

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

3. Civil society outcomes and recommendations from 2011

The two Civil Society Days resulted in a civil society statement and an overview of key recommendations for follow up actions to be taken up independently or in partnership by governments and civil society around the following themes

- rights based policy making for the benefit of migrant workers and families
- improving protection of migrants moving or working in irregular circumstances
- re-imagining labour mobility
- investing in development alternatives to migration
- advancing the global governance of migration and the future of the Forum

Just to highlight three elements of in those recommendations

- A number of areas were noted as having outcomes within reach in particular measures to improve recruitment and placement processes, cooperation on piloting mechanisms for labour and skills matching, and securing ratifications of the new ILO Convention on Domestic Workers
- There continues to be appreciation that the D in GFMD is for *human* development but not as the opposite of *economic* development. Human and economic development are not opposites in this Global Forum they go together
- Again the predominant emphasis of civil society was on protection of the rights of migrants and their families for the well being of migrants, their communities and states including fundamental rights essential to positive diaspora engagement. In these directions civil society remains unequivocally committed to universal ratification of the 1990 Migrant Workers Convention

Further, the recommendations included strong suggestions to move forward to improve the GFMD's impact and prepare for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD in 2012). In particular, civil society called on all actors

- in considering the Future of the Forum to affirm that the primary concern is actually the future of *migrants*. International governance is urgently needed to protect the rights of migrant workers and families where a specific government fails to do so
- to further reflect upon the possibility of integrating the GFMD within a rights based, accountable and transparent framework with binding engagements

The recommendations further charged not only governments but civil society itself to work harder at

4. GFMD 2012 and the High Level Dialogue

At the invitation of the Mauritian Chair, and with part funding from the MacArthur and Bancomer Foundations ICMC continues to serve as the Coordinating Office for 2012 working with civil society partners worldwide to organize the activities of civil society within the processes of both the 2012 GFMD and the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2012.

Steps taken in the first two months of GFMD 2012 (December 2011 and January 2012)

As the year began there were already commitments for about 30% third of the core budget for civil society activities in 2012 entirely from prior donors. While that support is clearly an expression of confidence in the place and value of civil society within the GFMD process, achieving a broader and more sustainable resource base continues to be a major challenge for civil society. And yet the support among most states for civil society engagement in the GFMD remains strong and vocal. Indeed the Coordinating Office believes that there is genuine funding potential in this GFMD process, especially as both civil society and states become more focused voluntarily on specific and measurable outcomes. With that in mind an organized appeal will be launched in February and March for a diverse group of 10 states to become "investors in the GFMD civil society."

The Coordinating Office formally pursued several funding opportunities for civil society activities related to the Forum, each with the possibility of *multi-year* funding, two referring to civil society convenings between GFMD meetings at an inter regional level, including continental Africa, and one for research on so called south south migration and related development issues.

Along with 10 other civil society organizations, representatives of 15 agencies of the Global Migration Group, and intergovernmental organizations, and even 10 states, ICMC's Coordinating Office participated actively in (and moderated) the day long the brainstorming among *non-states* actors that the Mauritius Chair organized on its draft concept paper in Mauritius January 9th. The discussion was lively and positive. 12 different speakers made 9 interventions, broadly supportive of the themes of the concept paper, and the drive of the Chair towards outcomes. Particular emphasis was made on keeping migrants at the center of the discussion, engaging more fully with diaspora and on development, and taking discussion to action.

With respect to partners, the Coordinating Office will once again be working with an International Advisory Committee core group of 10 civil society representatives that are geographically and sectorally diverse. It is hoped and expected that many of the veterans from prior years will stay on, but there will be new and more representatives from Africa, and more diaspora, along with Mauritian civil society representatives (as was the case with representatives of Swiss civil society last year). On the ground in Mauritius, the presence and direct partner for the international planning and logistics of the civil society days will be ICMC's network member Caritas Mauritius, who along with other local civil society groups will also collaborate in a distinct process of organizing Mauritius civil society with the Mauritius

late

references for civil society's *own* concept paper this year. Like last year, this effort will involve wide consultation, participatory review of two drafts, and on substance, operate according to the principle 'less is more'. So for example, the civil society concept paper is likely to have a more limited focus than the states', for example with great attention to issues particular but not exclusive to Africa (including south-south migration, and on dynamics of development and diaspora).

The High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development

Finally, thinking has proceeded in earnest about the Future of the Forum and the High Level Dialogue (the HLD) next year. As far as organizing the HLD goes, next year is really this year, only underscored by the UN Coordinating Committee on International Migration scheduling a panel on the HLD in New York at the end of this week. Honestly, civil society, like many governments and international organizations, has a lot of thinking to do. For one thing, contrary to wide assumption, there is no consensus in civil society that the GFMD belongs in the UN, even as many agree that the GFMD needs a UN framework of some kind, at a minimum normative but also more structured and sustained than is presently the case.