



27 March 2017

**Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme**  
**Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD**  
**Co-Chairmanship**  
**German Federal Foreign Affairs**

**Mr. El Habib Nadir**  
**Secretary General**  
**Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and migration affairs**

Dear Sirs,

Greetings from Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA).

MFA is a regional network of grassroots organizations, trade unions, faith-based groups, migrants and their families and individual advocates in Asia working together for social justice for migrant workers and members of their families. Migrant Forum in Asia is a member of the International Committee of the Peoples Global Action on Migration Development and Human Rights (PGA).

The PGA is an independent civil society process engaging the Global Forum on Migration and Development as well as the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development. The PGA provides space for civil society organization to organize and strategize around issues affecting the rights of migrant workers. Please find attached a brief document outlining our history of engaging government for the UNHLD and GFMD.

In 2016 we organized the PGA in Dhaka, Bangladesh with more than 300 participants from migrants rights movement across the globe. It has been a long tradition for civil society to self-organize the PGA as an independent parallel event for the GFMD, which all Chairs have recognized. Notably, the 2013 High Level Dialogue recognized the important role of civil society in shaping the discourse on migration and development. In 2016, there was significant participation of representatives from organizations and migrants rights volunteers from the Arab region in both the ACSD and PGA.

MFA as a regional organization also organized Asia Civil Society Day (ACSD) on migration and development which brought together representatives of regional networks and trade unions from Asia to discuss migration, development and human rights prior to the GFMD in Dhaka.

Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Government, we as independent Civil Society Organizations have made some gains in our engagement with Governments with a representative of the PGA being invited to be part of the Friends of the Forum Meeting for the first time. The Chair of the GFMD as well addressed the PGA and spoke at the program's closing ceremony. The Government of Bangladesh also extended support in the organizing of the PGA by providing resources and facilitating visas for participants. It was also a first for the PGA to be openly invited in the Government's welcome dinner as well as in the official Government days. Some government representatives were very much engaged during the Civil Society Days in which they were willing to listen and collaborate with civil society, notably on the fair recruitment process in labour supply chains.

We are very much looking forward to see the German government following on the initiative of the Bangladesh government in supporting civil society through a more inclusive participation. We hope the practice of inviting a representative from the PGA to attend the Friends of the Forum meeting would continue as a practice. This would give due recognition to the independent but parallel civil society process that has accompanied the GFMD since the beginning, and which has equally contributed in generating consensus of dialogue and action within the broad civil society.



I realized that the 1st GFMD Friends of the Forum meeting has already taken place. With this, I am asking to formally request the GFMD 2017-2018 Co-Chair Germany to take up the issue of PGA's participation at the next GFMD Troika Meeting, in order to formalize the participation of a PGA representative in GFMD as an Observer, and to be able to attend GFMD activities, beginning from the 2nd Friends of the Forum meeting in Geneva on April 5.

Thank you very much and I look forward to your positive response.

Courage, Peace, Power at a time when we need to bring in new energies, and desperately reinvent ourselves in our hope for a transformative and meaningful change.

William Gois

People Global Action  
International Committee Representative

Migrant Forum in Asia  
Regional Coordinator



## **The Peoples Global Action on Migration Development and Human Rights (PGA) Engagement with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)**

The PGA is an independent civil society process organized in conjunction with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (UNHLD). It presents an alternative model for dialogue and a space to tackle issues on migration and development often not highlighted in the official GFMD process. The Peoples Global Action on Migration Development and Human Rights (PGA) brings together migrant associations, migrant rights organizations, trade unions, faith groups, academia and other civil society from around the world to share information, dialogue, strengthen analyses and develop joint actions and campaigns on current and emerging issues related to migration.

The PGA prioritizes the voices and leadership of organized grassroots migrant and diaspora networks and communities, which are typically marginalized in international forums. Our discussions centre on human rights as the basis for development and explores, from a rights-based perspective, the full range of issues involved in migration, including the underlying problems of poverty and injustice, and how civil society and governments must address these.

The PGA grew out of civil society's response to the UNHLD on Migration and Development, which took place in New York in 2006. Given that CSOs had limited space for engagement in the 2006 UNHLD, the global community dialogue was organized to provide space for CSOs working on migration to discuss issues related to the rights of migrant workers.

As the GFMD process moved forward, Migrants Rights International (MRI) acted as the convenor of the civil society response through a parallel processes. In 2007, the GFMD was held in Brussels, and civil society organized another Global Community Dialogue. In Manila (2008), the parallel event took on the name People's Global Action on Migration, Development, and Human Rights. PGA events have subsequently taken place parallel to the GFMD in Athens (2009), Mexico City (2010), Geneva (2011), Mauritius (2012), Sweden (2014), Turkey (2015) and Bangladesh (2016). The PGA also continued to engage with the UNHLD and organized a CSO parallel process in New York in time for the 2016 UNHLD.

The PGA provides an essential space for lobbying governments and international bodies to look at migration within a human rights framework, and to hold governments accountable to their international human rights and development commitments.

Before and during the official civil society days of the GFMD, the PGA brings together hundreds of civil society representatives and members of the general public. Through workshops, public action and demonstrations, side meetings, and joint declarations addressed to the GFMD, the PGA gives migrants, CSO representatives, and other stakeholders a crucial platform from which to express concerns and offer proposals to their respective governments.

As some of the PGA delegates are also part of the official GFMD Civil Society Days, and actively participate in workshop facilitation, the PGA is able to assert to the governments the important issues that should be considered in the discourse on migration and development, such as, but not limited to, the criminalization of migrants with irregular status, detentions and deportation

practices, protection of children on the move, racism and anti-immigrant practices, and climate change and its impact on migration.

In 2016, significant progress was made in the PGA's engagement with Governments when Migrant Forum in Asia representing the PGA was invited to the friends of the forum by the Bangladesh Government. For the first time PGA was present as an observer in the FOF meeting. Through continuous engagement with the Bangladesh Government the PGA was also allowed to nominate 50 representatives to attend the official CSO days of the GFMD as well as the common space with governments.

Please find below links to reports of previous PGA processes:

Stockholm (2014)

Key Messages from PGA 2014 ~ [English](#) / [Spanish](#) / [French](#)

New York City (2013)

[PGA Declaration: Executive Summary](#)

[Declaration & Recommendations](#)

Port Louis, Mauritius (2012)

[Civil Society 5-year Action Plan for Collaboration](#) (emerging from civil society discussions during the Civil Society Days of the GFMD in Mauritius and the 5th World Social Forum on Migration in Manila, Philippines)

Geneva (2011)

[People's Global Action on Migration, Development, and Human Rights: Migrants' Rights are Human Rights](#)

[Statement of the 2011 Civil Society Days, GFMD](#)

Mexico City (2010)

[People's Global Action on Migration, Development, and Human Rights: Migrants' Rights are Human Rights](#)

[Statement of the Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights](#)

Athens (2009)

[People's Global Action on Migration, Development, and Human Rights: The Economic Crisis and its Impacts on Migrants](#)

[Joint Civil Society Declaration and Recommendations on Migration, Development, and Human Rights and the Future of the Global Forum on Migration and Development](#)

Manila (2008)

[Mobilizing Migrant Community & Civil Society Voices for the Second GFMD](#)

[Joint Civil Society Declaration On Migration, Development and Human Rights](#)

Brussels (2007)

[Global Community Dialogue on Migration, Development, and Human Rights](#)

[Open Letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon](#)

New York City (2006)

[Global Community Dialogue on Migration, Development, & Human Rights](#)

[Statement to the UNHLD](#)