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**Civil Society statement to GFMD government roundtable 1.2 (“Framing migration for the MDGs and the post 2015 Development Agenda”)**

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presenting emphases and recommendations from the Civil Society Days, 12 -13 May, Stockholm

*extemporaneous; check against delivery*

Chairs, government colleagues,

There seems to be an echo in the room on including migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda, as there has been all week here in Stockholm. In the Civil Society programme, in Common Space, and among so many of the government speakers this afternoon—Canada, Guatemala, Italy, Liberia, Mexico just to name a few—it is almost a Global *Echo* on Migration and Development.

**Civil society spent 20 hours since last Friday** in meetings together here in Stockholm discussing migrants, migration and the global post-2015 development agenda: nearly 200 organizations over the weekend at the Peoples’ Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights and 250 delegates at the GFMD Civil Society Days in these rooms Monday and Tuesday.

Among us were delegates from 19 countries in Africa, 15 countries in Europe, 13 countries from Latin-America and the Caribbean, 8 countries in the Middle East and 2 in North America. A majority were migrants themselves or from families with migrants; 44 were diaspora organizations active in social and economic inclusion, forming businesses and creating jobs.

The “guiding questions” for this roundtable invite **“evidence and experience”** of migrants and migration contributing to the achievement of the current set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Much of civil society—and in particular, migrants, diaspora and our families—can respond, humbly but honestly, with *ourselves* as an example: at work just about everywhere in the world for wages that lift or ensure that our households and families (millions in countries we have come from) are “out of poverty”; improving food and health outcomes, education, housing and gender equality… The MDG list goes on...

We bring that personal evidence and experience to a “new” set of *sustainable* development goals (SDGs). We note surprising unity of civil society with many states, most notably drawing from the Declaration that UN member states adopted by consensus at the High Level Dialogue in October, the recommendations of the Dhaka Declaration two weeks ago, the discussions in Common Space yesterday and the background paper for this roundtable today. So much in common, so much agreement that migrants and migration belong in the post-2015 development agenda, as both actors and subjects of human and economic development that is sustainable.

My job is to briefly report to you **civil society’s *major emphases*** for “full planet” SDGs that interact with migrants and migration in concrete, transformative ways.

1] SDGs must address **conditions that force people to migrate,** **especially yawning global** **inequalities** driven by current development and economic paradigms. This is an urgent practical matter, but also a clear moral imperative, not least so that migration can be an option, not forced. In this direction, the SDGs must include strong goals for:

* **decent work,** with labour rights, as a goal for all countries, but with *explicit* reference to protection of migrant workers
* universal publicly funded and delivered **social protection**

2] **Migrant earnings and remittances** are important against poverty and for broad human and economic development of migrants, their families, communities and countries. Remittances however, are private: they should not be diverted or used as the “answer” or substitute for development policy or assistance.

3] A number of specific **migrant and migration-related targets** may fit either under other SDGs (such as ending poverty; fair, accessible and adequate health-education-governance; empowering girls and women, etc.) or together as a logical set for transformative human and economic development, including:

* **decrease in remittance transfer cost**
* **reducing risks to migrants on the move,** including recruitment costs, lack of fair, regular and orderly channels of migration, criminalization of migrants, and risks to women and to children in contexts of human trafficking, transit and crisis (“risks to migrants are risks to development”, as Director General Swing of the International Organization for Migration noted yesterday in Common Space)
* **portability of social security, pension and skills,** including for diaspora mobility, return and recognition of qualifications

4] Full **participation** of migrants and diaspora in public policy planning and implementation, development and data collection.

Again it is heartening to hear such an echo on so many of these points, over the years in GFMD meetings of states and civil society, at the HLD, in Dhaka and every day this week.

Finally, if civil society may raise one further, emphatic call to colleagues in government and international organizations: to beware of and challenge **the “data veto”** that we have already begun to encounter in some discussions of goals and targets. Data and measuring of progress is essential but, as was the case for more than a few of the original set of MDGs, including the “dollar a day” goal for reducing poverty, data does not have to exist already in order to imagine a goal or target. Perhaps new data or collection may itself need to be a goal or target… It is important to remember that the whole aim of SDGs is higher than what exists today.

And we’ll have, together, 15 *years* to achieve and measure them.

*/Thank you.*