

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

United Nations Secretariat

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**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

*International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)*

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<sup>1</sup>The 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.)**

ICMC COORDINATING OFFICE for Civil Society activities in migration and development

Since 2011, ICMC's Coordinating Office has, working closely with Civil Society partners around the world, organized the civil society activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). At the request of Civil Society partners and the office of the President of the UN General Assembly, ICMC served in a similar capacity to organize Civil Society activities towards the UN General Assembly's High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), in 2013. Reports and other documents of all of these Civil Society activities are available at [www.gfmdcivilsociety.org](http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org).

GFMD 2014

The 2014 GFMD was held in Sweden from 12 to 16 May 2014, with its two Civil Society Days (CSD) 12 and 13 May, just prior to Common Space with Governments and the GFMD Government Days. The Civil Society Days brought together civil society delegates from 50 countries across the world. The central theme was "Shaping Migration and Development Goals: global movement, change on the ground", which reflected the priority of Civil Society to translate the outcomes of the GFMD 2012, and 2013's HLD, in particular civil society's 5-year 8-point plan, into concrete goals, practices and indicators for local implementation and change.

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

Civil Society concluded its GFMD Civil Society Days programme with 7 principal recommendations (available in a brochure entitled "GFMD Civil Society Days 2014: Recommendations and Benchmarks" at [www.gfmdcivilsociety.org](http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org)). 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 HLD.

Comparing the recommendations that states and Civil Society made at the 2014 GFMD, some of the Civil Society emphases are quite distinct, notably:

- 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

At the same time there is clear, direct convergence between Civil Society and States recommendations at the 2014 GFMD, with at least four of their principal recommendations being 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

CONVERGENCE SCHEMATIC

As illustrated below, Civil Society's seven GFMD 2014 recommendations squarely corresponded not only to Civil Society's own 5-year 8-point plan but also to both the UN Secretary General's 8 point agenda and the consensus Declaration by governments, each at the HLD [apologies for on-line formatting slippage].

Civil Society recommendations GFMD 2014	Civil Society HLD 5-year 8-point plan	UNSG 8-point agenda at HLD	HLD consensus declaration by governments
1. Decent work and social protection for migrant workers and families	points 5,8	points 2,3	e.g. 14,15,18
2. Reform migrant labor recruitment, placement and employment practices	point 7	point 2	no specific reference
3. Better implemented protection frameworks for migrants in distress, transit and at borders	point 3	point 4	e.g.10,23
4. Alternatives to irregular migration and detention	point 5	point 1	e.g. 5
5. Protect and empower children in contexts of migration	point 4	point 1	e.g. 10,13,19
6. Facilitate migrant and diaspora contributions to job creation and policies for development	point 2	point 2	e.g. 9
7. Migrants and migration in post-2015 development	point 1	point 6	e.g. 8

Clearly, this raises two questions:

1. outside the GFMD: what is concretely possible for Civil Society and governments to take forward together on these issues?
2. inside the GFMD: why are Civil Society and government representatives continuing to meet so separately at the GFMD?

About 33% of the Civil Society participants completed formal evaluations of the overall Civil Society Days programme, which were broadly positive, and notably so with regard to new breakfast table approach. Among the suggestions for change, several cross-cut this year's evaluations 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

## GFMD 2015

At the invitation of the Turkish Chair for the 2015 GFMD, ICMC continues its responsibility for the preparations and organization of civil society activities for the GFMD in Istanbul in October. As in past years, ICMC coordinated Civil Society feedback to the Chair in the drafting of the Chair's Concept Note and Workplan for the government activities towards the 2015 GFMD. Written feedback was consolidated and submitted on the Chair's first and second drafts from input that ICMC invited from civil society leaders and organizations around the world, including those active on the International Civil Society Steering Committees for the GFMD and HLD. On substance, Civil Society's feedback requested (and later drafts somewhat reflected) greater attention in the concept paper to human and labour rights, diaspora as social entrepreneurs, and protecting migrants in distress, in transit and at borders. On GFMD process, Civil Society's feedback presented several proposals to increase the direct interaction of Civil Society and states within the GFMD, and creation of 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 these Global Forum activities achieve.

Like Civil Society activities in the HLD and in last year's GFMD, Civil Society's own concept paper and activities for the GFMD in Turkey will largely track Civil Society's "5-year 8 point plan". Following recommendations in the participants' evaluation of the recent GFMD Civil Society Days, the initial thinking is that the backbone of the 2014 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 the 5 years. The aim would be to evaluate movement on the issues—including quite expressly, Civil society's own movement, as co-responsible and co-actor in collaboration for change. This is Civil Society's "theory of change" in the GFMD.

## ICMC "MADE" CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKING PROJECT

In 2014, ICMC and partners in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, launched the new Migration and Development Civil Society Network (project MADE). A three-year project partially funded by the European Union, MADE centers upon regional Civil Society network building and advocacy, and global Civil Society Working Groups on governance of migration and post-2015 development, migrant labour recruitment, and diaspora and development.

The MADE project evolved out of years of Civil Society organizing for the GFMD, where since the very first GFMD in Belgium in 2007, Civil Society leaders around the world pushed for [a] much more region-centered Civil Society collaboration on migration and development and [b] "before and after" continuity in both follow-up implementation and preparation of GFMD recommendations. MADE's mission is to do this: helping to better

connect migrants and civil society worldwide to change policies for the wellbeing of migrants and communities. MADE aims to strengthen the global movement of civil society organizations that advocate for protection of migrants' rights by building on previous successes, connecting existing networks and creating new spaces where civil society can come together to influence migration policy in key areas and moments by focusing on a selection of key global themes and weaving regional movement into global action.

Highlights of MADE activities in 2014 include:

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

ICMC's MADE partners Caritas Sénégal, Migrant Forum in Asia and Scalabrini International Migration Network/Fundación Scalabrini (Chile), the International Network on Migration and Development organized regional networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America respectively. A series of regional civil society meetings in Africa (Dakar), Asia (Amman, Kuala Lumpur) and Latin-America (Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Lima) resulted in the strengthening of civil society networks and linking with new civil society groups and regional consultative processes, as well as direct influencing national migration and development policy processes (e.g., in Chile and Brazil). ICMC's Brussels-based affiliate ICMC Europe organized MADE's European chapter, linking MADE's partners and regional and thematic work with European Union policy actors and processes.

## POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT [point 1 of Civil Society's 5-year 8-point plan]

ICMC and its MADE partner Cordaid, a Dutch Civil Society development agency, worked with 41 organizations over a six-month period leading up to the GFMD in May, and then in over 20 hours of discussion during the GFMD and parallel Civil Society processes in Stockholm, to create the "Stockholm Agenda": a unified global Civil Society position on incorporating migrants and migration in post-2015 global and national development agendas. A migrant-centered, rights-based approach to sustainable development that is human as well as economic, the goals and targets of Civil Society's Stockholm Agenda's are quite deliberately for national as well as global agendas.

The "Stockholm Agenda" is just a single page, back and front (available at [www.gfmdcivilsociety.org](http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org)). 311 organizations have signed it to date, and have been taking it to their governments at home and in regional and global meetings since. It was drawn from four principal references:

1. Civil society's own work and recommendations over recent years in the GFMD, the World Social Forum on Migration and other international and regional processes
2. the Dhaka process and Declaration on "Population Dynamics and the Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) from 2013-2014
3. the work of Peter Sutherland's office, namely a small, informal "think tank" of governments, agencies, and civil society organizations convened by Gregory Maniatis
4. early work of the states' Open Working Group (OWG) and other SDG processes

A quick look at Civil Society's Stockholm Agenda:

- The Stockholm Agenda groups migrant and migration-related development targets under 9 Goals and a preamble.
- The first 8 Goals are development targets where migrants and migration fit under MDG-like goals, as they were first articulated by the UN Secretary-General's "Eminent Persons Panel", and now very much also by the OWG: jobs, ending poverty, empowering girls and women, education, health, good governance, stable and peaceful societies, and enabling environment and new partnerships.
- The 9th and last Goal of Civil Society's Stockholm Agenda groups a set of distinct development targets that Civil Society thought fit together as mobility-related targets:

1. preventing and addressing human trafficking and violence against migrants in transit
2. improving systemic responses to forced migration, including migrants uprooted by crisis and climate change
3. facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration through enhanced international cooperation
4. reducing inefficiencies that generate large numbers of migrants lacking proper documentation

Advocacy has included direct conversations with some 30 governments, letters to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the UN General Assembly, the European Union and member states, presentations in a panoply of meetings in national, regional and global settings, and most recently, a briefing and advocacy paper entitled "Migration and Sustainable Development Goals – A post-2015 Call to Action" prepared by the MADE Working Group on Global Governance of Migration and Development (led by Cordaid) and disseminated to Civil Society organizations worldwide.

## REFORM AND REGULATION OF MIGRANT WORKER RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT PRACTICES [points 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Civil Society's 5-year 8-point plan]

At the GFMD and parallel processes in Stockholm, Civil Society created a fully global, Open Working Group on Labour Migration and Recruitment, with over 129 members and ICMC MADE partner Migrant Forum in Asia serving as secretariat. Among the Working Group's initiatives in 2014:

- www.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 formal report submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

BETTER GOVERNANCE OF PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS IN TRANSIT, i.e., refugees and asylum seekers of course, but also children, and victims of torture, trafficking, trauma and violence in migration journeys, on the sea and over land [points 3, 4, 5 + 6 of Civil Society's 5-year 8-point plan, with specific attention to vulnerable women and children in contexts of migration]

Every one of the regional MADE civil society meetings in 2014 year has emphasized this issue, with urgency. Not in opposition to equally important GFMD-based work on "migrants in countries of crisis", but complementary to it. But not waiting for current "migrants in countries of crisis" policy processes to be complete, because people on the move are suffering and dying today. How revolutionary is this?

- This is where UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR and other international agencies have recently reiterated, unequivocally, a shared priority
- It picks up directly on recommendations from the last five GFMD and HLD meetings
- It resumes the fine, practical work that UNHCR, IOM, the International Federation of the Red Cross and others did in the years 2007-2010 under the term "mixed migration" and, in UNODC, on frameworks of protection of victims of both human trafficking and migrant smuggling. At that time, funding from the US and European Union supported consultations at a regional levels, productively involving governments and civil society together with the international agencies.

Many Civil Society organizations participated in the UNHCR's High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection at Sea in December. At the Dialogue, 121 Civil Society organizations around the world joined the NGO Committee on Migration (New York) and MADE civil society partners in presenting a unified civil society position entitled "Sea Change Seven". It is one call, with seven points 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 will be carried through GFMD and other migration processes.

DIASPORA [point 2 of Civil Society's 5-year 8-point plan]

Civil society partners in ICMC's "MADE" project, led by the African Diaspora Policy Network, held a global webinar in November with 20 representatives of diaspora, migrant-led, academic organizations, and GIZ the development implementing agency of the government of Germany. Taking one step beyond the "5-year 8-point Plan", ICMC and other Civil Society partners are actually exploring a "9th" point of action and collaboration with states: fighting xenophobia. The phenomena of xenophobia has cross-cut all regional and thematic meetings of MADE and other Civil Society partners: at virtually every level, "part of the problem" on almost every issue. What we are looking at is raising quite specifically migrant and diaspora voices against xenophobia, including the possibility of a new project with diaspora and development partners, beginning in Europe but globally. Not just changing public perceptions of migrants, but changing the discourse by changing speakers, by raising migrants and diaspora voices.

Finally, ICMC has updated the 2,500 names in the database of contacts and participants active in these migration and development processes. The largest number of contacts are rights and development NGOs, migrants and diaspora associations, faith-based and labour organizations, with a smaller number from academia and the private sector.

## 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*

Please see response to Question 1, especially "CONVERGENCE SCHEMATIC".

### *2. Reduce the costs of labour migration*

See response to Question 1, section on "REFORM AND REGULATION OF MIGRANT WORKER RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT PRACTICES."

### *3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking*

As above, see response to Question 1, section on "REFORM AND REGULATION OF MIGRANT WORKER RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT PRACTICES."

### *4. Address the plight of stranded migrants*

See response to Question 1, section on "BETTER GOVERNANCE OF PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS IN TRANSIT".

### *5. Improve public perceptions of migrants*

See response to Question 1, section on "DIASPORA".

### *6. Integrate migration into the development agenda*

See response to Question 1, sections on "POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT" and "DIASPORA".

### *7. Strengthen the migration evidence base*

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### *8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation*

See response to Question 1, sections on "ICMC MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKING PROJECT, "MADE" " AND "REGIONAL MEETINGS".

### 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>
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#### 2. Reducing remittance transfer costs (10.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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#### 3. Rights of migrant workers (8.8)

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