

GFMD Common Space Breakout Session 3

Empowering migrants and communities for social inclusion and human development - partnering with states, local authorities and civil society

Wednesday, 14 May 2014

15h30-17h30

Venue: Riddarsalen

Agenda

Context Ensuring that migrants and diasporas have access to public services promotes both social and economic inclusion while reducing vulnerability. Access to education and health services, justice and social protection – as well as opportunities and responsibilities that promote participation in public life and social interaction – empowers migrants and their families to build better lives, while enabling them to act as agents of development for their countries of origin, the communities they live in and those from which they come. Coherent national migration policy frameworks are needed to foster both rights and opportunities for migrants and diasporas, but local authorities and civil society organisations are also extremely important actors when it comes to implementing services on the ground every day. Local authorities are often the primary interface between migrants and schools, health care institutions, banking services, police forces, housing authorities, or local political parties and the many other structures of daily life in the community. Civil society organisations (including migrant and diaspora associations) are often critical sources of information and advocates for migrant access to services.

Local authorities and civil society organisations in countries of origin, often working together, play a critical role in maintaining connections between migrants/diaspora and their communities of origin, as well as in creating support structures for families that remain behind. For the first time at a GFMD meeting, this Common Space session will spotlight related experiences and mechanisms of practical cooperation between national governments, local authorities and migrant and other civil society organisations, in and among countries of destination, origin and heritage.

Moderator **Kathleen Newland**, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

15h30-15h40 Welcoming remarks by moderator, introduction of topic and panel structure.

15h40-16h10 *Session One : Governments*

Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary, State Department, USA

Juan José García Vásquez, Vice-Minister for Salvadorans Abroad, El Salvador

Discussion with the floor

16h10-16h40 *Session Two: Civil Society*

Monami Maulik, Executive Director, DRUM, NYC, USA

Sicel'mpilo Shange-Buthan, Executive Director, Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA)

Discussion with the floor

16h40-17h10 *Session Three: Local Authorities*

John G. Bongat, Mayor of the City of Naga, Philippines

Charlotte Svensson, Director, Labour Market Administration, City of Stockholm

Discussion with the floor

17h10-17h30 **Closing discussion**

Reflections from Moderator/Rapporteur

17h30 **Close of meeting**

Guiding questions:

- *What kind of partnerships between local authorities and civil society organisations are most effective in opening public services to migrants and diasporas?*
- *What are the most significant obstacles to inclusion of migrants in civic life and how can they be overcome?*
- *What forums exist for cities and local authorities in countries of origin and destination to share their programs and experiences of migrant integration and empowerment?*
- *How can migration be addressed in development planning? What issues should be the focus of national frameworks of migrant empowerment—for countries of origin? For countries of destination?*
- *How can local and national authorities help migrants and diasporas maintain connections with their countries and communities of origin to promote human development?*