

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 12-13 February 2015

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

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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.)

NGO Committee on Migration
13th Annual Coordination Meeting on migration and Development
February 12-13, 2015

The NGO Committee on Migration, a coalition of some 50 international and national voluntary organizations, is based at UN Headquarters in New York. The Committee's mission is to advocate for "the protection of migrants and the promotion of their human rights, in accordance with the United Nations Charter". For the NGO Committee on Migration, "migrants" include all people on the move. Our members are active at the grassroots in most countries of the world, and it is from them and from the migrants themselves that we draw inspiration and information about the realities that they face.

We participate actively in the international ICMC coordinating body for the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the follow up to the 2013 High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, and the civil society stakeholder groups working with the Post 2015 Agenda. In accordance with the challenges of the Secretary General's 8 Point Plan and the Civil Society Stockholm Agenda, we are committed to :

Protecting the human rights of all migrants, with a focus on the plight of migrants in distress, especially women and children

We are very much concerned with migrants who are in desperate need of protection as they experience crises during their move through countries of transit. We are concerned that existing conventions and guidelines are inadequate to address the mixed flows of migrants who need new governance models to protect their civil and human rights.

We are currently using the assessment of our pilot survey on Migrants in Crisis in Transit to prepare the final version, to be sent to grassroots organizations about their experiences in serving migrants in distress in transit. This study is being conducted with the assistance of Georgetown's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM). Normally, those of us working at the UN focus on advocacy to promote policy for protection and promotion of migrant rights, but recently one of our member organizations responded to a plea from a family in transit who did not receive a positive response for their asylum application and was facing death threats if they were to be deported. Thanks to the assistance of agencies with whom we work here at UN headquarters, they will soon be resettled in the United States.

We advocate for the rights of all migrants, regardless of their status. Many of us have done capacity building, facilitated services, and engaged diaspora leadership at grassroots level. We are very aware of the contributions made by migrants to countries of origin, transit, and destination.

Improving the public perceptions of migrants and lowering the costs of migration

For our celebration of International Migrants Day in December, we invited the New York Mayor's office for Immigrant Affairs to share with us their efforts at community integration of migrants and their children, who currently make up sixty per cent of the city's population.

Examples are:

- Embedding a culture of immigrant integration in all city agencies
- Access to justice for immigrants
- Advocacy – using the platform of New York City to advocate for immigrants at the national, regional, and international levels

Additionally, we heard from the New York District Director of the the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that a majority of their employees are former candidates for naturalization themselves, and therefore able and eager to provide support and understanding for new candidates for naturalization.

Further efforts at improving understanding of migrant contributions are expressed in the Migration Committee's contribution to the online discussion of the Post 2015 Means of Implementation. To clarify financial realities about migrants, we reiterate that "migrants contribute to the economies of their countries of origin more that ODA (official development assistance) and FDI (foreign direct investment) combined. Furthermore, migrants give tremendous assistance to their "host" countries in the form of new businesses, taxes, and purchasing power. When they are enabled to do so, refugees make the same types of significant contributions. Migrants in the diaspora do a large amount of skill sharing and give monetary support to the communities in their countries of origin. If migrants are charged a fair amount of money to send remittances and if they are paid a just salary, they will not only have financial resources to provide housing, food, education, and health care for themselves and their families, but will be able to invest money for savings and for establishing new businesses."

Enhancing partnerships and cooperation, and ending the exploitation to which migrants are most vulnerable.

We work with practitioners and academics, collaborate with the GMG and IOM, and engage with members of the Permanent Missions. We have participated in every Global Forum since Brussels, responded to all government invitations to review concept notes in preparation for the Forums, and have learned much from each year's Common Space since it began in 2010

We congratulate UNICEF and the GMG for the timely publication of Migration and Youth: Challenges and Opportunities. We appreciated the invitation to contribute to this valuable advocacy resource.

We have been involved for the past year in a handbook project initially requested by Zataari refugee camp in Jordan. We recognized from our members' volunteer experience during Hurricane Sandy that the smallest children become invisible in crisis situations. The handbook which responds to fostering multiple dimensions of early childhood development has now been requested by Dadaab camp in Kenya. It is supported by OMEP (World Organization for Childhood Development) and approved for adaptation by the Red Cross.

Inspired by our collaboration with each year's UNHCR NGO Consultation, the Migration Committee's Subcommittee on Refugees produced a position statement on "Protection at Sea" which has been supported internationally by the civil society community. You will find this on our website as well as that of UNHCR. Last week, another position statement was launched by our Children's Issues subcommittee on "Returning Childhood to Refugee Children". A third statement on unaccompanied children at borders is in preparation.

Integrating migration into the development agenda and strengthen the evidence base. We members of the NGO Committee on Migration, have made significant contributions to the Stockholm Agenda, an outcome of the 2014 Swedish GFMD.

We have participated in two UN DESA sponsored retreats on Indicators for the post-2015 Development Agenda and in the brainstorming discussions of the Informals Group initiated by Peter Sutherland, the SRSG on Migration and Development

We are active Members of MADE (Migration and Development Civil Society Network) begun a year ago with financial support of the European Union Commission. The project includes three regional platforms (Africa, Asia, and Latin America) and three thematic groups (Post 2015, global governance, and labor/diaspora). We are also following the intergovernmental negotiations, the high level thematic debates, and the IOM Migration Series 2015.

International civil society has developed a number of indicators that could be linked to the goals and targets of the Open Working Group Proposal. The indicators are available on our website: www.ngo-migration.com. Here, we simply summarize CS priorities for incorporation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda as they relate to the 17 OWG Goals:

1. Goal 1 - End poverty: lower the cost of remittances and lower the social cost of migration
2. Goals 3, 4 Health & Education: Ensure access to health services and education
3. Goal 5 - Gender Equality: Ensure that good governance in migration allows for safe migration for girls and women
4. Goal 8 - Employment & Decent Work: – promote safe and orderly migration, and respect for the human rights and labor rights of migrants. Where an exploitation of an underclass of workers is allowed to continue with impunity, it has adverse effects on the rights of all workers.
5. Goal 10 – Reduce Inequality: stress the value of regional cooperation
6. Goal 11, 16 –Inclusive and Peaceful Societies: Integration of migrants is key both on community and national level. It celebrate the richness of culture, but it also prevents marginalization which can lead to disaffection and violence
7. Goal 13 – Climate change and its impacts: Combatting these impacts is a priority issue, to prevent many adverse effects, such as driving people from land and livelihood
8. G 17 – Means of Implementation : Partnerships among all stakeholders, including migrants themselves and civil society, are imperative, as are monitoring outcomes and accountability

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

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2. Reduce the costs of labour migration

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3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking

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4. Address the plight of stranded migrants

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5. Improve public perceptions of migrants

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6. Integrate migration into the development agenda

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7. Strengthen the migration evidence base

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8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

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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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