

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 9-10 February 2012

**INPUT OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN TO THE TENTH COORDINATION
MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Methodist Women

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

The United Methodist Women's *Gender & Global Migration* program works within the global United Methodist Church and with global partners to give visibility to the concerns of migrant women around the world; to advocate for policies that affirm the human rights of migrant women, youth and children; to open space for the voices of migrant women and to affirm their leadership. Within the United States, United Methodist Women's *Immigrant & Civil Rights Initiative* works to educate and mobilize members in the US to address issues of racism and xenophobia regarding migrants and to advocate for US policies based on the human rights of migrants. United Methodist Women is a member of the US-based National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights [NNIRR] and serves on their International Advocacy team. Through NNIRR we participate in Migrant Rights International.

United Methodist Women participated in the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and in the "Common Space" with the Global Forum in 2010 and 2011. United Methodist Women served on the Consultation Circle in preparation for the 2011 Civil Society Days. In addition, we presented in the CSD Roundtable Investing in Development Alternatives to Migration in a session on "Co-Development for Decent Jobs at Home." United Methodist Women, as part of the Migrant Rights International delegation, served on the drafting committee for the Civil Society Days outcome document. In addition, United Methodist Women attended a meeting with the US Government delegation and US Civil Society representatives in both Puerto Vallarta and Geneva. In Puerto Vallarta in 2010 we were active in the roundtable on migrant women.

Our representative on Global Migration, Ms. Carol Barton, presented remarks at the Global Migration Group Symposium, *Migration & Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development* in the Plenary on *Enhancing the Contributions of Young Migrants to Development* at UNICEF Headquarters on May 18, 2011. United Methodist Women attended the Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration in 2011. We brought members to participate in the General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development on 19 May, 2011. We joined with other NGOs to host a side event to the informal thematic debate, ***Migration, Development and Human Rights: A Civil Society Perspective and View to 2013 as well as a community forum with migrant organizations in Queens.*** United Methodist Women engaged in the first People's Global Action in New York in 2006, a community side event to the 2006 United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

United Methodist Women has co-convened a Women & Global Migration caucus at the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights in 2009, 2010 and 2011. United Methodist Women and the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church organized international delegations of 20 delegates to Mexico City in 2010, and to Geneva in 2011, to participate in the People's Global Action. This is part of our efforts in educating and mobilizing the United Methodist Church on global migration issues including direct service, anti-racist education, and public policy advocacy.

At the United Nations Commissions on the Status of Women 53, 54 and 55, United Methodist Women co-organized side events on migrant women. In 2011 we collaborated with UN Women and other partners to host a side-event on *Dignity for Domestic Workers – the ILO Convention and Beyond*. We also hosted an NGO caucus on Women & Global Migration in each of the past three Commissions on the Status of Women, along with National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Migrant Forum Asia, Migrant Rights International; Platform for Undocumented Migrants in Europe; International Trade Union Confederation; Public Services International; and the NGO Committee on Migration. In 2012 we will co-sponsor an NGO side event at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on "Why Must Women Leave Home?" an exploration of the "push factors" of rural women's migration including issues of food sovereignty, land grabbing and climate change. This links the CSW focus of rural women to Rio+20, climate migration, and our ongoing focus on the gendered nature of migration, development and

human rights. In March, 2012, United Methodist Women will co-convene a workshop on Gender & Migration at the Association for Women's Rights in Development Forum in Istanbul, Turkey.

United Methodist Women will make "Women & Global Migration" a priority theme in 2013 in conjunction with the United Nations High Level Dialogue. This will include education and advocacy with and for migrant women globally. We plan to bring an international Methodist delegation to New York to attend the High Level Dialogue and to be active in community-based side events. With NGO colleagues we anticipate making the High Level Dialogue a significant priority in 2012 and 2013.

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women in the United States with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. Members support programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world. United Methodist Women have been engaged with the UN since its founding, and has been particularly active in the Commission on the Status of Women; the Commission on Sustainable Development; the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples; the World Conference Against Racism; and Financing for Development. United Methodist Women holds ECOSOC-NGO status through the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Contributions to the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2012

United Methodist Women is preparing for both the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Global Forum) 2012 and the High Level Dialogue in 2013 through:

- our participation in the 10th Coordination Meeting on International Migration, February, 2012
- our efforts to convene global and regional organizations around gender & migration
- our role in the Global Coalition on Migration, a nexus of global and regional networks engaged in the Global Forum on Migration and Development process
- our role on the "Consultation Circle" of the Civil Society Days
- our work within United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church to educate and mobilize around global migration concerns

Regarding preparations for Mauritius:

- We welcome recent statements of States favoring closer working relations with Civil Society. We urge Governments to respond positively to questions regarding engagement of Civil Society in the Global Forum on Migration and Development—questions prepared for consideration at the Global Forum session on States' Partnerships with NGOs. In that regard, we would welcome a joint working group to consider arrangements to strengthen the Global Forum's relationship with civil society. We urge the full participation of civil society in the Global Forum and welcome the opportunity to participate.
- We urge a more substantive engagement between governments and civil society than the Common Space currently allows. This should be structured to facilitate real dialogue leading to specific solutions.
- We encourage Governments participating in the Global Forum to engage with civil society (including migrant organizations) in their countries *prior to* Mauritius, to exchange perspectives and build working relationships.
- Regarding the *Draft Concept Paper for GFMD 2012* (draft 2, 6 January 2012) by the government of Mauritius, while we welcome the focus on human rights in the proposed roundtable on Gender, Human Rights and Migration, we urge that human rights be a central focus of ALL roundtable discussions. The *UN Secretary General's Report to the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly*

on agenda item 54 (c): International Migration and Development (2006) emphasizes the need to protect the human rights of migrants and references the UN international human rights instruments and Conventions of the International Labour Organization as “constituting the core of the international normative framework on international migration” (para. 283). Without an approach based on the principles of human rights protection, promotion and fulfillment, the proposed roundtables on *Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development*; *Factoring Migration into Development Planning*; and *Managing migration and perceptions of migration for development outcomes* risk overemphasizing labour needs and remittances and underemphasizing migrant rights.

- We are particularly pleased to see a proposed roundtable on *Gender, Human Rights and Migration*, which should also address race as a central concern. We are eager to contribute experiences and perspectives to this conversation, which is a priority concern for United Methodist Women.
- We strongly affirm the focus on *protection* of migrants, including domestic workers, all migrant workers, migrant women, irregular migrants and other vulnerable migrants. Exploration of specific ways to advance migrants’ social protection and improve access “to basic rights, including legal protection, healthcare, social security and other entitlements” is a very valuable element in the proposed discussions. We also welcome proposed roundtables on *Addressing South-South Migration and Development Policies*, and *Shaping Public Perceptions of Migrants and Migration*. The focus on *perceptions of migration* continues the very pertinent dialogue begun in Puerto Vallarta and addresses concerns regarding Xenophobia addressed by the World Conference Against Racism in Durban.

Contributions to the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development

Civil Society has played a significant role in the 2006 High Level Dialogue and in the Global Forum process. We look forward to a strong participation by Civil Society in the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development and the preparatory meetings leading up to it.

We would not wish to see the High Level Dialogue become a mere stepping stone in the Global Forum process. Rather, this is a critical juncture as global migration deliberations return to the UN arena and we expect significant results. While we will continue to be active in Civil Society activities related to the Global Forum in 2014 and into the future, we will actively work to see global migration policy-making permanently housed within the UN system, with a strong centralized secretariat, operating within United Nations protocols. In our view, such a secretariat would not be one of the existing agencies (such as IOM or ILO), but a new entity that brings together the cross-cutting work on migration within the United Nations system.

Civil Society is already mobilizing for a major presence in New York for the High Level Dialogue. We hope to work with the United Nations system to enable broad participation of interested NGOs with special attention to grassroots migrant organizations. This means providing access to more than 3 delegates per organization, and opening access to new organizations that want to be part of the process through a “roster” accreditation process. We urge the Secretariat and the office of the President of the General Assembly to work with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and with NGOs to develop these modalities.

We urge the Secretariat, the office of the President of the General Assembly and member states to construct a High Level Dialogue that fully engages all stakeholders in interactive dialogue, enabling creative exchanges and bold outcomes. There are several models of interactive inter-governmental

engagement that has also included stakeholders including United Nations agencies, NGOs and business. These include the Financing for Development Roundtable model; the IV United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries model; and the Commission on Sustainable Development “stakeholder” model, among others. We invite the Secretariat and the office of the President of the General Assembly to explore these models and to adopt a creative, interactive approach to the High Level Dialogue that avoids speeches and seeks real dialogue and engagement. We suggest an outcome document with real commitments, drawn from “Chairs’ Summaries” of interactive round-tables that fully include civil society.

United Methodist Women is committed to this process, and would be pleased to be part of ongoing preparations regarding both modalities and agenda for the High Level Dialogue.

New Initiatives in the Area of International Migration

We see the United Nations as the critical institutional arena for addressing global migration. Migration is a cross-cutting concern that links human rights, sustainable development and peacemaking concerns of the United Nations. Thus, we welcome the High Level Dialogue as a key opportunity to explore the intersections of these concerns and to address not only the outcomes, but the root causes of migration.

- 1) As a global NGO working with women, youth and children in all regions of the world, our members and partners experience first-hand the causes of migration in lack of food security, climate change, war, joblessness, poverty, land-grabbing and other factors. These realities in sending countries have both race and gender dimensions that must be intentionally addressed. Similarly in migrant receiving nations, xenophobia has been a particular concern regarding migrant integration and migrant rights. Thus, we urge the UN System, and the High Level Dialogue in particular, to make **linkages to other global commitments** and follow-up processes, including the IV World Conference on Women and subsequent reviews; the World Conference Against Racism and subsequent reviews; Financing for Development and subsequent reviews, the Rio Earth Summit/Agenda 21 and follow-up; the IV UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries; and the Millennium Development Goals.
- 2) We urge that discussions of “Development” in the Migration and Development nexus focus on **root causes of migration** and the fulfillment of global development commitments, going beyond current concerns on how migrants contribute to development. What policies must be implemented and commitments fulfilled so that migrants are not forced to leave their homes in the first place?
- 3) The *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* continues to be the most comprehensive framework for global and national migration policy. As such, it should serve as a framework and guide deliberations at the High Level Dialogue and future inter-governmental discussions. We suggest that an assessment of the **current status of the human rights of migrants** be a theme of the High Level Dialogue. This should include specific attention to migrant women and youth; oppressed racial and ethnic groups and irregular migrants.
- 4) We urge the High Level Dialogue to address **current realities of migration enforcement**, including detention and deportation policies, from a human rights perspective.