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HUMANITARIAN ACTION

International Dialogue on Migration 2018
Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration
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Session 6: Whole-of-society partnerships for good migration governance

Notes for panel discussion – Ignacio Packer – ICVA www.icvanetwork.org

SHORT VERSION

125words/minute – 1'200 words → 10 minutes

Whole-of-society partnerships for good migration governance

What will the world look like in 2030?

How might models of engagement for civil society, business, local authorities, government and international organisations evolve?

1. CS role; 2. CS evolution; 3. Influence; 4. CS restriction

Roles in the policy making and implementation on migration

Migrant and refugee-led organisations, diaspora, non-governmental organisations, labour leaders, faith-based organisations, religious leaders and other civil society representatives play a critical and diverse set of roles in the policy making and implementation on migration. At local, national regional and global level.

The civil society sector as a whole has evolved in scope and scale.

If the global civil society workforce of 350 million were a country, it would be the third most populated country in the world following China and India.

In China: over 460,000 officially registered non profit organizations. In India : around 3.3 million NGOs.

Over the past two decades, civil society has evolved significantly.

Technology, geopolitics and the market have created opportunities and pressures, spurring the creation of millions of civil society organizations around the world, giving rise to exciting models for citizen expression both online and offline, and generating increasing involvement in global governance process such as the one we are talking about today.

There is a renewed energy of citizen expression and participation around the world. Just this week, hundreds of thousands of protesters – including a high proportion of children and youth - have taken the streets across the US but also in other countries call for tighter arm control. The “March for our lives movement” arose after 17 deaths in a school shooting in Florida.



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Civil society is influential

Civil society is a genuine constituency that sits alongside other stakeholders as today. Civil society is generally accepted and established in global governance process but we are always concerned of the slippery slopes.

Whereas 20 years ago civil society might have been viewed as being in opposition, now, formerly organised and more loosely networked civil society groups are increasingly involved in partnerships with governments and business, and are engaged in official consultation processes of multilateral fora. Formal processes for civil society engagement and consultation also at national and regional levels.

However, some civil society organisations feel that the power and influence of organized groups has emerged of the expense of the constituency becoming more “establishment oriented”.

Civil society is being restricted

Across the globe there are examples of civil society exhibiting an energetic voice in promoting migrant rights. However, civil society faces ever-tightening restrictions. Whether media oversight, burdensome regulatory hurdles... Governments in numerous countries are restricting the space for civil society.

What are strategic concerns of some civil society organisations around the partnerships for good migration governance?

1. *Resources; 2. Implementation; 3. Accountability and impact; 4. Youth; 5. Global Governance;*
6. *Shifting priorities; 7. Power*

RESOURCES

Where will funding come from?

Financial sustainability is the top priority for organizations dealing with budget cuts and the shifting priorities of the donor community.

In this period of great uncertainty, resource competition is at risk of driving or rather is driving division, just when the sector would benefit from greater cohesion.

The Global Compact needs a financing facility and adequate multi-year long-term funding to help states implement the commitments in the Global Compact.

Happy to go into some details later on how lack of clarity and of budget reforms would enhance inefficient competition for resources putting at a whole of society approach.

IMPLEMENTATION ON THE GROUND

Whole-of-society approach is about accountability to the populations (migrants and host communities), acknowledgement of diversity and recognition of the interdependence among organisations.



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The Regional and National Action Plans deriving from the Global Compact on Migration should take a whole of society approach, and should include well defined participation, roles and responsibilities for migrants, refugees, diaspora and civil society on the ground.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPACT

How can we better demonstrate accountability and impact?

As much as possible, the Global Compact should clarify roles and responsibilities. The draft version 26/03 stipulates “Secretary General to provide a leading, coordinating and servicing role to the IOM within the United System”. With an upcoming UN reform, what does this mean in terms of resourcing, segregation of duties and taking the Compact forward and ensuring coherence with the GCR? The 10 Acts of Civil Society develops the option of UN leadership on human mobility and with an understanding of a leading role of IOM but, to ensure coherence and impact, the mechanisms to work jointly with UNDOC, UNHCR, OHCHR and ILO. We continue contributing in trying to be as concrete as possible and in viewing what this means for civil society.

YOUTH

How do we stay relevant in and capitalize on a hyper connected and youth-oriented world?

Civil society organizations are attempting to find their footing in an increasingly networked global context where younger generations are educated, civically aware and have high expectations. The youth groups are engaged in the policy influence at national and global level. Tomorrow’s world leaders are amongst them. The millennial generation’s technology-enabled power to influence is growing in rapid and interconnected ways.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

How do we collectively engage to make an impact in the global governance process on migration?

Reflecting on global processes such as the G20, Rio+20 summit, climate negotiations, civil society organisations are looking for ways to deliver greater impact and better outcomes in the migration global governance architecture.

There is the challenge of being heard in the corridors of power and of being recognized as an equal stakeholder – but civil society organisations also recognize the challenge of coordinating to achieve results. While institutions such as the United Nations open their doors to civil society, we should aim for more diverse civil society to effectively engage.

The needed large-scale capacity building needs and allocation of resources for the governance of the Global Compact should also benefit to civil society organisations, partners in the implementation of the Global Compact.

SHIFTING ROLES

How do we adapt to shifting roles among stakeholders so as to maximize the value that civil society actors bring to solving societal challenges?



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Civil society organisations are keen to understand and adapt to the shifting landscape – emerging roles, challenging trends and new strategic concerns – in order that they and others are as effective as possible in solving societal challenges and playing its role in the migration governance.

Shifting roles are needed as, for instance, people connect and mobilize spontaneously or as the benefits for civil society of working more “closely” with business are clear.

Yet, perhaps less well understood, are the benefits for business of defending civic space – the freedom of citizens to organise, speak up and protest governance failings and corruption.

Appreciating the POWER we have as civil society

In order to use our power effectively, as CSOs we have to learn to appreciate the power we have. All too often, comments like “we have to be honest about our limitations”.

The middle ground between understatement and overestimation of our position is just right:

We need to become more ambitious and more effective. We have moved away from sending shopping lists to governments and work with collective statements and actions (such as the 10 Acts presented at Puerto Vallarta presented by the Action Committee on behalf of over 300 organisations or the civil society statement at last negotiations on GCM. Precise wording and suggested goals, targets and indicators.

Civil Society still has to turn common dreams into more real power and more strategically towards our missions.