

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

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**INPUT OF THE GLOBAL WORKERS JUSTICE ALLIANCE TO THE  
TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

*Global Workers Justice Alliance*

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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.

Global Workers Justice Alliance engages with States, UN agencies, and NGO networks in preparing for, and participating in, the Global Forums on Migration and Development as well as the United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogues on Migration and Development, to advance our mission of combating worker exploitation by promoting *portable justice* for transnational migrants and their families worldwide,

#### A. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

Global Workers Justice Alliance is dedicated to the notion of "portable justice" for the transnational migrant workforce. Portable justice is defined as the right and ability of a transnational worker to access justice where a worker was employed, even after he or she has departed for his or her home country.

In line with the second roundtable at the May 19, 2011 Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development focusing on improving international cooperation on migration and development, Global Worker Justice Alliance is setting up transnational networks of advocates to assure that migrants are able to access the court system in the country of employment even after they have returned to their home countries.

In March of 2011, Global Workers Justice Alliance, in cooperation with the Immigrant Justice Clinic at American University - Washington College of Law, submitted a statement for consideration by the United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers in preparation for its "Day of General Discussion on the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families".

The report appeals to the Committee to integrate *portable justice* into the discussion, and urges that the United Nation's Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families must integrate the premise that when feasible, the state should adopt rules or procedures that facilitate a transnational litigants presence even from abroad. In order to fulfill the convention's mission of ensuring that migrants worldwide are treated fairly and justly, portable justice must be part of this discussion. Global Workers Justice Alliance will continue to push this item in the agendas leading up to the 2013 High-Level Dialogue.

In the past year, Global Workers Justice Alliance has cooperated with various NGO partners, (networks) and United Nations agencies, and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), to advance the objectives set forth at the Informal Thematic Debate in May 2011. In November of 2011, Global Workers Justice Alliance and a member of the Global Workers Defender Network from Guatemala met with the heads of labor migration at the IOM to discuss "portable justice" issues in the context of their temporary worker recruitment program. Global Workers Justice Alliance offered to work conjointly to reconcile the rights violations workers suffered in the past and help re-establish credibility and transparency in the program.

Global Workers Justice Alliance looks forward to continued engagement with the IOM, the NGO Committee on Migration, and other Civil Society stakeholders as we prepare for the United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration in Development in 2013, to ensure the well being of all migrants and members of their families.

Pursuant to recommendations made by Civil Society during the Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Joint Session, NGOs should engage in a coordinated effort to present a set of cohesive recommendations and requests to stakeholders throughout the planning process for the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2013 in Mauritius, as well as the High-Level Dialogue in 2013. To that end, Global Workers Justice Alliance is actively seeking to cooperate with more Civil Society bodies to strategize around developing a unified agenda. More recently, Global Workers Justice Alliance instigated an effort that led to an NGO conference call led by Migrant Rights International, organizing entity of the Peoples Global Action Forum 2011, surrounding that very topic. Furthermore, the organization will continue to seize opportunities to submit comments and recommendations on migration topics and discussions that align themselves with the needs of Civil Society as a whole and the needs of migrant workers and their families.

## B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2011 AND 2012

### *1. Contributions to the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2011*

The Swiss Government invited the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) to be the coordinating agency for the Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Days in 2011. This presented Civil Society and NGOs with an unprecedented opportunity to engage in framing the discussion during the forum. In response to the request made by ICMC head of Policy, John K. Bingham, Global Workers Justice Alliance formed part of the Global Forum on Migration Civil Society Days “Consultation Circle”, and provided comments on the Civil Society Concept Paper. Cathleen Caron, Global Workers Justice Alliance Executive Director, was selected as a Civil Society Delegate.

As a member of the NGO Committee on Migration, Global Workers Justice Alliance endorsed the recommendations for action on each theme of the four simultaneous working sessions of the Civil Society Days submitted by the Committee at the Global Forum on Migration and Development regional meeting in Jamaica in September of 2011.

### *2. Contributions to the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2012*

Global Workers has every intention to engage in the preparations leading up to the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2012. In particular, as a member of the NGO Committee on Migration, Global Workers Justice Alliance supports the effort to push Governments to respond positively to the questions regarding engagement of Civil Society in the GFMD that were created during the closed session of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2011.

One of the Roundtable Themes proposed in the most recent Draft Concept Paper for the Global Forum on Migration and Development Mauritius 2012, Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development, if approved, will “debate policies to improve the conditions of migrant workers”. Global Workers Justice Alliance will seize the opportunity this provides to work with Civil Society on strategies that will ensure enough attention is paid to this component of the Roundtable. In that fashion, the organization will continue to take every opportunity to inject “portable justice” into discussions surrounding the rights of “mobile” workers.

Global Workers Justice Alliance will apply for participation again in 2012.

### C. NEW INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

With temporary programs on the rise worldwide, Global Workers Justice Alliance has been increasingly concerned with conditions under which migrants work on temporary visas. In the U.S. context, some visas have been increasingly misused to import migrants to work in inexcusable conditions in low wage industries. In response, Global Workers Justice Alliance launched an unprecedented one-year Foreign Temporary Worker Scoping Study to determine just how many workers are affected, which visas are utilized, understand how they work from the perspective of government agencies, employers and workers, and identify patterns of abuse.

The project’s findings will then be summarized in a report for public dissemination this year. The goal is to create a campaign to educate advocates, policy makers, and the public on the reality of the foreign temporary worker program in the U.S. Global Workers Justice Alliance will work to engage Civil Society actors and organizations for support, with the aim of shifting the terms of public debate with respect to this issue and promoting substantial shifts in public opinion. These shifts will make profound transformations in the framework more politically viable.

Global Workers Justice Alliance will participate in the Peoples Global Action forum as in years past, and propose workshops parallel to the Global Forum on Migration and Development Mauritius 2012 proposed Roundtable Theme, Circulating Labour for Inclusive Development. The organization will continue to promote access to “portable justice” for migrant workers and their families, to ensure that migrant workers have access to circular legal recourse.