

Civil society reports to GFMD Friends of the Forum

24 November 2014, Geneva

- agenda item 3 - Chair's draft Concept Paper
- agenda item 6 - Update on Civil Society GFMD activities

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

Deputy Director Altuğ, Ambassador Ahsan, Ambassador Åckerman Börje,

Greetings to you and to all partners in the GFMD. Thank you for this opportunity to report on recent civil society activity in these processes.

Agenda Item 3: Turkey's concept paper and work-plan for the GFMD 2015

As we promised at the last Friends of the Forum meeting in October, civil society submitted feedback to the Chair on the Chair's first draft of the government concept paper for the 2015 GFMD. The feedback was consolidated from input we invited from civil society leaders and organizations including those active on our International Civil Society Steering Committee for the Global Forum and High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). This feedback took up convergence in civil society from the *5-year 8-point Plan* and also the states Declaration, each at last year's HLD. *Copies of the civil society feedback and the 5-year Plan are on the side table.*

In our initial review of the new draft circulated Friday, we are glad to see some of this emphasis picked up. Briefly, on **substance in the concept paper's first draft**, civil society had urged the concept paper and GFMD to give stronger and more precise attention to a number of issues, chiefly:

- **Human and labour rights**, with a practical focus on labour mobility mechanisms that ensure decent work, rights and social protection for migrant workers. We are glad that new language in the second draft clearly takes some of this emphasis forward in Roundtables 1 and 2; also the first of the three principal objectives that the Chair has added in this second draft points to "enhancing migrant-focused migration governance" centered on the "dignity and well-being of the migrant."
- Widening the focus on **diaspora as social investors and contributors**. We do not see that dimension sufficiently reflected in the second draft, and continue to believe that it is time to do so, especially with the Chair's determination in Roundtable 3 to "refresh the GFMD agenda to assure that it is relevant to events unfolding in the world today, by introducing or continuing the exploration of new and emerging issues in international migration."

- Ensuring that Roundtable 3 looks quite directly at mixed migration flows and **protecting migrants in distress, in transit and at borders**. We note and continue to appreciate that sub-session 3.1 will look at forced migrants and issues of labour market access, including the welcome new references to “educational opportunity, family reunification and other avenues of mobility.” However, it is important not to lose, either in a crowd of focus or in distraction, the burning urgency of this Global Forum—this Forum—looking at the perilous journeys and not just the productive destinations of so many millions of migrants worldwide. For that reason civil society had suggested a specific sub-session of Roundtable 3.

On process in the concept paper we are glad to see in the second draft three new references to civil society interaction. However, taking a step further and being more concrete, civil society feedback had re-submitted the two proposals we have made to expand positive interaction between civil society and states in the GFMD. We believe that these proposals pick up directly, responsibly and almost too reasonably on the recommendation for such greater interaction that states made in the states assessment of the GFMD in 2011-2012. Again, we formally request an opportunity to consider these proposals together:

- **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 positive examples of such participation throughout the HLD last year and in a couple of the Roundtables at the GFMD in Stockholm.

May we also add a **third formal proposal** for us to consider together, especially within the current Troika: to commission a small, joint **“Progress and Impacts Team”** in which a workable mix of civil society and states can look at and report—credibly—on what we together achieve in these Global Forum activities. Such a small team would do nothing to change the “states-led” and “voluntary” nature of the GFMD as currently structured. In fact it would pick up directly on recommendations you made the assessment of 2011-2012, and on the important “stock-taking” that the Swedish Chair completed ahead of the HLD last year. The contribution of this team would help to answer the question that all of us have, plus our donors, the media, migrants and the wider public: what is the GFMD achieving: soft results and hard results at national as well as international levels.

Agenda Item 6: Update on Civil Society GFMD activities

1. Civil society process and substance

Madame Chair, we are happy to confirm our coming **visit to Turkey**. We very much welcome your invitation to meet with some of the universities and other civil society organizations in Turkey that are active in matters of migration and development at national levels. As was the case for the Global Forums in Switzerland, Mauritius and Sweden, we look forward to being of whatever assistance we can be to assure that the GFMD has national value as well as global character. In Turkey as in other countries, this means practical information-sharing and concrete activities that involve national civil society actors before, in and well beyond the big Global Forum meeting.

In those directions, may I highlight a number of meetings that civil society has recently held or will hold through yearend in which national, regional and global civil society organizations and networks come together specifically on migration and development. Please note that for the most part these are new meetings, picking up on processes initiated last year to implement civil society’s “5-year 8-point Plan of Action for collaboration” with governments—with you.

- **regional meetings** in Mexico, Peru, Senegal; with meetings in Jordan and Malaysia in the next three weeks.
- **global thematic meetings** on post-2015 global development, diaspora and entrepreneurship and labour migration.

The agendas of these meetings—the substance—has continued to focus on the convergence between major focuses of civil society’s “5-year Plan” and the states’ Declaration at the High-level Dialogue. Notably:

- **Civil society’s “5-year Plan” Point 1: post-2015 development**

We welcome the concept paper’s emphasis on integrating migrants and migration into the post-2015 global development agenda. That is a top priority for civil society. We also welcome the Chair’s wise scheduling of the first GFMD preparatory event on this subject in February.

On the tables at the side of the room is the unified global civil society position entitled the **“Stockholm Agenda on migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas”**. [Copies of the Stockholm Agenda are on the side table.] 270 Civil society organizations around the world have now signed it. A direct product of the GFMD and parallel civil society processes in Stockholm, this unified Civil society position is a migrant-centered, rights-based approach to sustainable development that is human as well as economic. Its goals and targets are for national as well as global agendas.

In regional and national advocacy, civil society networks and organization have been meeting with a growing number of their governments directly, and will be sending an Open Letter to the European Union and EU member states this week.

Civil society is happy to see the **Outcome Document** of the states’ Open Working Group incorporating a number of references that directly reflect the work and emphases of the Global Forum in recent years, including:

- **Goal 8 on employment and decent work.** In fact, this is the #1 emphasis of civil society’s Stockholm Agenda for post 2015 development: decent work at home—so that people may freely choose to not migrate, and decent work abroad for those who do migrate. Civil society further welcomes the explicit mention under this goal of migrant workers and women—which is essential for equity, integration and social cohesion as well as development.
 - Goal 10(7) referring to **orderly, safe and regular migration**
 - 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**
- **“5-year Plan” point 2: Diaspora and development.** Civil society partners in ICMC’s EU co-funded migration and development programme “MADE” held a global webinar last Thursday with 20 representatives of diaspora, migrant-led, academic organizations, and GIZ, the development implementing agency of the government of Germany.
 - **“5-year Plan” points 3, 4, 5 + 6: migrants in crisis and distress in transit,** with specific attention to vulnerable women and children in contexts of migration. Again and again, everywhere, and quite prominently in every one of the regional migration and development meetings I just mentioned, civil society presses the urgency of the risks to refugees and migrants—a huge proportion of them forced; the deaths and disappearances, the serial

brutality even before people get to boats or borders, the high numbers and vulnerability of women and children—many of them simply struggling to join family members where they live and work. Acting on the 5-year Plan and incorporating recommendations from the last five GFMD and HLD meetings, our close partner the NGO Committee on Migration (New York) has drafted for global sign-on a unified civil society position that calls for greater international cooperation: real-world and competence-centered responsibility-sharing, including civil society actors, in rescue at sea and needs-based response to these migrants and refugees. This statement, entitled the “*Sea Change Seven*”, will first be presented to the UNHCR High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection at Sea 10+ 11 December here in Geneva, and then consistently carried through GFMD and other migration processes.

- **“5-year Plan” points 7 + 8: reform of migrant worker recruitment and placement.** At the GFMD and parallel processes in Stockholm, Civil society created a fully global, Open Working Group on Labour Migration and Recruitment, with our close partner Migrant Forum in Asia serving as secretariat with part funding from the EU through our migration and development programme “MADE”. Among its initiatives already:
 - Recruitmentreform.org, a new on-line platform that aggregates information on campaigns, policies and initiatives, events, news, laws and international conventions on migration and recruitment
 - on-line discussions via email, Facebook and Twitter
 - a report to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

2. Civil society GFMD budget and communications

Our Civil Society Coordinating Office appreciated the new “Pledging Conference” format in which we were able to speak with you 22 October openly, transparently and alongside the Chair on our GFMD budget approaches and needs. As reflected in the summary of that Conference, I was happy to present our provisional 18-month budget for GFMD Civil society organizing towards the GFMD 2015.

I will not redo that presentation other than to repeat that our total provisional 18-month **budget for 2014-2015 is about US \$ 890,000**. Again this is:

- All costs included.
- Zero-growth from our 18-month budget for this past GFMD, and only slightly higher than 12 month budget Mauritius three years ago, and
- We have secured funding about 60% of the budget already—leaving a **gap of about US \$350,000**.

We greatly appreciated the positive indications of support during the Pledging conference from a number of governments to our appeal, including from the full Troika. In coordination with the GFMD Support Unit, we will be circulating to you all the full detail of our budget and of the gaps that your government might be particularly interested in helping to fill.

Finally: As many of you may have noticed recently, we are updating the 2,500 names that we have in our **database of contacts** and participants in these migration and development processes. The largest number of contacts are NGOs, migrant and diaspora associations, trade unions, academic and the private sector, but we have, welcome and intend to increase in the database the considerable number of actors in governments and international organizations. We invite you to respond by confirming or updating your own government’s contact information. Again, we thank the Support Unit for their steady availability and assistance in this effort.

/Thank you.