

*Global Forum on Migration and Development
Civil Society Programme 2012*

**Recommendations
&
Benchmarks**

The GFMD Civil Society Programme 2012

Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration

GFMD in Africa

For the first time since the founding of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2006, the GFMD took place in Africa. The sixth GFMD Civil Society Days were organized in Mauritius on 19 and 20 November, just prior to the GFMD Government Summit on 21 and 22 November.

GFMD Civil Society Coordination

Following the invitation by the government of Mauritius, GFMD Chair for 2012, the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office, set up under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) continued its role in 2012. The Coordinating Office continued to work together with the International Advisory Committee of 28 leaders in migration and development, and in close cooperation with a broad range of civil society partners worldwide and locally, representing migrants and diaspora groups, human rights and workers organizations, development agencies, academia and the private sector.

Civil Society Preparations and Working Groups

Civil society's preparatory and follow-up activities continued to broaden, including a first-ever continental Africa meeting. 2012 also saw the creation of two formal civil society working groups to pool and organize civil society expertise: a Working Group on the High Level Dialogue (HLD) and the Global Governance of Migration; and a Working Group on Diaspora and Migrants for Development.

Participation in the Civil Society Days 2012

The GFMD Civil Society Days 2012 brought together some 140 civil society delegates, many of them migrants themselves, with more than 50% coming from developing and low-income countries and a record number of civil society actors from Africa. Another 100 representatives of government and media and other guests and observers were also welcomed as participants in the GFMD civil society programme.

Civil Society Programme 2012

Over the two days, participants deliberated in plenary and working sessions on the central theme “*Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration*”. This theme reflected the priority of civil society to focus on taking more concrete steps with recommendations, identifying implementable mechanisms and - where feasible - benchmarks against which success can be measured in the next years. The programme was structured around four themes:

- Labour:** Operationalizing rights-based approach to labour mobility, markets and matching
- Development** Operationalizing human development in international migration
- Protection:** Operationalizing the protection of migrants and their families
- Governance:** Operationalizing migration and development governance and the HLD

The two days of deliberations resulted in a set of recommendations and benchmarks, presented below and a Statement, presented to governments during their opening plenary 21 November. “*We are here today not for ourselves*”, the Civil Society Statement emphasizes, “*we are here for change*”.

{ “*We are here today not for ourselves,
we are here for change*”
GFMD Civil Society Statement 2012 } }

Figure 1: Snapshot of GFMD Civil Society Days 2012

Civil society delegates and other participants

- **258** participants in total, **140** civil society delegates:
 - o **40** of them speakers in the Civil Society Days programme
 - o **67** female, **73** male
 - o **58** migrants themselves and **53** diaspora/migrant-led organizations
 - o **54** development groups, **44** human rights organizations, **15** labour organizations, **18** academia and **9** private sector
 - o **39** from Africa, **24** from Americas, **30** from Asia Pacific, **45** from Europe, **2** from the Middle East
 - o **14** Mauritius civil society organizations
- **46** observers from regional and international organizations
- **8** special guests
- **36** government representatives of **19** countries
- **24** media representatives

New and special features CSD 2012

- 1st time GFMD was hosted in **Africa**, with a record number of African civil society delegates
- 1st time the plenary-sessions of the Civil Society Days were **live-streamed**
- 1st time focuses on:
 - o **broader development**, including the post-2015 agenda
 - o **migrants in distress**
 - o **labour matching and markets**, including a full session on **recruitment**
- Central **emphasis on benchmarks** and mechanisms
- **Broadened donor base** for the GFMD Civil Society programme (double the number of donors from the prior year, i.e. 12 for 2012)
- Launch of 2 global **civil society Working Groups** on Diaspora/Migrants for Development and on the Global Governance of Migration and the UNHLD 2013

Recommendations on Labour

Recommendation 1
**To better licence, regulate and monitor
recruitment, placement and employment practices**

Civil society reaffirmed the call to better license, regulate and monitor recruitment actors and called for the creation of user-led systems to promote good and reliable recruitment channels, while exposing bad recruiters and violators. Civil society reiterated the strong call for increased ratification and implementation of UN and ILO conventions, including the 1990 UN Migrant Workers Convention, and ILO Conventions 181 regarding recruitment processes and 189 on domestic workers. Governments were also urged to ensure the freedom of association and worker organizing.

Benchmarks:

- ∞ Significant increase in ratification and implementation of UN and ILO conventions, including the 1990 UN migrant workers convention, and the ILO convention 181 regarding recruitment processes
- ∞ Creation of national, regional and international user-led systems, web portals and apps to promote good and reliable recruitment channels and expose bad practices
- ∞ Increased freedom of association and migrant affiliations to workers organizations

Recommendations on Labour

Recommendation 2 **To improve the matching of jobs, skills and education**

Re-emphasizing the sine qua non of legal channels of migration and pathways to permanent residence, civil society elaborated recommendations to organize skills and credentials recognition in a better and just manner to prevent deskilling and brain waste, by harmonizing education and qualification standards and by introducing sector-specific regional and global training and certification standards.

Benchmark:

- ∞ Increased harmonization of education, qualification and training standards starting in sectors with many migrant workers such as health care, domestic care, engineering, agriculture, shipping, and more

Recommendations on Human Development

Recommendation 3

To better engage migrants and diaspora as entrepreneurs, social investors and policy advocates in development

Recalling its recommendation from previous GFMD meetings to governments to include diaspora and migrant voices in development policy formulation and implementation, civil society called for the creation of national multi-stakeholder migration-and-development policy-making mechanisms in origin and destination countries. Civil society also called for conducive legal and financial frameworks to promote migrants as entrepreneurs through financial support, capacity building, business networking, legal protection and provisions in the law for dual citizenship.

Benchmarks:

- ∞ More countries have national consultative mechanisms that explicitly include migrants/diaspora communities in policy-making concerning them, including on development assistance and trade agreements with countries of origin
- ∞ More countries of residence and origin have introduced specific services and funding mechanisms that support migrant and diaspora investments, including a 1-stop-portal for diaspora/migrants interesting in investing back home in business development and poverty alleviation
- ∞ Significant increase in countries allowing dual nationality

Recommendations on Human Development

Recommendation 4
**To include migration into national and
global development frameworks**

Moving from strictly diaspora phenomena into broader dynamics of development and migration, civil society echoed government recommendations of prior GFMD meetings to improve data collection and develop national-level indicators on migration and development for monitoring purposes. Further, civil society called forcefully for migration to be incorporated into new policy frameworks of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

Benchmarks:

- ∞ Civil society position paper in 2013 on migration and the post-2015 development agenda
- ∞ Significant increase in countries (both of origin and destination) with a national migration and development policy paper, including national-level indicators and monitoring of the effect of migration on development, and of development on migration
- ∞ Increased participation of development NGO's and agencies in the GFMD

Recommendations on Protection

Recommendation 5

To ensure laws and mechanisms that protect vulnerable migrant workers, including domestic workers and migrants in irregular status

Civil society emphasized that without adequate protection, large number of migrants are prone to harassment, discrimination, exclusion, violence and exploitation, severely constraining them from improving their own human development, that of their families, communities, countries of origin and destination. Civil society stressed that the first requisite for protection is binding national and international law, and called for translation of laws into action: e.g. providers of essential public services should not be required to report on immigration status; and migrant workers should not be tied to one employer. Civil society called upon international organizations, governments and their own constituencies to map countries' domestic compliance with international standards

Benchmarks:

- ∞ Significant increase in ratification and implementation of UN and ILO conventions, including the ILO convention 189 on domestic workers
- ∞ Abolishment of migration regimes that tie migrant workers to one employer
- ∞ Increased mappings of countries' domestic compliance with international standards and best practices on the protection of vulnerable migrants

Recommendations on Protection

Recommendation 6
**To create a protection framework for migrants trapped
in dire humanitarian situations**

Civil society strongly suggested to make migrants in crisis a priority area for the yearly agendas of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and to include all stakeholders in those processes. Civil society further pledged to work with governments and international organizations, and proposed to initiate a multi-stakeholder migrants-in-crisis Group. The Group would work towards a coordinated protection framework based on existing legal instruments, and guidance and practical examples on how states' and other parties best respond in humanitarian crisis situations to protect migrants, including in situations of conflict, disasters and transit where migrants are victims of violence and trauma.

Benchmarks:

- ∞ The agenda's of the Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) in 2013-2015 have included migrants in crisis as a priority
- ∞ A "migrants-in-crisis" Group including leaders from governments, civil society and international organizations, and under the leadership of the the UN Special Rapporteur on Migrants has developed a matrix of existing legal instruments, and guidance and practical examples on how states' and other parties best respond in humanitarian crisis situations to protect migrants

Recommendations on Governance

Recommendation 7 **To ensure a central and integral role for civil society in the UN High Level Dialogue 2013**

Civil Society presented a 5-Point Plan for Strong Civil Society Involvement in the upcoming High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2013 (UN HLD), including a list of priority agenda items for the UN HLD focusing on migrants' protection, decent work, gender and migration, and the post-2015 development agenda.

The 5-points are:

1. Substantive **preparatory activities** at the regional and international level;
2. **Full and active participation of civil society** in the High Level Dialogue itself;
3. **Resources**, including a trust fund, to enable an international steering committee to coordinate civil society engagement in the High Level Dialogue;
4. **The 2013 UNHLD to focus on:**
 - a. Measures to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants, including migrants in distress; irregular migrants; and the rights of children in the context of migration
 - b. Labor migration and decent work, including immediate possibilities to address abuses within the recruitment field
 - c. Gender and migration
 - d. Migration and development, including the post-2015 development agenda;
5. A **succinct, negotiated outcome document** that can address critical issues of global migration governance and concrete actions for strong HLD outcomes.



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