

**SIMN Intervention to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) Side Event
Human Mobility in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Principles from the Global Forum on Migration and Development
New York, July 1st, 2015**

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), I would like to express my gratitude to the Permanent Missions of Sweden, Turkey and Bangladesh to the United Nations, as well as the International Organization of Migration, for the invitation to participate in this Side Event on Human Mobility in the Context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I would like to share three perspectives from civil society inputs on the inclusion of migrants and migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), two from a broad range of civil society groups worldwide, and then, one further perspective that I would underline as a faith-based actor of civil society.

1. My organization, the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), is one of the 40 civil society networks and organizations that, over the first 6 months of last year, wrote the civil society *“Stockholm Agenda on incorporating migrants and migration into post-2015 development agendas.”* Beginning at the GFMD in that city, 312 civil society networks and organizations around the world debated, signed and advocated that Agenda, jointly and emphatically, especially to governments at home.

We are happy to see our top-most priorities for goals and targets reflected so clearly in the SDGs heading to the Summit in September. Our first emphasis has always been: **decent work with social protection** everywhere, **and sustainable development**, in particular in countries of origin, so that migration can be a choice, not a necessity, and migrants who do migrate can live, work and be full members of their adopted countries, with rights and dignity. We cheer for Goal 8.8 on **protection of labor rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments of all workers**, including migrant workers, particularly female migrants, and those in precarious situations, and the target 10.c. on **reducing costs to transfer remittances**.

Equally important, we have emphasized the urgency of **facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration**, which is reflected in the target 10.7. From this perspective, targets 5.2 and 16.2 on **human trafficking** should be considered coherently with target 10.7 and consistently at both *national and international* levels, in order to include Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and refugees.

Finally, we welcome the **preamble’s** express reference to migrants, together with the SDG insistence on **disaggregating data** in the target 17.18. This is key to monitor that the full range of MDGs do not leave migrants behind.

2. In our “**Stockholm Agenda**”, civil society actually made a **double commitment**: to take migrants and migration-related goals and targets forward within both *global and national* development agendas. We will further do so *thematically* with principal actors in the GFMD, the ILO and IOM among others. At all three levels, civil society has an indispensable role in the task **to frame, monitor, and be co-accountable for progress** on achieving indicators that are meaningful.

“Meaningful” means **indicators that “leave no target behind”**. We are concerned about any suggestion to reduce the number of indicators in ways that empty the targets and goals of their purpose! In addition, “meaningful” means indicators for **integral human development**, not economic development alone, in directions away from the prevailing paradigm of unsustainable development that has missed and hurt so many and so profoundly.

All of this **must include migrants and migrant diaspora, practitioners, faith based organizations and academics alike**, in dialogue, design and direct action on indicators. We are concerned that this is not happening sufficiently as of yet. Indicators will not be meaningful *about us without us*.

3. To close, **some criticize the SDGs**—as many did the MDGs—as naïve, impractical, overly ambitious—even utopian. Those of us who are faith-based organizations and communities—of whatever faith—are pretty accustomed to receiving such criticism ourselves. But we are also familiar with what happens when solidarity brings action like this to bear on the groaning need—and aspiration, and dignity—of creation. In the words of Pope Francis: *“The results of the Millennium Development Goals, especially in terms of education and the decrease in extreme poverty, confirm the value of the work... At the same time, it must be kept in mind that the world’s peoples deserve and expect even greater results.”* And so the new SDGs must *“be formulated and carried out with generosity and courage, so that they can have a real impact on the structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protecting the environment, ensure dignified and productive labor for all, and provide appropriate protection for the family, which is an essential element in sustainable human and social development.”*¹

We **look forward to the Holy Father’s address** as the Summit opens—and this new “leap of faith” towards the future we all want to see happen.

Thank you.

¹ Pope Francis to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN delegation 9 May 2014, <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-to-un-resist-the-economy-of-exclusion-serve-t>