses experienced by women migrant workers. And more recently, we were invited to contribute to a study OHCHR is preparing on migrants in transit for the Human Rights Council.

We thank you all for allowing us to work with you—in the past, the present, and the future -- to empower and protect the human rights of all persons on this earth, especially the most vulnerable.

December 8th, 2015