Case Studies of Recent Partnerships with Non-State Actors - South Korea

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Overview of Migration in Korea

- Previously a country of emigration, now a receiving country

- Policy focus on overseas Korean ethnicities and marriage migration; highest ratio of migrants are migrant workers

- Long term migrants now outnumber short-stay migrants; percentage of migrants steadily increasing – now 4%

- Family migration increasing rapidly despite strict policy

- Number of undocumented migrants steady at 200,000; many from Employment Permit System
Processes of Migration Policy-making

■ Basic Plan for Immigration Policy
  • 5-year plan drawn up by Foreigners’ Policy Committee

■ Master Plan for Supporting Multicultural Families
  • 5-year plan drawn up by Multicultural Families Policy Committee

■ Integrated governance for migration limited
  • Individual participation of activists/professionals from CSOs in Committees
  • Regional support system for workers and multicultural families – CSOs play subsidiary roles
  • Representations of migrants in governance bodies limited
  • Public/CSO input during policymaking process limited
Global Compact on Migration

- **Government participation in GCM drafting process separated from CSOs**
  - No input from CSOs during thematic sessions
  - Some discrepancies with the actual situation and the government’s position papers

- **Publishing of CSO Recommendations on GCM**
  - Initial proposal by IOM Seoul Office to various migrant organizations
  - Several NGOs and public interest lawyer groups formed a coalition for drafting CSO Recommendations

- **Consultation process with the government**
3rd National Action Plans for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in consultation process

- Rushed effort at drafting NAP in 2017 met with criticisms from CSOs
- 19 consultation sessions in progress – working-level consultations between relevant ministries and NGOs

Migrant organizations submit a comprehensive recommendation to be reflected in the NAP

- Labor, undocumented migrants, detention, border control, industrial safety, health, crime victims, children, birth registration, women, human trafficking, adoptees, anti-discrimination, refugees, fishing workers, overseas Koreans, etc.
Current area of focus for CSOs and Partnerships

- **Traditional partnerships between migrant organizations**
  - Migrant workers
  - Labor unions
  - Community movement
  - Women and other vulnerable groups

- **Agenda-based coalitions; participation of international organizations and public interest lawyer groups**
  - Korea Refugee Support Network
  - Universal Birth Registration Network
  - Alternative to E-6-2 Visa Network
  - Network for Improving Fundamental Rights of Migrant Children
Thank you!