

GLOBAL COALITION ON MIGRATION

Creating Change through Building Unity

Priority Issues & Recommendations for the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on Migration & Development

from the GCM-Coordinated Regional
Civil Society Consultations

Consolidated Global Civil Society Report
Global Coalition on Migration
www.GCMigration.org

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Preamble

Since the first UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (UNHLD) in 2006, civil society organizations and trade unions active in the movement for migrants' rights have been engaging in the UNHLD and Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) processes. Each year, many and diverse civil society groups have attempted to gain and expand access to these forums with the aim of lifting up migrant community voices and advocating for the human rights of migrants to be the central framework of such important policy discourses.

In 2011, a new coalition formed among leading civil society networks that have been heavily invested in engaging these processes since 2006—the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM). In November and December 2012, members of the GCM, along with many other global civil society representatives, met in Mauritius at the GFMD and in Manila during the World Social Forum on Migration. Out of these meetings emerged consensus on a seven-point, five-year Action Plan (appended), to serve as the foundation of global civil society engagement in the UNHLD and GFMD processes over the next five years. This action plan has since been signed onto by more than 100 major civil society organizations, networks, and trade unions committed to forwarding a rights-based agenda for migration governance at the international, regional, and national levels, and a critical eighth point has been incorporated to highlight the important contributions of diaspora communities. We strongly urge governments to consider this **Eight-Point, Five-Year Action Agenda** as a framework for a **negotiated outcome** at the UNHLD in October 2013.

To further develop this framework, between May and July 2013 members of the GCM organized a series of seven **regional civil society consultations**—in Nairobi, Kenya (24-25 May) for the Africa region; Bangkok, Thailand (27-28 May) for the Asia-Pacific region; Athens, Greece (5-6 June) for the Europe region; Washington, DC, USA (7 June) for the Canada-US region; São Paulo, Brazil (25-26 June) for the South America region; and Amman, Jordan (2-3 July) for the West Asia region—as well as a series of national consultations throughout Central America and in Mexico (May–July). At these consultations, participating groups set out to contextualize the Eight-Point, Five-Year agenda based on regional realities at the grassroots level, and to develop concrete policy recommendations to present to governments at the 2nd UNHLD, and that can carry forward into future inter-governmental processes, including the GFMD.

This document follows these eight points, and represents a consolidation of the **key issues** and **policy recommendations** common to each of the GCM's seven regional consultation outputs. Individual reports from each of the seven regions are available online (<http://hld2013.gcmigration.org/category/regional>), and governments are invited to consider the issues raised and policy recommendations specific to their regions, and to work with regional civil society representatives to realize this agenda.

As part of a global movement on migration, the GCM is committed to further developing the analysis on these eight key points over the next five years, and to working with governments through the UNHLD, GFMD, and other international and regional processes to make substantial progress towards securing human rights for migrants as the primary concern, central to all discussions on migration and development at the global level.

Point 1: Regulating the Recruitment Industry

The current circular migration regime, predicated on the movement of migrant workers across borders to fill purported labour shortages in countries of destination while alleviating unemployment in countries of origin, has given rise to the migrant labour recruitment industry. The industry ranges in scale and scope—from large, registered recruitment firms to diffuse networks of independent agents and subagents operating outside state regulatory regimes. The **unregulated space** in which many recruitment agencies/agents work gives rise to **unscrupulous practices**, resulting in high financial costs (through the charging of illegal fees, extortion, and debt bondage), contract substitution, and, in extreme cases, labour trafficking. The practices of unscrupulous recruiters expose migrant workers and their families to increased risk, and have the potential to compel migrant workers to accept substandard working and living conditions in their countries of destination and violations of their labour and human rights.

Civil Society Recommendations

Despite the challenges of regulating the recruitment industry, civil society is convinced that the identification or creation, and implementation of effective standards is achievable, as there is growing support for reform among private sector actors and funders, as well as NGOs, trade unions, and migrant communities. Recognizing the **cross-sectoral and international convergence** on the urgency of regulating the recruitment industry, civil society contributes the following recommendations:

Pursue government-to-government agreements for migrant labour recruitment

- ◆ To alleviate abuses, exploitation, and corruption in the migrant labour recruitment process, countries of origin and destination should pursue **rights-based bilateral agreements** that reduce the economic costs of migration and include portable social protection mechanisms.

Develop ethical recruitment regimes

- ◆ Governments must ratify **ILO C181, Private Employment Agencies Convention (1997)** and implement its provisions at the national level and in all bilateral and multilateral agreements governing labour migration.
- ◆ Governments should collaborate with recruitment agencies, professional associations of recruiters, employers, government agencies, trade unions, civil society, and migrant workers to develop **ethical codes of conduct for recruitment**, in compliance with the provisions of ILO C181, and create multi-sectoral networks to ensure that ethical recruitment practices are implemented.
- ◆ Governments must **impose and enforce strict penalties** against recruiters and employers who withhold the identity and travel documents of the migrant workers they recruit/employ.
- ◆ The UN Migrant Workers Committee should adopt a **General Comment** on migrant labour recruitment.

Improve pre-departure information dissemination

- ◆ To guard against the dissemination of misinformation and exploitation, governments should provide country-specific, rights-based, and gender-responsive **pre-departure orientations** to migrant workers to ensure that they are adequately informed of their rights, the legal process of migration, available redress mechanisms, cultural norms in their country of destination, the means to access social security systems, and the means by which to access assistance if needed.

Point 2: Migrants Stranded in Distress

The particular issues associated with migrants stranded in distress have been highlighted at the GFMD since 2011 and have featured prominently in global discussions on migration governance for the past few years, largely in response to crisis situations across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Migrants stranded in distress point to **persistent gaps in the governance of labour migration**, demonstrating that legal categorizations of migrant status imposed by states often fail to capture realities on the ground, with many migrants falling somewhere in between absolutes. While understanding the need to mount rapid **humanitarian responses** to crisis scenarios affecting migrant workers, these scenarios must also be understood within a **human rights framework**.

Civil Society Recommendations

Addressing the needs of stranded migrants in distress is currently a priority for many countries (origin, destination, and transit) and international institutions and specialized agencies that contend with both immediate and protracted emergency situations related to conflict and natural disasters. Reflecting the concerns expressed at the international level on this issue and recognizing the urgent need for **migrant-centred, gender-sensitive, rights-based responses** to migrants in distress, civil society contributes the following insights and recommendations:

Recognize the many ways migrants can become stranded and respond accordingly

- ◆ Emergency situations, such as conflict or natural disaster, are one among many scenarios that can render migrants stranded. Governments should acknowledge that the concept of stranded migrants is broad and includes those who are unable or unwilling to return to their countries of origin, who cannot regularize their status, and/or who do not have the legal means to move to a third state. This **broad conception of stranded migrants** encompasses those who experience acute vulnerabilities in their countries of transit or destination, and have few available options to remedy their situations. Stranded migrants include those stranded due to civil unrest, natural disasters, climate change, epidemics, gender-based violence, restrictive immigration controls, irregular status or statelessness, labour exploitation and mobility restrictions akin to slave labour, financial constraints, imprisonment, and abandonment by smugglers, among others.

Uphold and extend existing human rights frameworks

- ◆ Governments must include stranded migrants under **existing human rights frameworks**, particularly the Refugee Convention (1951), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990), and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961), and should strengthen and support the ability of relevant UN agencies (UNHCR, ILO, OHCHR) to pursue rights-based responses to the many ways in which migrants become stranded.

Protect the rights of migrants at borders and in transit

- ◆ Governments must protect the rights of all migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees **in**

transit and at borders, irrespective of status. In particular, all migrants and refugees who experience rape, trauma, or other forms of violence while in transit have the right to appropriate assistance from the state and support in access to justice.

- ◆ At border crossings, governments must **end measures that criminalize irregular migration**, including laws that penalize migrants in an irregular situation and those who assist them, and must prevent the use of excessive and disproportionate force during migration control operations. In all cases, states must guarantee **due process and safeguards** to uphold the human rights of all migrants, irrespective of status.

Collaborate on the development of comprehensive, gender-responsive, migrant-centred contingency plans for emergency evacuations

- ◆ To streamline state responses to emergency scenarios, governments must forge multi-stakeholder taskforces to ensure swift and appropriate responses to **prevent migrants from becoming stranded**. Information about contingency plans should be included in pre-departure orientations for all migrant workers.
- ◆ In countries where exit permits are required, standard and immediately available **emergency exit permits** that do not require the consent of the sponsor/employer should be issued in the case of emergency. Such permits should include provisions allowing the migrant to return to his/her country of destination once the situation has been resolved.
- ◆ **Alternatives to repatriation** should be considered in emergency evacuation responses.
- ◆ Migrant sending states should create specific **reintegration plans** for those forced to leave their countries of destination due to safety and security concerns. Such plans should be designed with large influxes of returnee migrants in mind, and appropriate resources should be allocated for such contingencies.

Point 3: Migration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The phenomenon of circular migration of ‘low-skilled’ workers has long been a prominent feature of global mobility. Its institutionalization through bilateral and multilateral labour agreements, temporary foreign worker programs, and the active involvement of governments in facilitating and encouraging circular migration as a development strategy is a more recent product of neoliberal globalization. The current circular migration regime and the migration-development nexus position **migrants as agents of development rather than as rights holders**, and often discriminates on the basis of nationality, gender, age, and skill level. Discussions on migration and development at the international level concentrate on the economic development potential of labour migration and fail to recognize the **historical and contemporary forces of unequal development** and economic dependency that perpetuate the circulation of ‘low-skilled’ migrants from the Global South.

Civil Society Recommendations

In determining the place of migration within the post-2015 framework, states have an opportunity not only to address the contributions of migrants to countries of origin and destination, but also to explore the possibilities for policy coherence aimed at **making migration a choice** rather than a necessity, and to consider alternative models of development that prioritize **human rights, equity, dignity, and sustainability**. Migrant communities are increasingly demonstrating an interest in the current development discourse and are contributing to articulations of alternatives. Recognizing the importance of the post-2015 framework for the policy agendas of states and international institutions, civil society contributes the following recommendations:

Make migration a choice

- ◆ Governments must pursue policy options that prioritize **the right not to migrate**, by creating conditions for people to remain in their countries of origin with opportunities to attain adequate living conditions for themselves and their families through decent work.

Reconceptualize development and understand root causes of migration

- ◆ Governments must consider the ways in which the dominant discourse on migration and development fails to account for the **structural factors driving migration**, including transnational capital flows, wars and military interventions, and climate change, among other systemic drivers of cross-border migration.
- ◆ Governments should pursue policies aimed at **just and sustainable development** through a process that creates an enabling social, cultural, and legal environment that includes everyone, including migrants and their families.
- ◆ Governments and international bodies must scrutinize **lopsided trade agreements** that undermine the human labour rights of the citizens of countries of the Global South, and consider the links between exploitative terms of trade and labour migration. Origin and destination countries must develop migration policies that prioritize the rights and wellbeing of migrant workers.

Point 4: Rights & Contributions of Diaspora Communities

Diaspora communities represent a key link between countries of origin and destination. In protecting their rights and implementing socioeconomic programs that enable their full participation in their host societies, governments must enhance the ability of migrant communities to make **lasting contributions** to their countries of settlement and origin. However, in many countries of destination, migrants experience **barriers to full participation** in society and to the realization of their human rights, largely due to the unjustified and unjust criminalization of migrant communities, despite their readiness to act as key architects of a just and sustainable **people-led process of development**.

Civil Society Recommendations

Recognizing that migrants are rights holders and that diaspora communities make considerable contributions to their countries of origin and destination, governments must prioritize policies that facilitate the **full socioeconomic inclusion** of migrant communities. To that end, civil society recommends the following:

Promote inclusion, equality, and full participation of migrant communities

- ◆ Governments must **combat racism and xenophobia** at all levels, particularly as they are manifest in discriminatory practices, criminalization, denial of rights, and barriers to advancement, and that present serious risks to social cohesion.
- ◆ Governments should proactively highlight **the many and important contributions** of migrants to host and origin communities, and correct prevailing misconceptions of migrants perpetuated through such terms as “illegal immigrant.”
- ◆ Governments should facilitate **anti-racist, gender-sensitive human rights education** for government officials, law enforcement officers, public employees, and public defenders to develop their capacities to work in multicultural or multilingual settings, and to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of migrants.
- ◆ Governments should recognize migrants’ **skills and certifications**, and provide them with opportunities to upgrade their qualifications where necessary.
- ◆ Sustainable, equitable transnational development should include transnational civic participation. Governments must ensure that migrants have the right to vote and be elected, and to exercise fully their civil and political rights.

Point 5: Labour Rights for Migrant Workers

The sustained demand for migrant labour across many countries of destination necessitates a global focus on ensuring that the labour rights of migrants and their families, irrespective of legal status, are protected and that their needs are addressed. Across the globe, many ‘low skilled’ migrant workers are subject to abject violations of their labour rights on a daily basis, due in large part to their status as non-citizens and resultant **gaps in labour rights protections**. Policies to address gaps between legislated protections and access to rights, and **harmonization of national legislation with international human rights labour standards** are urgently needed.

Civil Society Recommendations

Recognizing **the obligation of states to protect all workers**, including migrant workers, mechanisms are urgently needed to combat the criminalization of migrant communities and to guarantee migrants’ rights, including the rights to equal pay, suitable working conditions, portable pensions and healthcare benefits, family reunification, to form and join trade unions, and access to paths to citizenship. Civil society forwards the following, achievable recommendations:

Ensure the compliance of national legislation with the ILO’s core labour standards and protect the labour rights of all migrant workers, irrespective of legal status

- ◆ Governments must ratify and implement the eight core ILO conventions:
 - ILO C118: Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention
 - ILO C87: Freedom of Association & Protection of the Right to Organize
 - ILO C98: Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining
 - ILO C29: Forced Labour Convention
 - ILO C105: Abolition of Forced Labour
 - ILO C111: Discrimination (Employment & Occupation)
 - ILO C138: Minimum Age
 - ILO C182: Worst Forms of Child Labour
- ◆ Governments must **protect the rights of all workers, including migrant workers**, to organize, free association, collective bargaining, equal pay, compensation for work-related accidents/injuries, equal treatment, non-discrimination, and all other labour rights as enshrined in international conventions.
- ◆ National labour laws must protect all workers, **including domestic workers** (migrant and non-migrant) and workers in the informal sector (many of whom are migrant women).
- ◆ Governments must examine more closely the practice of recruiting ‘low-skilled’ migrant labour to fill positions in host country labour markets, particularly in countries in which unemployment and underemployment rates are high.

Ensure access to justice and legal redress

- ◆ Migrant workers must have **access to justice, due process, and equality before the law**. Governments must ensure that migrants, irrespective of legal status, have access to redress mechanisms when their rights are violated, with support provided in a language they can understand. Trafficked persons must be given the option to work and reside in the country of destination while legal proceedings are underway.

Ensure non-discrimination and equal treatment for migrant workers, regardless of status

- ♦ Temporary worker programs institutionalize low-wage, precarious work for migrant workers and drive down living and working conditions for local workers in countries of destination. Governments must discourage differential treatment between migrants and non-migrants to ensure the realization of human and labour rights for migrant workers. **Paths to citizenship** should also be open to those migrating under temporary foreign worker programs.
- ♦ Governments must **end tied visa labour migration regimes**, which institutionalize relationships of dependency between migrants and their employers/sponsors and expose migrant workers to increased risk of exploitation, abuse, and labour rights violations.

Point 6: Rights for Migrant Women

The **feminization of the global labour force and of global migration corridors** is well documented, yet the particular needs and rights of migrant women are not often explicitly addressed in migration policies or in international deliberations on migration and development. Jobs for ‘low-skilled’ migrant women are often concentrated in the informal sector or in sectors not covered by national labour laws (e.g., domestic work—a sector strongly dominated by women), and are generally characterized by low pay, questionable labour practices, and few labour rights protections. Thus, migrant women experience **increased and specific vulnerabilities** on account of their inability to access labour, legal, and social protections. Frameworks that protect the rights of migrant women and address their specific needs are urgently required.

Civil Society Recommendations

Recognizing that migrant women are **rights holders and active agents** in claiming those rights, we call on governments to view women’s rights as a **crosscutting concern** in all policy areas related to migration and development. Discussions on migration and development must not remain gender neutral, but should actively account for the differential effects of existing and proposed models of migration governance on men and women, and recognize and advance women’s autonomy throughout the migration process. In addition, mechanisms are needed to address the specific concerns of migrant women to ensure that their rights are protected, as per the following recommendations from civil society:

Incorporate a gender perspective in the development of policies on migration and development

- ◆ Governments must take into account the long **history of gender discrimination** and historically unequal power relations between women and men, and uphold women’s rights to decent work, health, education, security, justice, and to be free of discrimination when entering and leaving a country.
- ◆ Governments must pursue **gender-responsive** family reunification, integration, and reintegration policies that recognize and uphold the right to family life.
- ◆ Governments should foster comprehensive, gender-responsive, and rights-based socioeconomic integration and reintegration of women migrants and returning migrants, centred on **women’s rights**.

Ensure women’s access to social protection throughout the migration process

- ◆ Governments must guarantee migrant women’s rights to **social protection** in transit and host countries.
- ◆ Governments should ensure that women migrants have access to the highest attainable standard of **physical and mental health services**, including equitable access to rights-based, comprehensive, and integrated sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Guard against abuse, violence, and exploitation of women in all forms

- ◆ Mistreatment, abuse, **gender-based violence**, trafficking, and exploitation of women should be aggressively and publicly sanctioned, and victims sufficiently protected and assisted by the destination country government.
- ◆ Governments should support the UNHCR and other UN specialized agencies in examining the conditions of vulnerable migrants, including women or children who are victims of trafficking.

Point 7: Exchange of Promising Practices in National Legislation

Governments and UN agencies continue to frame migration simultaneously as an economic concern and as a security concern. States focus on regulating the movement of people to fill labour market needs, to spur on development, or to keep out undesirable ‘others.’ However, some states have begun to **incorporate a human rights approach into their migration legislation** and practice, and others have acknowledged their role in providing protections to migrant workers. While there remain considerable gaps between human rights principles and immigration and labour migration policies, some **promising practices** have emerged in national legislation. These promising developments should be pursued, strengthened, and their implementation monitored, and governments should consider pursuing similar initiatives.

Promising Practices Identified by Civil Society

National policies should be guided by human rights principles, including the human right to migrate, equality, non-discrimination, and non-criminalization

- ◆ Many countries in South America now recognize the social rights of migrants.
- ◆ Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Venezuela have all adopted progressive laws affording equal rights to nationals and non-nationals, including regularization of those in an irregular situation.
- ◆ Migration policies have been decentralized in Neuquén (Argentina), São Paulo (Brazil), and the municipality of Recoleta (Chile), giving more power for migration decisions to sub-national levels of government.
- ◆ Human rights institutions are beginning to consider migration issues (e.g., Migrant Policy Coordination of the City of São Paulo and the Ministry of Social Development in Uruguay) among the other human rights issues they address.

National policies of countries of origin and destination should include provisions for the protection of the rights and welfare of migrant workers and members of their families throughout the migration process

- ◆ The Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign Employment has established provisions for psychological support, medical support, and repatriations for distressed migrant workers. The Government of the Philippines has a similar program to field requests for assistance, including psychosocial counseling, conciliation, hospital/prison/work camp visitations, and legal assistance for those who want to pursue labour/welfare cases within the host country.
- ◆ The Government of the Philippines provides support for reintegration of returnee migrants, including job referrals, business counseling, community organizing, financial literacy, networking with support institutions, and social preparation programs.
- ◆ The United Arab Emirates has established a wage protection system, which provides an electronic salary transfer system allowing employers to pay workers’ wages (including migrant workers) through banks, exchange bureaus, and other financial institutions accredited by the Central Bank. The Central Bank issues a regularly updated list of approved and authorized agents. The system covers all employers registered through the Ministry of Labour, and employers who refuse to use the system are refused business licenses.

- ◆ Taiwanese law stipulates that *all* workers, including migrant workers, are permitted to join and form trade unions. It also prohibits the deportation of pregnant women, and stipulates that women working in factories and nursing homes (including migrant workers) have the to eight weeks paid maternity leave with full pay.

The above list of promising practices is not exhaustive; many other promising practices exist, as referenced throughout the regional reports. Governments are encouraged to consider how these promising practices might be adapted and applied to their national contexts.

Civil Society Recommendations

Take concrete steps to end the criminalization of migrant communities

- ◆ Governments must **end measures that criminalize migrant communities**, including the laws that penalize migrants in an irregular situation, the use of excessive and disproportionate force during migration control operations, and deportations without due process. This includes **delinking migration policy from the purview of national security**.
- ◆ Governments must only ever apply administrative detention of undocumented migrants in exceptional cases and when no other options are available, and should consider and take steps to remedy the root causes of irregular status. Provisions should be made to **regularize undocumented workers** in lieu of deporting or detaining them. Children, whether unaccompanied or with their families, must never be detained. Governments must also prohibit the detention of women survivors of trafficking or sexual violence, nursing mothers, and pregnant women. Governments must take steps to **regularize undocumented children**, regardless of the legal status of their parents, and ensure that they have access to education and social protection.

Pursue multilateral approaches and regional policy coherence

- ◆ Governments should refer to the ILO's Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration for guidance in brining laws and policies in line with **international standards**, as enshrined in international law.
- ◆ Governments should pursue the **harmonization of legislation regionally** to improve policy coherence and to protect and uphold the rights of migrant workers.

Point 8: Institutional Mechanisms of Migration

To place the **human and labour rights of migrant workers and their families at the centre of institutional mechanisms of migration governance**, such mechanisms must align with institutions and specialized agencies with distinct rights protection mandates—i.e., institutions and agencies operating **within the UN normative framework**, including the ILO, UNHCR, and OHCHR. In particular, civil society recognizes the important role of the ILO in this domain, given its mandate to uphold the rights of *all* workers, including migrant workers irrespective of legal status.

Civil Society Recommendations

Affirming that a rights-based framework is paramount for the governance of labour migration, civil society puts forward the following recommendations to redefine the interaction of institutional mechanisms of migration governance:

Ratify international conventions and ensure their implementation at the national level

- ♦ All governments should **ratify and implement** the following international conventions:
 - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990)
 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
 - The 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol
 - ILO C181: Private Employment Agencies
 - ILO C189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers
 - ILO C143: Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions)
 - ILO C97: Migration for Employment
 - ILO C19: Right to Compensation
 - ILO C118: Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention
 - ILO C87: Freedom of Association & Protection of the Right to Organize
 - ILO C98: Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining
 - ILO C29: Forced Labour Convention
 - ILO C105: Abolition of Forced Labour
 - ILO C111: Discrimination (Employment & Occupation)
 - ILO C138: Minimum Age
 - ILO C182: Worst Forms of Child Labour

Engage in intergovernmental and multi-sectoral discussions on migration and development within the UN normative framework

- ♦ To achieve rights-based labour migration policies and practices and to ensure that human rights remain central to the global discourse on migration and development, future governance mechanisms should acknowledge the detailed agreements states have already made with respect to human rights and labour standards, and discussions should be pursued on the basis of the **UN normative framework**.

- ◆ Governments should deepen their engagement with the relevant treaty bodies, the Supervisory and Special Mechanisms and Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, and the ILO.
- ◆ The HLD and the GFMD should serve as **participatory forums** for governments, migrants, trade unions, and diverse civil society groups to promote a rights-based approach to migration, including decent work. These forums should consider the underlying challenges of migration and development and how these issues can be addressed collectively.

Evaluate current governance mechanisms

- ◆ In addition to institutionalizing the **participation of civil society** in all frameworks for the governance of labour migration status should undertake a thorough evaluation of the GFMD process, including questions of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, and outcomes.
- ◆ Governments should **enhance networking with civil society** as an important stakeholder that can provide expert inputs on migration and development in intergovernmental deliberations.

Engage in other regional and international processes, placing rights at the centre of all migration and development discussions

- ◆ Governments should develop **inclusive models** for the participation of migrants, trade unions, diverse civil society groups, and UN agencies in the consultative processes on migration of regional and sub-regional institutions.
- ◆ Regional and sub-regional bodies should develop **migrants' rights instruments** to protect and promote the rights and welfare of migrants in their regions.

Conclusion

The above list of recommendations is by no means exhaustive or representative of the full range of civil society concerns. It is, however, a starting point for **constructive and proactive dialogue** among migrant communities, civil society organizations, trade unions, relevant UN agencies, and governments.

Within this **Eight-Point, Five-Year action agenda** there is space for negotiation on the best ways to actualize each of the points within specific national and regional contexts. Global civil society, especially through the Global Coalition on Migration, is committed to working together with states to achieve progress on each of these points, and to lend our expertise to the process of policy development and implementation. Likewise, we will continue to sharpen our analysis on each of these eight points with a view to bringing forward additional concrete policy proposals at the national, regional, and international levels.

Civil society is committed to working with governments and relevant UN agencies towards the **realization of this eight-point action agenda within the next five-years**, with the aim of lifting migrant community voices and securing a central place for the human rights of migrants in the global discourse on migration and development.