

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

Center for Migration Studies (CMS)

¹The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

QUESTION 1.

Please describe in general terms the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken during 2014 as well as those it is planning to undertake in 2015 that respond to the objectives of the 2015 coordination meeting. (Note that specific activities and initiatives can be listed as part of question 2 and 3 below.)

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) is a New York-based educational institute devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants. CMS makes substantive contributions to the migration and development dialogue through its programmatic work in four principal areas. First, the Center publishes cutting-edge journals, books and policy-related articles on international migration, including scholarship focused on migration and development. Second, CMS sponsors conferences, meetings, briefings, and seminars on migration-related issues and policies. Third, CMS has actively participated in international dialogues and consultative processes on the theme of migration and development. Fourth, the global dimension of CMS is reinforced through its affiliation with the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a faith-based network which links 270 programs for migrants worldwide.

The Center's signature publication, the International Migration Review (IMR), is a leading social science journal covering the field of international migration. By providing a forum for interdisciplinary perspectives on migration and development, IMR has supported and strengthened the growing body of policy-relevant research on this theme. Over the past decade, IMR has published over 40 articles, book reviews and conference proceedings specifically focused on migration and development. Among these publications are the address of United Nations (UN) former Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan to the first High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Chairperson's Summary of the High-Level Dialogue in 2006.

In 2014 CMS published two important volumes of IMR which build on its contribution to migration and development literature. First, CMS released a thematic edition of IMR on South-South migration covering trends, emerging patterns, and analytic and policy issues concerning international migration between and among developing nations and transitional economies in the Global South. The collection features articles addressing the potential development impact of migration on developing destination countries. The edition is one of the first scholarly volumes devoted to South-South migration. It is available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2014.48.issue-1/issuetoc>.

Second, CMS released the Golden Anniversary Edition of IMR which was a centerpiece of the organization's 50th anniversary year. The special edition featured substantial and ground-breaking articles from leading international scholars, including articles which directly engage questions germane to the migration and development dialogue on diaspora institutions, diaspora governance, and transnational money transfers as a form of social transaction. The special edition is available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.2014.48.issue-s1/issuetoc>.

In 2014, CMS continued to expand its newest publication, the Journal on Migration and Human Security (JMHS), a peer-reviewed, public policy publication devoted to US and international policy debates on migration. JMHS publishes concise, evidence-based papers online in open access format at: <http://jmhs.cmsny.org>. This publication complements IMR by addressing the need to strengthen the connection between academic research and policy development related to international migration and immigrant integration. The journal seeks to surface important migration-related issues, scholarship and analysis that do not receive sufficient attention in public policy circles. The journal's theme of human security is meant to evoke the widely shared goals of creating secure and sustaining conditions in migrant sending communities promoting safe, legal migration options and developing immigration and integration policies that benefit receiving communities and allow newcomers to lead productive, secure lives. Through the publication, CMS has advanced the "human security" approach to addressing international migration challenges which has become a unifying theme for the migration and development dialogue.

JMHS has published articles covering topics such as birthright citizenship alternatives to detention the role of day labor centers in promoting immigrant integration the evolution of human security discourse labor standards enforcement and legalization programs for the US unauthorized population. CMS actively disseminates journal articles to policymakers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN entities, pastoral workers, scholars, and others. CMS is in the process of producing the second annual print volume, which will present over 375 pages of original articles and book reviews. In 2015 it will also publish a special volume of JMHS on the US refugee protection system that offers analysis and recommendations to strengthen this pillar of the US immigration system and the international system of refugee protection.

CMS holds an average of one event per month that serve as fora for the dissemination of research, policy analysis, information and ideas among a broad range of stakeholders on international migration issues. In the past year, CMS has hosted dialogues that explore specific concerns related to the human rights of migrants. These events included a dialogue on "Refugee Protection and Barriers to Territorial Access" with Margaret Stock, an immigration attorney with Cascadia Cross-Border Law, and a dialogue on "Detention Policies as Tools of Immigration Control" in July 2014 with Michael Flynn, Founder and Project Manager of the Global Detention Project and Dora Schriro,

Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the State of Connecticut. In June 2014, CMS hosted a symposium in New York City which featured presentations by some of the authors of the JMHS refugee protection papers series and other experts on challenges and recommendations related to territorial access, refugee resettlement, political asylum, temporary protection, stateless persons, migrants in crisis situations, unaccompanied minors and other populations at particular risk. The discussion also attempted to put the US system of refugee protection in a broader international context. Finally, in conjunction with the release of the IMR Golden Anniversary edition, CMS convened scholars in September 2014 for a symposium to discuss historical and emerging topics and trends in the field of international migration, population dynamics, ethnic group relations and refugee movements.

Leading up to the September 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, CMS collaborated with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and Government of Sweden to cull lessons for senior officials around the world that have emerged from the migration and development dialogue over the past decade. The project, "Migration and Development: What Policymakers Should Do," allowed states to enter the High-Level Dialogue having assessed the accumulated knowledge on the relationship between migration and development and identified policy directions in which they might invest over the next five-to-ten years. This initiative produced a series of policy memoranda that offer specific recommendations on programs and policies related to migration and development, and how to make migration a greater focus for development agencies and be reflected in the post-2015 UN development framework. The policy briefs continue to serve as a critical point of reference in discussion on the incorporation of migration into the post-2015 development framework.

In 2014, CMS and SIMN actively participated in discussions of the Migration and Development Push Group which sought to craft a civil society vision for migration as part of the post-2015 development framework. Convened in November 2013 by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), the Push Group involved members of the migration group of the Forum of Catholic-inspired NGOs, the NGO Committee on Migration, and Catholic development agencies. As part of the Push Group, CMS collaborated in the process of elaborating a set of distinctly migration-related goals, targets and indicators applicable to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The Push Group process consolidated recommendations by civil society groups at the meetings of the GFMD since 2011, the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA), and the World Social Forum on Migration.

The group's preliminary set of migration-related goals and targets received input and consultation from more than 40 human rights and development NGOs, trade unions, migrant and diaspora associations, academics, regional and international networks, as well as governments and the office of UN Special Representative for International Migration. In May 2014, the work was presented to hundreds of civil society organizations at the meetings of the 7th GFMD and the PGA in Stockholm, Sweden. The process culminated in the July 2014 launch of the "Stockholm Agenda" by the ICMC in partnership with the Global Coalition on Migration, NGO Committee on Migration New York, and MADE, with the endorsement of more than 300 additional organizations and networks. The Stockholm Agenda played an important role in advocacy to governments during the Open Working Group Process which resulted in references to migration in the outcome document presented on July 19, 2014.

The Stockholm Agenda includes migration-specific targets under eight goals which are similar to the current Millennium Development Goals and which constitute focus areas of the Open Working Group. The Agenda provides that all migrants should enjoy decent working conditions, social protection, access to education and healthcare decreased remittance transfer costs and reduced risks in transit. It provides for the full participation of migrants and diaspora as partners in development planning. In addition, the Agenda offers specific migration targets under a stand-alone goal for multi-actor global and national collaboration to "enlarge human security and human development benefits of migration." These targets aim to reduce inefficiencies and barriers that impede positive migration-related development impacts.

QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your entity's initiatives and activities in respect to the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action presented at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

1. Protect the human rights of all migrants

Human rights and human security represent defining themes of CMS's publications, events, research and other activities. In 2013, for example, CMS Executive Director Donald Kerwin authored an expert policy brief titled, "Does Respect for Migrant Rights Contribute to Economic Development?" that examines the evidence on whether respect for migrants' rights has economic benefits for countries of origin and destination. The brief was published as part of the "Migration and Development: What Policymakers Should Do" initiative. It calls attention to a gap in the literature on the connection between development and respect for rights. It concludes that respect for rights in migrant-sending countries can enhance development outcomes by contributing to political stability and human capital. Rights foster the underlying conditions which promote development, such as strong institutions, respect for rule of law, and gender equality. These conditions not only attract investment, but also allow remittances and other migration-related investments to have greater impact. The brief is available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/does-respect-migrant-rights-contribute-economic-development>.

In 2014 CMS published articles in the Journal on Migration and Human Security which further engage human rights issues specifically noted in the Secretary General's eight-point agenda. These include an article on the use of detention as a tool of immigration control, "There and Back Again: On the Diffusion of Immigration Detention" by Michael Flynn of the Global Detention Project. An article by Mark R. von Sternberg of Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York, "Reconfiguring the Law of Non-Refoulement," discusses barriers affecting access to surrogate international human rights protection. Forthcoming articles in 2015 will examine the protection claims and migratory experiences of unaccompanied minors arriving to the US-Mexico border.

In 2015, CMS representatives participated in the NGO Committee on Migration's task force on migrants in crisis and provided legal and policy research on these issues.

2. Reduce the costs of labour migration

Coinciding with the 13th Coordination Meeting on International Migration, CMS is releasing an article in the International Migration Review that analyzes governance challenges relating to cross-border labor recruitment. The article, "Alternative Approaches to the Governance of Transnational Labor Recruitment," is authored by Patricia Pittman of The George Washington University. The article reviews the strengths and weaknesses of emerging strategies implemented by international organizations, NGOs, labor unions and corporate trade groups to mitigate risk to individuals seeking work abroad.

As described in Section 1, CMS participated in the crafting the civil society blueprint known as the "Stockholm Agenda" on migrant and migration-related goals and targets which was vetted at the GFMD and presented to the Open Working Group in July 2014. Among the principle targets under goals corresponding to focus areas of the Open Working Group, the agenda emphasizes reducing the costs of labor migration, with a priority to abolish debt bondage and payment of recruitment charges by migrant workers. In addition, it advocates for ensuring the portability of social security, pension and skills, including recognition of qualifications.

3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking

CMS has been an active member of the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons since 2012. The Committee is dedicated to the eradication of human trafficking in all its forms through education, advocacy, research, and monitoring compliance with UN treaties, protocols, laws, and resolutions. The Committee's work involves raising awareness of trafficking in persons as a violation of Human Rights ensuring action at the UN to address the underlying causes of human trafficking and advocating for provision of services to victims. In 2013, the committee submitted a statement to the UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue delegates to remind them of the important role of the High-Level Dialogue in combatting human trafficking.

CMS is also a member of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, led by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Among the group's activities, members are working to implement the Amistad initiative, a project to train leaders in new immigrant communities on prevention and outreach/education, and to monitor the progress of trafficking legislation in the US Congress.

As part of the civil society Stockholm Agenda consultation process, CMS contributed to the articulation of a stand-

alone goal for multi-actor global and national collaboration which uniquely frames four specific migrant and migration targets. First among these targets is to prevent and address international human trafficking and violence against migrants.

CMS is a member of SIMN, a global network of more than 270 entities that provide services to migrants and refugees, including migrant shelters, service centers, schools, research institutes and other programs along migrant corridors and in migrant receiving communities. In 2015, CMS hopes to partner with SIMN in reporting and advocating on human trafficking and other forced migration issues based on the experience of Scalabrini shelters and welcoming centers located along migrant corridors. It would also like to invite more research and public policy papers on trafficking for consideration by its Journal on Migration and Human Security.

4. Address the plight of stranded migrants

In January 2015, CMS released an article in the Journal on Migration and Human Security on migrants caught in countries experiencing humanitarian crisis situations. The article, “On the Margins: Noncitizens Caught in Countries Experiencing Violence, Conflict and Disaster,” is authored by Sanjula Weerasinghe, Abbie Taylor, Sarah Drury, Pitchaya Indravudh, Aaron Gregg, John Flanagan of the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University. It seeks to shed light on the protection implications for noncitizens caught in countries experiencing violence, conflict and disaster by examining five prominent crises across three continents between 2011 and 2012: the Libyan uprising, the Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, flooding in Thailand, Hurricane Sandy in the United States and the conflict in Syria. It identifies factors that influence the vulnerabilities of noncitizens and presents promising practices that limit exposure to harm through targeted measures addressing their particular needs.

The paper highlights the work of the state-led Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) which was launched by the governments of the Philippines and the United States in 2014 following calls made at the High-Level Dialogue and in the Secretary-General’s eight-point agenda for action. The paper has been provided in background materials by the MICIC Secretariat to participants at government consultations on crisis migration in Geneva in February 2015. It is available at: <http://jmhs.cmsny.org/index.php/jmhs/article/view/42>.

5. Improve public perceptions of migrants

Much of CMS’s work is devoted to informing public perceptions regarding migrants based on scholarship and research. It also has sought to document public perceptions regarding migrants and migration-related issues through expert advisory work on public opinion surveys. In addition, as a participant organization in the Stockholm Agenda process, CMS engaged in discussion that resulted in the proposal of two targets under the Open Working Group focus area to “ensure stable and peaceful societies.” First, the agenda proposes increasing “public awareness of cultural, social and economic contributions of migrants and diaspora.” Second, it emphasizes the institutionalization of “mechanisms to embrace and integrate or reintegrate migrants and their families into their countries of origin, heritage and destination.”

Over the past two years CMS has also coordinated a substantial project on immigrant integration focused on the work of the Catholic Church’s institutions and ministries that serve immigrant communities in the United States, including education, health, charities, labor, legal services, refugee resettlement, community-organizing, and pastoral ministries. CMS has extensively documented the immigrant integration work of these diverse institutions and has published a book on this research, *US Catholic Institutions and Immigrant Integration: Will The Church Rise To The Challenge?*, authored by Donald Kerwin, with Breana George. In the next phase of the project, CMS will consider expanding this research to examine the integration work of more Catholic and other faith-based institutions in the United States and globally. This initiative has the potential to promote greater coordination in the partnership of international faith-based institutions on integration.

6. Integrate migration into the development agenda

As highlighted above, CMS joined other civil society stakeholders in elaborating and advocating a common set of targets and indicators that link migrants and migration to human and economic development through the Stockholm Agenda. CMS has also supported efforts to ensure that the impacts of migration on development are reflected in the post-2015 development framework through its collaboration in the “Migration and Development: What Policymakers Should Do” initiative in 2013. In past years, it has offered events on issues like mainstreaming migration into state development planning.

7. Strengthen the migration evidence base

CMS is devoted to producing and promoting scholarship, research, and evidence-based public policies on migration. Its signature journal, the *International Migration Review*, is the leading social science journal on international migration in the field and its *Journal on Migration and Human Security* seeks to bridge the academic/research and public policy communities on international migration. In addition, CMS sponsors roughly one event per month and speaks at additional events each month in an effort to strengthen the migration evidence base. Strengthening the “migration evidence base” is CMS’s *raison d’être*.

As described above, CMS partnered with the Migration Policy Institute on an initiative to support evidence-based policymaking by presenting the accumulated evidence on the relationship between migration and development. The policy briefs resulting from the initiative have served as a valuable point of reference for stakeholders of the High-Level Dialogue and post-2015 agenda setting process on eight aspects of migration and development: the impact of demographic trends remittances diasporas circular migration migrant recruitment high-skilled labor emigration development and the protection of migrants’ rights and the impact of climate-induced migration on development.

8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

CMS’s publications, events, research and other work all depend upon collaborations and partnerships which take the form of advisory groups, editorial boards, event co-sponsors, and other working arrangements. CMS’s diverse partnerships and collaborations reflect its nature and identity as a think-tank/educational institute that seeks to leverage resources and support for scholarly research and informed public policies in the field of international migration. CMS has also contributed to consultative processes which complement intergovernmental mechanisms for improving migration governance, including the GFMD. Further, its participation in the Stockholm Agenda process has supported efforts to build partnerships between civil society, government and the private sector relating to migration policy.

QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate the rationale, the strengths, weaknesses and the areas for improvement of the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda related to international migrants, migration and mobility

1. Safe, legal and orderly migration (10.7)

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> Migration policies in both origin and destination countries play an important role in determining the conditions of migration. The contribution of migrants to development in both their countries of origin and destination depends on policies to ensure that migration occurs in safe and legal conditions, with full respect for and safeguards to their human rights. When the conditions under which migration occurs exacerbate the vulnerabilities of migrants and their families, migrants and sending and receiving countries are limited from fully realizing the development gains of migration. <p>NOTE: CMS takes the word “rationale” to mean the logical basis or importance of each target. Its answers in this section draw from discussion documents from the Stockholm Agenda process and the recommendations of the informal working group (http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/twelfthc oord2014/documents/backgrounddocs/SRSG_Informationals_Reference_Document.pdf).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> A related target promoted by the Stockholm Agenda which would further enhance this area is the reduction of inefficiencies that generate large numbers of migrants lacking proper documentation. This would include creating legal migration channels that reflect actual labor market needs. • <input type="checkbox"/> Reference should be made to alternatives to administrative detention as part of well-managed migration policies. |

2. Reducing remittance transfer costs (10.c)

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> There is strong evidence that lowering the financial costs of remittances can play a significant role in determining development outcomes. • <input type="checkbox"/> Annual global remittances by migrants are triple the amount of official development assistance and constitute a significant share of GDP in many developing countries. • <input type="checkbox"/> Remittances are relatively stable and can respond to economic shocks and natural disasters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> Lowering the cost of remittances is a significant step toward helping migrants and their communities to retain a greater share of what they earn. However, measures to reduce remittance costs could be even more effective if coupled with the reduction of recruitment costs, which in some contexts can be as high as half of a migrant’s earnings. • <input type="checkbox"/> As emphasized by the Stockholm Agenda, remittances contribute importantly to development, but are private transfers and should not be considered as a substitute for development policy or assistance. |

3. Rights of migrant workers (8.8)

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ Respect for and promotion of international labor standards and the protection of labor rights of all migrants in their workplaces are fundamental to maximizing the development gains of migration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ The majority of trafficked persons are migrant workers in informal and unprotected sectors. Therefore, a sustainable development agenda that includes protection of labor rights for all workers, including migrants, can provide an effective mechanism to prevent trafficking. •□ The explicit inclusion of migrant workers in the protection of labor rights under part 8.8 could promote an increase in ratification of the 2011 ILO Domestic Workers Convention. •□ Part 8.8 would be even stronger if it made explicit reference to the protection of migrant workers regardless of status. •□ As promoted by the Stockholm Agenda, the protection of the rights of migrant workers should be coupled with the aim of creating and preserving decent work opportunities in countries of origin which make migration a choice instead of a necessity. |

4. Eliminating trafficking of women and children (5.2 and 16.2)

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ The post-2015 agenda can build on the broad consensus in the international community that trafficking should be eradicated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ Part 5.2 of the Open Working Group Proposal addresses sex trafficking, while target 16.2 would end abuse, trafficking and all forms of torture of children. The role and prevalence of labor trafficking is not acknowledged in either of the two targets relating to trafficking. •□ The conflation of smuggling and trafficking leads to criminalization of migrants who rely on smuggling to reach their countries of destination. Therefore, it is important to develop a legal framework for migration that effectively delinks the two. It is also important to account for the complexity of migration dynamics in which categories such as “trafficked,” “unaccompanied” or “asylum seeking” are often fluid and temporary. One person may move through any or all categories over time. •□ There are important lessons from implementation of the anti-smuggling protocol which has been effectively applied to criminalize smuggling while also upholding the rights of migrants. Such practices could be applied more robustly to improve anti-trafficking measures. |

5. Addressing the “brain drain” through retention and training of health workers (3.c)

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ The World Health Organization has advocated for healthcare professional recruitment practices that “mitigate the negative effects and maximize the positive effects of migration” on health systems in countries of origin. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ The human development of health care workers from developing countries – whether living in source or destination countries – should be a priority, as should the development of sufficient infrastructure, educational and professional development opportunities, and social stability in countries of origin to maximize the participation and benefits of overseas health care professionals. |

6. Scholarships for developing countries to enrol in higher education in other countries (4b)

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ Increased foreign student migration is part of national economic development, and central to human development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •□ The extent to which scholarships for developing countries can lead to development benefits for countries of origin is dependent on policies to promote diaspora engagement and return migration. It is therefore important to couple this target with the right policy framework and promotion of development “fundamentals” in countries of origin. |

7.

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
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8.

| <i>a. Rationale</i> | <i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i> |
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