



Civil Society Inputs Delivered at the GFMD Friends of the Forum on 18 November 2021

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Stocktaking on Roundtable 1: GCM Objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18

Intro sentence (to be repeated at each intervention):

The following inputs are the result of a global civil society consultation that the Civil Society Mechanism organized on Monday for this Friends of the Forum meeting, attended by the members of our International Steering Committee and members of the Civil Society Action Committee which are the leading civil society engaged in the GCM. On behalf of civil society, we would like to provide our joint priorities and proposals towards the GFMD's IMRF contribution:

- **On Regular pathways (Obj 5)**
 - We call for a paradigm shift on migration pathways and regularization. Those should be approached in a holistic and rights-based manner. Some promising practices that were put in place during the pandemic show us that temporary migration is not the solution to everything. This includes for example governments providing status to irregular migrants present in their country in order to facilitate their access to health and other essential services.
- **On minimizing drivers (Obj 2)**
 - We have seen examples of initiatives undertaken to reduce the impacts of climate change on displacement of communities. For example, Kenya has established a drought management authority that helps avoid such crises.
 - On the other hand, we recognize there is a severe lack of resources being put into minimizing drivers, especially compared to punitive measures.
- *Finally,* **On decent work (Obj 6)**
 - Governments should allow and even encourage migrants to be part of unions — even making this part of their work contracts.

Stocktaking on Roundtable 2: GCM Objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21

As mentioned earlier today, the following inputs are the result of a global civil society consultation that the Civil Society Mechanism organized on Monday for this Friends of the Forum meeting, attended by the members of our International Steering Committee and members of the Civil Society Action Committee which are the leading civil society engaged in the GCM. On behalf of civil society, we would like to provide our joint priorities and proposals towards the GFMD's IMRF contribution:

- **On legal identity and documentation**
 - We need to follow the examples of local-policy makers and local authorities that are at the frontline with migrants (and we are very fortunate to have the Mayors Mechanism already in the GFMD for this) -- many of whom have provided legal identity documents to migrants in their municipalities. More dialogue between

central governments and local authorities should be fostered for policy coherence on these, and here again, the GFMD provides a privileged space in this regard, and we hope it will inspire other migration governance spaces.

- **On countering smuggling and eradicating trafficking**
 - One good practice here could be the agreement between the UAE and Indonesia on combatting trafficking.
- **On Managing borders**
 - Another good practice here is the Praesidium/Lampedusa project where migrants who arrive by boat are provided medical aid and other assistance, counseling, support by the relevant government services etc., rather than criminal enforcement which has been more typical.
- **On Alternatives to detention**
 - We are asking for a moratorium on detentions as a key step towards ending immigration detention.
 - Further, we call for the compliance and implementation of the Committee on Migrant Workers' Geneva Comment No. 5 on Migrants' Right to Liberty and Freedom from Arbitrary Detention.

Stocktaking on Roundtable 3: GCM Objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22

Thank you Stéphane. As my colleagues have mentioned earlier, the following are summary inputs from the global civil society consultation that we organized earlier this week for this meeting. Like Egypt, we prioritized mainly Objective 15 and 19 :

- **Access to services (Obj 15)**
 - There are many incidences of the **lack of access to justice**. In some regions undergoing crisis situations, migrant worker victims of crimes have been deprioritized because of those crises. As a result, many migrant workers experience long wait times to access the justice system and for the justice system to actually function for them. A safe and secure community requires peace and justice for all members of the community, regardless of migration status.
 - These days, we cannot discuss anything without addressing health and healthcare. On health, or more specifically the **lack of access to health and other essential services**, especially **vaccinations for migrants** -- even today, after it has been proven medically to be essential countless times around the world, many migrants are still prevented from getting vaccines. On top of that, we are often blamed and targeted when there is a spike in COVID infections! Instead of that failed approach, we should be emulating States who have facilitated and even encouraged **equal and free access to vaccines** regardless of migration status, which has been a proven strategy to reduce the infection rates.
- **Migrant and diaspora contribution (Obj 19)**
 - The involvement of migrants in migration decision-making processes is vital, as we are **not just victims**, but **we also have agency**. Our involvement would benefit not only ourselves obviously, but migrants and communities elsewhere and everywhere. As we often quote, "*Nothing about us, without us!*"

In addition, we take note of the initiatives mentioned by Egypt and look forward to hear more about their development and to collaborate and support those.

Stocktaking on Roundtable 4: GCM Objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23

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- **Information provision**
 - It is important to support the agency of people who are considering moving to make their own migration decisions by providing clear and detailed information to support their decision. This is particularly true when it comes to climate migration.
 - Access to digital tools and connectivity should be facilitated as these allow migrants to access key information and services.
- **Reduce vulnerabilities**
 - Particular attention should be given to migrants in vulnerable situations, many of whom have found themselves in an irregular situation due to the sanitary restrictions put in place because of covid.
- **Eliminate discrimination**
 - Racism and xenophobia should be actively fought against. The It Takes a Community Campaign, initiated by the GMFD working group on negative narratives, provides an excellent example of cooperation between GFMD mechanisms for more balanced narratives on migration.
 - In addition, we would also like to echo the remarks made earlier today by PDD on the importance of narratives regarding climate change and migration, and would encourage the GFMD community to engage further regarding this issue.
- **International cooperation**
 - *GCM commitments and guiding principles should be embedded into regional and other multi-state mechanisms.* States that have signed onto the GCM should work to incorporate these principles and objectives into other multi-lateral and regional mechanisms as a way of popularizing these objectives and binding states that are not-members of the GCM to these same standards.
 - *The implementation of the migrant and refugee compacts should be harmonized.*

GFMD as a process and space in this new era

We want to ensure that the GFMD remains a strong instrument for the informal exchanges between and among governments and other stakeholders in seeking solutions that are then implemented for the well-being and protection of migrants.

Without the space provided by the GFMD, the GCM very likely wouldn't have been realized. At the same time, while the IMRF will take place every 4 years, the GFMD is an informal ANNUAL space where dialogues will continue to help create the environment in which progress can be made. It is important to meet on this annual basis in order for the migration agenda to incrementally progress between IMRFs.

While the GFMD is states-led, it has extremely high -- and more importantly -- **meaningful** non-State stakeholder engagement. We need to be increasing and developing these instead of abandoning it,

because that would risk losing this unique and critical multilateral and multistakeholder dialogue space that we have worked so long for, and which we highly value.

Like climate, there are migration issues that initial GCM negotiations didn't allow us to hammer out. There's much more to be done because the baby is so new, and it needs to have clothing. The GFMD allows us that informal space to do that.