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Agenda items 3 and 6

Report of Civil Society Activities for 2014-2015

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*As prepared for delivery;
referenced Civil society documents available
at www.gfmdcivilsociety.org*

Ambassador Samsar, Deputy Director Altuğ, Ambassador Åckerman Börje, Secretary Haque and Special Representative Sutherland,

Greetings to the Chair and to all partners in this Global Forum movement.

On behalf of civil society worldwide, ICMC is happy to once again serve as Coordinating office to organize the range of civil society activities within the GFMD for the period July 2014 through December 2015. As you know, in the GFMD civil society has been defined as NGOs, migrant and diaspora associations, trade unions, academia and the private sector. In 2014, **over half of the civil society delegates were migrants.**

A word on ICMC. With staff and programmes on the ground in 40 countries as well as offices in Geneva, Brussels and Washington, ICMC works with refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants regardless of faith, race, ethnicity or nationality. We have had a significant refugee programme in Turkey for over 20 years now. We don't proselytize or discriminate, either with people we serve or with staff. Since 2010, we've had coordinating roles in GFMD civil society activities working with chairs Mexico, Switzerland, Mauritius and Sweden and, at the request of partners in civil society and the President of the UN General Assembly, for the High Level Dialogue last year. Our Migration and Development ["MADE"] programme, now based in Brussels, co-funded by the EU and run by Ms. Wies Maas, works in connection with but much beyond the GFMD—with formal *regional* civil society partnerships in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America-the Caribbean, and *global* civil society working groups on labour migration, diaspora, global governance and post-2015 development (*there are pamphlets on the table at the side of the room*).



Everything we do well we do with an International civil society Steering Committee (ISC), last year with 34 leading international, regional and national civil society organizations from around the world.

In that spirit may I touch five minutes on the civil society GFMD programme under the Swedish Chair in 2013-2014, then go to the GFMD in front of us, and finish with post-2015 development urgency.

I. GFMD 2014

We **congratulate** the Swedish Chair for the achievement of the GFMD 2013-2014, and now an excellent report. It is a clean read that is really worth it.

I will make several **references directly to pages in the report** that say things more clearly than I would.

1. GFMD 2014 process

We'd like to thank Ambassador Eva Åkerman-Börje and her team for the high standard on substance, process and politics in the organizing of this recent GFMD. We would especially note Sweden's *stellar* process working this year with its own *national* civil society, organized with our partner Caritas Sweden. Pages 35-37 of the GFMD report underscore the great potential of the GFMD Chair working with its own civil society groups on migration and development, as did the Philippines, Mexico and Switzerland, many coming together on the link between migration and development for the first time, and exchanging expertise and building relationships for the future.

Throughout the report we note consistent positive reference to the engagement of global Civil society in the GFMD process:

- Civil society's global organizing activities: ps. 29 + 30
- Civil society participation with governments, in thematic preparatory events, in Common Space, including as moderators, and in the new small "breakfast tables" that I will refer to in a moment. - Ps. 44-47
- The summary of the Civil Society Days: ps. 77 -79, with the full programme in the Annex ps. 95 - 97

Briefly to report a few **highlights of the Civil Society Days programme** at this year's GFMD:

- There was a **record 356 participants**: 202 of them civil society delegates, 55 government representatives.
- For the first time, more than half of the civil society delegates were migrants, with the greatest number representing rights organizations, then development organizations, then trade unions, with a couple dozen academics and seven private sector.
- A strong **innovation this year was the format of five small "breakfast tables"** that civil society introduced on the Wednesday morning between the Civil Society Days and the states' GFMD programme. These brought 17 states and 22 civil society leaders together for direct conversation on 5 pressing issues:
 - #1: Migrants, migration and the post-2015 global development agenda
 - #2: Migrant labour recruitment
 - #3: Migrants and diaspora for development and job creation
 - #4: Migrants in crisis situations, in transit and at borders
 - #5: Migrant children in detention
- **Participant evaluations** of the breakfast table approach and of the overall Civil Society Days programme were broadly positive. *Copies of the summary of the evaluations we received—notably from 33% of the civil society delegates—are on the table at the side of the room.* As always, we are particularly interested in criticism and suggestions for change. Here we want to share with you, for your reflection and then action we may take together, the key—and criticisms that cross-cut the evaluations this year as in prior years:

1. the difficulty in formulating indicators and measuring action and results on the recommendations from the GFMD
2. the importance of direct conversation with governments, though a full 60 civil society organizations reported that they had meetings with their governments during Common Space and/or the government days of the GFMD
3. the need for more development organizations—civil society and government—to be involved in the GFMD

Something very important for us, all, to consider—in fact a kind of warning: 50% of the respondents had only “average” hope that the GFMD would lead to local or national implementation or reproduction of practice and change, within which 15% had “little” hope for that.

2. GFMD 2014 *substance*

It is illuminating to compare the substance and recommendations between the states and civil society in this recent GFMD.

- The states’ recommendations are in Sweden’s GFMD report: ps. 52-63
- Civil society’s 7 principal recommendations are in a brochure that we prepared entitled “GFMD Civil Society Days 2014: Recommendations and Benchmarks” (*copies on the table at the side of the room*). **Each of the 7** recommendations has 3 clear benchmarks to measure progress, matching Civil society’s *5-year 8-point plan of action* for collaboration with governments, from the UN High Level Dialogue last year
- Looking at the states and Civil society recommendations together then:
 - a. **some of the Civil society emphases are quite distinct:**
 - the *urgency* of genuine protection—not just pre-departure information—for migrants in transit distress and at borders (as well as migrants in countries of crisis), especially children
 - alternatives to detention
 - decent work, labour rights and social protection
 - b. **but there is also clear, direct convergence** between Civil society and States recommendations: *some of the principal recommendations are almost the same*
 - ensuring that migrants and migration have meaningful place in post-2015 development agendas, global and national
 - reform of recruitment practice for migrant workers
 - engaging and empowering diaspora
 - a greater range of labour migration opportunities, at all skills levels
 - c. **This raises two questions:**
 - #1: *outside* the GFMD: what is possible for us to ACT together on these issues?
 - #2: *inside* the GFMD: why are we continuing to be—so— separate in these meetings?

II. GFMD 2015

Civil society welcomes the Turkish Chair and looks forward to deepening our work together.

1. States' Concept paper for GFMD 2015

- **NOTE:** *this section only was presented verbally under Item 3 of the meeting agenda*

We appreciate the invitation again this year to provide input in the Chair's drafting of the concept paper for the states' GFMD programme. As in prior years, we have invited feedback from organizations that have been active in the international Civil society Steering Committee and other leading civil society actors. We have received some of that feedback already, but will organize further and submit it in writing shortly.

I am happy to share just a few first impressions from feedback to date:

- a. As partner with governments in migration and development of course we applaud the **overall theme** on "Strengthening Partnerships" on human mobility and development. Migrant and diaspora experience, contribution and voice is essential in partnerships for policy and practice today. We must engage cities too. For this, it will be important for the concept paper and states' programme to connect much more explicitly to civil society actors; also to IOM's recent groundbreaking work with diaspora ministries and its global conference of mayors next year; and to UNITAR's fine work with cities and mayors on these issues.
- b. There is enthusiasm for the inclusion of **forced migration** in the concept paper. It's about time!—to bridge the anachronistic and increasingly fake divide in which we have been too much trapped, between refugees and other forced migrants on one hand and economic and labour dynamics on the other—as if they are not profoundly connected, as cause, context and consequence of human mobility. We like the concept paper's explicit link to labour migration doors and possibilities, because surely we also know—and ICMC's own published research shows—that people on the move ALWAYS look for work, which is often the key in deciding where to go or stay. This is livelihoods as a solution, often spontaneously sought and secured: a necessity but also an expression of human dignity and social participation. All with human and labour rights. These are major considerations for policy-making, and the GFMD does a major service bringing attention to it within the programme this year. To do so effectively, it is necessary to connect to civil society networks focused on refugees and forced migration; also with UNHCR and the exciting energy in its new "Solutions Alliance", as well as the new KNOMAD working Group on forced migration.
- c. We like also the Roundtable focuses on **recruitment and on diaspora**, and are likely to do the same in the civil society programme again this year.
- d. We very much like the concept paper's very intelligent **connecting to the G-20, the Budapest Process and World Humanitarian Summit** in 2016. This brilliantly underscores that the GFMD is not in a vacuum, and not a single event.
- e. We liked the focus of thematic **preparatory events on women, perceptions of migrants, and post-2015 development**. The concept paper should speak more clearly about how the results of these events will connect to and feed the GFMD meeting, substantively and transversally, in Istanbul.
- f. We ask for and will suggest more **detail on Roundtable 1 "protecting rights of migrants"**, to take forward the work of recent GFMDs, e.g., on migrants in crisis and transit, including women and children.
- g. Finally, next steps are essential in **connecting and collaborating with Civil society**. The concept paper observes that the government GFMD process has "matured", now entering its "second stage of evolution". The Civil society process has also matured; so the next step is to mature the relationship of Civil society with governments—especially under this year's

theme of “Strengthening partnerships”. In this direction, may we already—and formally—renew two proposals that we made to you last year:

- **Formal proposal #1:** that we will increase states’ participation in the Civil society programme, i.e., in plenaries, roundtables and innovative formats like the breakfast tables this past year
- **Formal proposal #2:** that Civil society representatives participate in the states’ Roundtables, e.g.: the Chairs + rapporteurs from related Civil society Roundtables. There were two positive examples of such participation in the GFMD in Stockholm, in the states’; Roundtables on diaspora and post-2015.

2. *Civil society programme 2014-15.*

Civil society focus: As in prior years, working with the International Civil society Steering Committee, we will develop Civil society’s focus for activities throughout the period with reference to the Chair’s concept paper but flowing more directly from the work and recommendations of Civil society in the GFMD to date, including the 7 principal recommendations from Stockholm that I referred to earlier. This means that:

- a. Civil society will once again do its **own concept paper**, in the first quarter next year, in consultation with the Chair and inviting input from states and other partners
- b. Like the GFMD this year and civil society activities in the HLD last year, the Civil society’s concept paper and activities will largely **track Civil Society’s 5-year 8 point plan for collaboration with governments** (available on our website gfmddcivilsociety.org)
- c. Following recommendations in the participants’ evaluation of the recent GFMD Civil Society Days, the initial thinking is that the backbone of next year’s Civil society programme will be to **measure progress** against that 5-year 8-point plan, as the GFMD 2015 comes at the end of the “second” of those 5 years. The aim would be to evaluate movement on the issues—and quite expressly, Civil society’s own movement, as co-responsible and co-actor in collaboration for change. *This is our theory of change in the GFMD.*

Civil society process:

- a. During the year Civil society will organize **regional meetings and global thematic work**. Already, for example, there have been three regional Civil society meetings: in Mexico, Peru and Senegal, and meetings of two new global Civil society working groups: on recruitment and post-2015 development agendas.
- b. At the GFMD in Istanbul, we will be looking to replicate the positive Stockholm experience of the **“2 + 1” formula** of Civil society Days leading into more than one form of Common space, e.g., expanding direct government contact with breakfast tables, etc.

Civil society budget: I am happy to be presenting our 18-month budget for GFMD Civil society organizing towards the GFMD 2015 on PowerPoint during our joint Pledging Conference with you this afternoon. But just to say:

- a. We finished activities related to the *recent* GFMD at **breakeven**-- the fourth year in row we have done so, counting HLD civil society programming in 2013

- b. We have appreciated the mix of government and private donors, including foundations, and would like to THANK the governments in the room for support. We will continue to turn to you for a *portion* of the funding.
- c. Our total 18-month budget for 2014-2015 is US \$ 890,000. This is:
 - a. All costs included.
 - b. Zero-growth from our 18-month budget for this past GFMD, and only slightly higher than 12 month budget Mauritius three years ago
- d. We have secured funding about 60% of the budget already—but we will not find the balance outside of this room. I will be asking you for support of **US \$ 350,000**.

Finally:

III. Migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas

Like so many states, civil society places a top priority on including migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas. On the tables at the side of the room is global civil society's unified position: the "*Stockholm Agenda on migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas*".

This **unified Civil society position** is a migrant-centered, rights-based approach to sustainable development that is human as well as economic. It a direct product of the GFMD and parallel civil society processes in Stockholm. 263 Civil society organizations around the world have signed it so far, one of the largest numbers of sign-ons we've ever seen. Quite deliberately, its goals and targets are for national as well as global agendas.

In the global process of elaborating post-2015 development goals, Civil society is happy to see momentum towards including migrants and migration. In the **Outcome Document** of the states' Open Working Group, we quite positively note:

- **12 direct mentions** of important migrant and migration aspects of development as well as inclusion within the scope of "for all" in other goals and targets
- Goal **10(7)** referring to **orderly, safe and regular migration**, and, under Goal **8** on **employment and decent work**, an explicit incorporation of migrant workers and women—which is essential for equity, integration and social cohesion as well as development. As IOM Director General Swing said in Stockholm, "**Risks to migrants are risks to development**". This is true in workplaces as well as in transit.
- Targets on reducing the costs of **remittance transfers**, combatting human **trafficking** (though the goals should not refer only to women and children!) and improving **data disaggregation**

As presented in Civil society's Stockholm agenda, we continue to hope for meaningful reference in the post-2015 development agenda to such important development targets and/or indicators as portability of skills and pensions, and regarding forced migrants. As UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Aleinikoff put it in this town a few weeks ago: "**Displacement is a development issue**".

Civil society is speaking in these directions with governments at international levels and in capitals, some 20 in recent weeks. We will continue to do so, directly, steadily and with passion.

/Thank you.