



Global Forum on
MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT
Civil Society



Achieving Migration and Development Goals

Movement together on global solutions and local action

Recommendations
Benchmarks
Actions

GFMD Civil Society Days 2015, Turkey

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Recommendations – Benchmarks – Actions
GFMD Civil Society 2015

Background to the GFMD Civil Society Programme 2015

Time for better choices and solutions
for migration, migrant rights and development

This booklet presents a set of **10 recommendations and corresponding benchmarks and actions** coming out of the Civil Society Days (CSD) of the 2015 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), in Istanbul Turkey.

Following and bringing together 18 months of activities on the ground worldwide in follow-up to the 2014 GFMD in Sweden, the 2015 GFMD Civil Society Days were held on 12 and 13 October in Turkey, leading into the Common Space with governments on 14 October and the GFMD Government Days on 15 and 16 October.

The 2015 GFMD took place at a time—and directly in the region— where the world sees the largest forced displacement of people since the Second World War. At the same time the GFMD was held just weeks after 193 governments at the UN adopted the ambitious 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a 15-year full-planet agenda to “leave no one behind”—including migrants, whatever their migratory status.

As for each GFMD since 2011, the 2015 GFMD civil society activities were organized by the Civil Society Coordinating Office, under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), in partnership with the International Steering Committee (ISC) of 33 civil society organizations and networks active worldwide in migration, migrant rights’ and development.

The GFMD Civil Society Days 2015 gathered a record number of 339 participants. 225 were civil society delegates: leaders, practitioners and advocate, over half of them migrants or diaspora themselves, who work at grass roots, national, regional and international levels across every region of the world. The delegates actively represented a diversity of human rights and development NGOs, migrant and diaspora associations, faith-based and workers organizations, academics and the private sector, with more than one out of three leading or presenting in plenary and working sessions of the programme. Another 114 representatives of government, media and other guests and observers also participated. *See figure 1 below for a snapshot of participation and programme highlights.*

Under the overarching title “**Achieving Migration and Development Goals: Movement Together on Global Solutions and Local Action**”, the GFMD Civil Society Days programme was built to identify solutions and actions to improve the situation in which migrants, families and communities move, live and work. Working in a mix of plenary and break-out sessions, participants looked with particular attention at global and local movement and progress on achieving the [outcomes from the GFMD 2014](#) and the [“5-year 8-point Plan of Action”](#) that civil society launched in 2013.

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Ignacio Packer, Secretary General of Terre des Hommes International Federation and 2015 GFMD Civil Society Chair, delivered the report of the 2015 GFMD Civil Society Days at the Opening Ceremony of the Government Days. Speaking to some 500 government delegates from more than 140 countries, together with the civil society delegates and high-level representatives from UN and international agencies, Mr. Packer spoke of better choices that need to be made in policies and practices on migration and development. Civil society *“emphatically rejects building blocks of migration policy based on prejudice and fear, of walls, barbed wires and prisons, of stereotypes, of ‘us’ and ‘them’. [...] Those are not the only choices possible!”* Choices need to build on evidence and values: on reality not assumptions, and values centred upon full respect for human rights of migrants. Mr. Packer emphasized *“the importance - the self-determination and agency - of migrant women and migrant diaspora, everywhere”* and that *“evidence resoundingly shows that access to human rights makes all the difference, not just to protection but to economic human development, social inclusion and healthier societies.”*

Drawing upon that report, as well the reports by the civil society rapporteurs of the working sessions, and the rapporteurs on women and on children, this booklet presents the **10 main civil society recommendations, and corresponding benchmarks and actions.**

1. **On recruitment:** To reform migrant labour recruitment policies and practices in order to protect and empower migrant workers
2. **On employment:** To reform migrant labour employment policies and practices in order to protect and empower migrant workers
3. **On transit and crisis:** To ensure needs-first, human-rights-based and human-development-driven protection and solutions for migrants in crisis and transit situations
4. **On forced migration:** To ensure human-development-driven, short-term responses and long-term solutions for forced migrants
5. **On xenophobia and social inclusion:** To combat xenophobia and materialize the social inclusion of migrants and diaspora in societies
6. **On migrant action for development:** To facilitate diaspora and migrant action for development through job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy advocacy
7. **On UN 2030 Agenda:** To fashion inclusive indicators, implement and monitoring the UN Sustainable Development Agenda “at home” and include civil society in this
8. **On children:** To protect and empower children in contexts of migration to ensure their human rights and human development
9. **On women:** To ensure and promote human rights and human development of women in contexts of migration
10. **On governance:** To ensure civil society’s rightful place and co-responsibility in governance at local, national, regional and global levels; including on the governance and future of the GFMD

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Figure 1: Snapshot of GFMD Civil Society Days 2015

Civil society delegates and other participants

- **339** participants in total, **225** civil society delegates:
 - o **86** of them speakers in the Civil Society Days programme
 - o **169** female, **170** male
- Of the 225 civil society delegates:
 - o **48** migrants themselves and **97** representing organizations led by migrants or diaspora
 - o **76** migrant/diaspora NGOs, **57** human rights organizations, **39** development groups, **26** academia, **22** labour organizations and **5** private sector
 - o **36** from Americas, **49** from Asia Pacific, **50** from Africa; **71** from Europe; **19** Turkish civil society organizations
- **82** observers from regional and international organizations
- **8** media representatives
- **24** government representatives of **11** countries

Programme highlights and special features

- **Plenary debate** on *Safe Migration: root causes, route choices and alternatives to forced and dangerous migration*, featuring personal testimonies, poetry, and ways forward from migrants, civil society and United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration Peter Sutherland.
- **Parallel working sessions and (for the first time) Action Papers on:**
 - o *2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and its meaning for migrants*
 - o *protecting migrants on the move in crisis and transit situations*
 - o *development solutions for forced migrants*
 - o *reforming recruitment and employment practices for migrant workers*
 - o *migrant and diaspora action for job creation and social entrepreneurship*
 - o *xenophobia and social inclusion*
- **1st time three special sessions** spotlighting:
 - o *protection and durable solutions for Syrian refugees*
 - o *children in the context of migration*
 - o *commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the UN Migrant Workers Convention*
- **1st time a Women-rapporteur** and a **Child-rapporteur** to report back from the different sessions how issues relevant to women and to children in the context of migration were brought forward, with recommendations
- Presentation of the **1st MADE global Movement Report and Survey** – independent assessment (based on 350 respondents and interviews worldwide) of priorities, progress and impact for migrants, migrant’s rights and development of Civil Society’s 5-year 8-Point Plan (from 2013)

Recommendation 1 - on recruitment

To reform migrant labour recruitment policies and practices in order to protect and empower migrant workers

Recommendation 2 - on employment

To reform migrant labour employment policies and practices in order to protect and empower migrant workers

Corresponding to points 7 and 8 in civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action

Building on recent momentum in some of these issues, civil society calls upon governments to:

- work more seriously together in international, regional and bilateral partnerships to enforce transparency in international labour recruitment, and to include civil society directly in these partnerships and negotiations.
- better license, regulate and monitor recruitment actors, and publish data on this.
- adopt and enforce legislation that bans recruitment fees charged to workers; combats forced labour, contract substitution, and passport retention; and provides for dispute settlement, legal redress and portable justice for migrant workers regardless of their status.
- adequately resource and train their foreign missions to be able to assist “their” migrant workers better in their protection and empowerment.
- ensure decent work in countries of origin and destination.
- enforce core labour standards including the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, equal pay and safe working conditions.
- end visa-regimes and systems that tie the migrant worker to one employer, as this creates conditions for employers to exploit workers. Instead governments should allow labour market mobility for workers at the national level, while working within regional blocs to gradually implement mobility regimes for all workers.

At the same time civil society **calls upon the private sector to:**

- adopt and implement ethical human resources and procurement standards that promote direct hiring.
- ban recruitment fees charged to workers.
- respect and work to widen protection of labour rights of workers, including in supply chains.
- work together with civil society and labour unions on improving and monitoring these standards; government can facilitate this space.

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Benchmarks to measure progress:

- Increased number of countries ratify and enforce relevant UN and ILO conventions pertaining to migrants, in particular the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as ILO C181 (private employment agencies), C189 (domestic workers), C97 (migration for employment), C143 (migrant workers supplement), C182 (worst forms of child labour convention), C29 (forced labour) and protocol.
- Increased number of national and international registries and licensing bodies for recruitment firms.
- Increased number of *transparent* government-to-government agreements on international labour recruitment that incorporate guarantees for the protection of the rights of migrants, ban recruitment fees charged to workers, prevent contract substitution and passport retention, and contain provisions for legal redress and portable justice.

Actions for civil society to take on migrant worker recruitment and employment:

- Build on the success of the “Yelp”-like tool contratados.org to build worker power and transparency in labour recruitment, with civil society stepping up this effort in partnership with the ILO, government and the private sector, for similar tools to be available in multiple languages across the globe.
- Through civil society’s global Open Working Group on Labour Mobility and Recruitment and the Recruitment Reform campaign, civil society can step up advocacy by joining the movement, disseminating campaign materials and policy briefs at national level, and working more directly with UN treaty bodies, UN special rapporteurs, and ILO committees.
- Labour unions can join forces with migrants and civil society more regularly to campaign together at the national level for justice and to include language regarding recruitment abuses and migrant worker protection into collective bargaining agreements.
- Civil society organizations can increase protection and empowerment of current and prospective migrant workers with trainings and counseling on their human rights and access to justice.

Recommendation 3 - on transit and crisis

To ensure needs-first, human rights-based and human development-driven protection and solutions for migrants in crisis and transit situations

Recommendation 4 - on forced migration

To ensure human development-driven short-term responses and long-term solutions for forced migrants

Corresponding to points 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action

Pointing with fierce urgency to continued tragic losses of life, disappearances and abuses of migrants *en route* and at borders all over the world, civil society **calls upon governments to:**

- put the human dignity of people first, with needs-first, human-rights based and human-development protection and solutions for these migrants, irrespective of status and origin country.
- do much more to address the root causes of forced migration, including addressing environmental degradation and climate change, the lack of livelihoods and decent work, and conflict and human rights abuses in countries and regions of origin.
- update current mandates and strengthen or build further *binding* frameworks to cover the wider reality and needs of forced migrants and the countries in which they find refuge, and migrants in all crisis and transit situations. For example by broadening the scope of the *Migrants In Countries in Crisis* initiative that is underway and welcome, and the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, possibly with a related protocol, with consideration of those aspects of the OAU Convention (1969) and Cartagena Declaration (1984) that are directly relevant.
- redirect policy efforts and build practical mechanisms for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, both for those forced to leave their country, as well as for migrants seeking work abroad, preventing migrants from having to travel dangerous and expensive routes.
- challenge “temporariness” by offering long-term, sustainable solutions to those experiencing forced migration; recognizing and investing in their human development and potential, including through access to labour market, education for children, local integration, resettlement, family reunification and pathways to permanent residence and citizenship.
- recognize, protect and strengthen the role of civil society in policy development and in providing essential legal, humanitarian and social assistance to migrants in crisis and transit
- not criminalize organizations helping migrants, e.g. through search and rescue operations, medical support, shelter, legal advice and other services.

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Civil society underscored once more the need to monitor and gather information on migrants' movements in crisis and transit, including deaths and disappearances en route, and hardships encountered by migrants, disaggregated by age and gender, in order to develop better evidence-based policies and public communication on this.

Benchmarks to measure progress:

- Increased disaggregated data is available on the situation of migrants.
- Rapid reduction in the number of migrants who are killed, injured, detained, or victims of crime while seeking to cross maritime, land and air borders.
- Increase in states and border authorities being trained and using tools to protect migrants in mixed migration flows, including the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) *Principles and Recommendations on the Human Rights of Migrants at Borders* and the guidelines being developed on *Migrants in Countries in Crisis*.
- Removal of legal, administrative and practical barriers in national law for organisations offering legal, humanitarian and social assistance to migrants on the move.
- Reduction in the number of forced displaced people, by addressing root causes of this displacement, and providing legal avenues to move.
- Increase in the number of durable solutions for forced migrants that recognize and invest in their human development and potential, including through access to labour market, education for children, local integration, resettlement, family reunification and pathways to permanent residence and citizenship.

Actions for civil society to take on human security and human development for migrants on the move:

- Establish a global civil society working group and national platforms to develop advocacy tools and training materials for national and local authorities and for civil society on (1) the protection of migrants on the move and (2) durable development solutions for forced migrants, and to link these global and national civil society groups to multi-stakeholder group(s) including governments, international organizations and the private sector.
- *see also recommendation 5 on xenophobia and social exclusion on the role of civil society in framing migration and changing discourse.*

Recommendation 5 - on xenophobia and social inclusion

To combat xenophobia and materialize the social inclusion of migrants and diaspora in societies

[Going beyond civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action]

The fight against xenophobia and for the social inclusion of migrants and diaspora in societies is a prerequisite for human development, among other things the ability of migrants and diaspora to invest in the development of their family, communities, and countries. Civil society **calls upon governments to:**

- do much more to fight xenophobia and discrimination, e.g., enacting and more vigorously implementing legislation against discrimination, hate crimes and xenophobic violence; incorporating meaningful anti-discrimination and migration history education at schools; and establishing formal social dialogues between employers, employees and government to combat xenophobia at the work place.
- establish and maintain regular links, including in the GFMD, with relevant special human rights mechanisms and mandate holders, such as the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Migrants and on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances in order to strengthen and synthesise issues of migration and xenophobia into international processes.
- ensure the social inclusion of migrants in societies, by providing access to services, language training, local voting rights and pathways to citizenship; with particular and urgent work to improve access to healthcare and justice, including strong “firewalls” between these public services and immigration authorities.

Civil society also called upon the Media to take responsibility in refraining from abusive terminology, and contribute to changing the perceptions on migrants and diaspora.

Benchmarks to measure progress:

- Increase in number of governments implementing anti-discrimination legislation
- Increase in number of countries across the globe with national curricula that incorporate migration histories and anti-discrimination.
- Decrease in incidence of political leaders and media using abusive language or stories or other imagery regarding migrants and diaspora.
- Increase in number of government policies and programmes that include migrants by improved access to services, voting rights and access to citizenship.

Actions for civil society to take against xenophobia and for social inclusion:

- MADE (civil society Migration and Development network) to coordinate a global network or working group on xenophobia and social inclusion that links civil society organisations with other actors, such as Chambers of Commerce, media, academics, trade union, governments.
- Campaigns by civil society, also together with the Media, to lift up the images of migrants and diaspora as bearers of culture, diversity and development.

Recommendation 6 - on migrant action for development

To facilitate diaspora and migrant action for development through job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy advocacy

Corresponding to point 2 in civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action

As in prior years, civil society **calls upon governments** to:

- ensure adequate policy and funding frameworks and mechanisms in both sending and receiving countries to facilitate diaspora and migrant contributions to development, including through job creation, social entrepreneurship and advocacy for sound public policies (e.g. on health, education and social services) and regulatory frameworks, also in particular to ensure decent work in small and medium enterprises.
- set up practical mechanisms for diaspora investment and entrepreneurship, such as diaspora bonds, municipal bonds, diaspora development funds, access to public private partnership (PPP) schemes and public finance initiatives (PFI), the identification of priority investment areas.
- to include diaspora and migrants engagement in local and national development plans.

Benchmarks to measure progress:

- National and local development plans include diaspora and migrant engagement and resources.
- National and a global diaspora development funds have been created.
- Increase in access for migrants and diaspora to mechanisms and resources to set up businesses and invest in the country of origin.

Actions for civil society to take on migrant action for development:

- Strengthen and establish further transnational networks of diaspora and migrants across continents, linked to networks of civil society in countries of origin, to exchange knowledge, good practices, and work together on advocacy messages and tools.
- Develop advocacy tools for migrant and diaspora networks to work together with local civil society to advocate for sound public policies, regulatory frameworks and mechanism for diaspora investment.
- Extend the outreach of the civil society MADE (Migration and Development) network to social and private social enterprise/initiatives.

Recommendation 7 – on the UN 2030 Agenda

To fashion inclusive indicators, implement and monitor the UN Sustainable Development Agenda “at home” and include civil society in this

Corresponding to point 1 in civil society’s 5-year 8-point Plan of Action

Now that 193 governments have unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, all of which are relevant to migrants, regardless of status, and at least 7 explicitly so, civil society **calls upon governments to:**

- act without delay on their commitments to ensure that “no-one is left behind”, including migrants, regardless of status; and to create a real choice to migrate or not to migrate.
- include civil society in the global process to develop indicators and monitoring frameworks; this process should include critically evaluating the role the GFMD could play on global thematic review of migration relevant goals and targets, and considering the more firm anchoring of migration and development within the UN system.
- immediately begin translating the global 2030 Agenda into national development plans and policies, including dedicating adequate resources to implement these policies, define indicators and baseline situations and monitor progress closely. Data and impact should be disaggregated by age, gender and migratory status, as the implementation of virtually all goals will have an impact on migrants (for example, ensuring access to health, education, justice, decent work, etc.).

Civil society underscored the need to create multi-stakeholder initiatives from the start at national and local level, in which all relevant actors (e.g. civil society, the private sector, executive branch, parliament) come together to define indicators and monitor the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda.

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Benchmarks to measure progress:

- National (and local) development plans and policies to implement the Sustainable Development Goals include explicit reference to actions on migrants and migration, and dedicate adequate resources.
- Global and national indicators to monitor progress explicitly include migrants and migration, and the data collected to measure progress is disaggregated by age, gender and migratory status.
- Civil society's role in implementation and monitoring progress is institutionalized at global and national levels; specifically civil society's role in the global thematic review of migrant and migration-related targets.

Actions for civil society to take on migrants, migration and the UN 2030 Agenda:

- To formulate a global civil society position on the global thematic review process of migration related goals, targets and indicators, that is anchored within the UN and involves civil society, and to advocate for an time-bound joint civil society-government MADE/GFMD working group to work on this global thematic review process.
- For the civil society MADE (Migration and Development) network to create an advocacy toolbox and (virtual) advocacy training on migration and the UN 2030 Agenda for national civil society organizations and networks to (1) influence the process of setting global indicators; and (2) provide guidance to advocate for national policy formulation, implementation, budgeting and indicator development, in order to achieve the migrant and migration-related goals and targets at national levels.
- To globally and nationally build alliances with other social justice movements to ensure effective implementation of the universal and interconnected goals and targets, such as alliances with the Beyond 2015 network, the Action 2015 network, and the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP).
- To conduct baselines studies, and write shadow reports on progress, and stagnation.

Recommendation 8 - On children

To protect and empower children in contexts of migration to ensure their human rights and human development

Recommendation 9 - On women

To ensure and promote human rights and human development of women in contexts of migration

Corresponding to point 4 and all others in civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action

Civil society called on all stakeholders to always apply a gender-sensitive, and child-friendly approach when developing and implementing policies, in order to protect and promote the human rights and human development of women and children in contexts of migration, including access to education, justice, health care, addressing gender-based violence and wage disparities.

Civil society calls upon governments to:

- remember that children are - first and foremost – children, and that their best interests must be a primary factor in any decisions affecting the child.
- act on the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on children in migration, including putting an end to immigration detention of children and families.
- ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- promote and protect migrant women's right to freedom from violence and enact effective policies to do so.
- respect family unity, and ensure family reunification, in migration and asylum policies.

Benchmarks to measure progress:

- Increase in number of state policies and collaboration with civil society and the private sector to ensure full and equitable access of women and children to health care, education, water, sanitation and other services as per the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, and 5, and include ratification and implementation of Migrant Rights conventions and CEDAW into the indicators that monitor achievement of these SDGs
- Increase in the number of countries that ratify and implement the CEDAW and other conventions relevant to the protection and freedom of women.
- Increase in gender-equality policies in the workplace.
- Further recognition of au pairs as workers within national labour laws.
- Increase the provision of visas and protection for mothers and other family members who go to transit and destination countries seeking to find close relatives who have been lost in the journey.

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- Improved collection of sex and age disaggregated data collection on migration, including on detainment, and trafficking.
- Increase in number of countries ratifying and implementing the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on ending child immigration detention, family reunification and on access to justice, health, education and other services for children.

Actions for civil society to take regarding women and children in contexts of migration:

- Build alliances with civil society movements on women and children
- Mainstream a gender and a child perspective in all programming and advocacy work

Recommendation 10 - On governance

To ensure civil society's rightful place and co-responsibility in governance at local, national, regional and global levels; including on the governance and future of the GFMD

Corresponding to points 5 + 6 in civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action

Civil society expresses grave concern about the shrinking space for civil society worldwide with more than 60 countries having passed or drafted laws that curtail activities; and **calls upon governments to** respect civil society's rightful place and co-responsibility in governance at local, national, regional and global levels; including the future of the GFMD, restructuring Common Space and the global governance of migration within the UN also in relation to the implementation and monitoring of migration-related aspects of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Benchmarks:

- Increased number of governments, have institutionalized the role of civil society in migration, and in development policies, for example through the establishment of national migration councils, and similar structures at regional and local level.
- The voice and role of civil society has been strengthened and more fully institutionalized in the GFMD, and in discussions on the future of the global governance of migration and development.
- *see also benchmarks under recommendation 6 on the UN 2030 agenda*

Actions:

- For the civil society Coordinating Office, the International Steering Committee and civil society MADE (Migration and Development) network to coordinate civil society *advocacy* on the future of the GFMD and the global governance of migration, including the implementation and monitoring of migration-related aspects of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- *see also actions under recommendation 6 on the UN 2030 agenda*

The Civil Society activities of the 2015 Global Forum on Migration and Development are organized by the GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office, under the auspices of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) in partnership with a diverse group of NGOs, labour organizations, migrants and migrant associations, members of the academic community, and the private sector.

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The GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office is part of the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE)