



Briefing for states: IOM Geneva, 3 July 2013

## Civil society engagement in the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, 2013

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*Check against delivery*

### Introduction

**Civil society is taking the High-level Dialogue seriously.** This includes but goes well beyond the involvement of Civil society that the UN General Assembly resolution regarding the HLD called for, i.e., involvement in official preparatory events with States and other actors, engagement in the experts meeting at the UN GA 25 June, the day of Informal Interactive Hearings at the UN GA 15 July, and of course the HLD itself 3 and 4 October.

**There is concern among civil society broadly that in this HLD process, we are—all actors—in a wide stream, steady current but slow boat.** We have to pick up speed! Reasonably, on specific issues—progress is truly within reach on many—but with appropriate *urgency*: for migrants, workplaces and labour markets, social cohesion and integral development.

**Much of civil society clearly wants an outcome from this HLD:** one. A commitment to a 5 year collaboration between states and civil society.

### I. What's different in Civil society this HLD as compared to the first HLD in 2006? /4 things.

1. **strong Civil society continuity** of focus
  - taking forward the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), by civil society and states
  - both before and after as well as during the big GFMD meetings
2. **wide Civil society convergence** on a **two-page agenda** of **7 points + 1** (on diaspora):
  - *copies are on the table outside*; see also [www.hldcivilsociety.org](http://www.hldcivilsociety.org) (E-Fr-Sp)
  - again, the issues are very familiar to all engaged in GFMD processes, both of states and civil society: many the subject of concrete—and similar—recommendations states and civil society; will refer to the 8 issues in the next section of this report
  - Civil society leaders developed the agenda beginning in the civil society working sessions of the GFMD in Mauritius and the World Social Forum on Migration in the Philippines, in two weeks back-to-back in November 2012
  - In December and again in Feb-April, over 100 national, regional and international civil society organizations submitted the agenda to the UN Second Committee, UN Member States and various processes in and outside the UN (e.g., the UN Coordination meeting and GFMD Friends of the Forum in February and the Commission on Population and Development in April) *as an explicit proposal for an outcome at the HLD.*
  - important Civil society convergence:

- **to avoid “cliff-walking”** at the HLD, i.e., expecting every decision can be made or is ready to be considered already on the 3 and 4 October
  - **to instead seeking shared commitment** as a firm Outcome of the HLD
  - **specifically, much of Civil society has converged to seek *one* outcome from the HLD:** this 5-year collaboration between civil society and states on these 8 issues
- **the keywords:** *5 year + collaboration*, with measurable benchmarks and mechanisms
3. **Civil society self-organizing** in the official processes of this HLD
- in conjunction with the Office of the President of the UN GA with support from the MacArthur, Bancomer and Open Society Foundations and Swiss government
  - ICMC coordinating Civil society activities within the HLD
    - at the request of Civil society leaders and networks active worldwide in migration and development and these processes since 2006
    - working closely with a 31-member international “Civil Society Steering Committee” for the HLD and with UN DESA, and with UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Migration Peter Sutherland
    - ICMC senior programme officer Wies Maas posted to New York for this work
    - dedicated new HLD website specifically for civil society: [www.hldcivilsociety.org](http://www.hldcivilsociety.org)
4. unprecedented global, regional, national and thematic **civil society organizing** these past 6 months, specifically for the HLD, most around the 5 year Agenda of issues for collaboration
- worldwide, some 600 Civil society actors have been organizing and participating in consultations and conferences *specifically for the HLD*
  - there is a list *on the table outside* and at [www.hldcivilsociety.org](http://www.hldcivilsociety.org), but in short:
    - **regional** Civil society meetings for the HLD: **Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Canada-US, South-America, West Asia**
    - **national** Civil society consultations for the HLD: **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, S Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom**
    - **thematic** consultations for the HLD: **The Netherlands**: European Diaspora Conference; **Switzerland**: Joint Reflections on Migration and Development; **Germany and Switzerland**: regional Diaspora & Development Roundtable
  - many of these meetings have **nominated representatives** to bring their results and recommendations to the Informal Interactive Hearings at the UN GA 15 July
  - ICMC and the international Civil Society Steering Committee have organized **two days of preparatory meetings of Civil society in New York** on Saturday, 13 July and Sunday, 14 July 2013, immediately before the Hearings
    - a two-day programme matching the thematic program of the Hearings, with 8 thematic working groups working on the issues of the 5 year agenda
    - all Civil society participants registered in the Hearings invited: the principal occasion to develop messages on issues discussed with states at the Hearings
    - expressly bringing together representatives and recommendations of the Civil society preparatory processes (national, regional, global and thematic)
    - the thematic working groups will have rapporteurs and each elect two speakers for the Hearings; all three will be called upon during the Hearings to present perspectives and convergence from that working group

## II. “Informal Interactive Hearings” with civil society Monday 15 July

1. **452 civil society organizations registered** for the Hearings 15 July and the HLD in October; **but 449 actually OK for participation**

- all were connected through broad global outreach, including to the 2000 names on ICMC's database of participants in GFMD processes over the years as well as through partner networks and listserv multipliers (e.g., GFMD government focal points)
- 3 non-ECOSOC accredited organizations were rejected by states in the "non-objection basis" process that the UN GA resolution required
- except for those 3, there is no further limitation or selection, unlike for GFMD civil society meetings that have consistently aimed thus far for about 200 total and balance
- there is as yet no limit on the number of individuals participating from each organization, but already the 449 number is more than double the average number of civil society delegates participating in GFMD meetings in recent years—while the amount of time at the Hearings is less than half what civil society has at the GFMD
- of the 449 civil society organizations OK to participate:
  - there is a fair diversity of regions, civil society sectors and gender, though once more, very few from the private sector
  - a little less than ½ of the organizations are ECOSOC-accredited; the rest not
  - 50 delegates are being financially helped with flights and/or hotel, with funding raised by ICMC and UNDESA; mostly from developing/low income countries but also low-budget migrant/diaspora organizations in developed countries

## 2. Programme for the Hearings 15 July

- it is one day, one single room that seats 1000, at UN headquarters in New York
- the programme will be normal UN hours, with an additional ½ hour intermezzo just before lunch, focused on *Youth perspectives, voices of change*.
- there will be interpretation in all UN languages, and live-streaming
- constructed by civil society, the near-final programme is being released in New York today, but is *on the table outside*; see also [www.hldcivilsociety.org](http://www.hldcivilsociety.org)
- looking briefly at the programme, again you will recognize: strong continuity and convergence among Civil society on issues
- the programme is structured around the 5 year Plan, in 4 thematic clusters containing its **7 + 1 points** (the eighth added on engaging migrants and diaspora):

### **First cluster: On Labour and Mobility**

1. Regulating the migrant labour recruitment industry and labour mobility mechanisms
2. Guaranteeing the labour rights of migrants.

### **Second cluster: On Rights and Protection**

3. Addressing protection needs of migrants stranded in distress, *including* migrants in transit
4. Addressing vulnerabilities, rights and empowerment of women and children in the context of human mobility

### **Third cluster: On Human Development, Diaspora Action**

5. Ensuring migrants' and migration's rightful place on the post-2015 development agenda (i.e. in the "next generation" of Millennium Development Goals)
6. Engaging migrants and diaspora as entrepreneurs, social investors and policy advocates in development

### **Fourth cluster: On Migration Governance and Partnerships**

7. Promoting the implementation of national legislation reflecting international standards regarding migrants and their families (in particular with regards to enforcement policies, social protection and due process)
8. Reexamining the interactions of international mechanisms for migrants' rights protection

- **Civil society speakers** – basically 4 at the Opening, plus up to 12 per cluster as follows:
  - 3 panelists already identified in processes of wide consultation, beginning with the international Civil Society Steering Committee
  - 1 panelist chosen within the regional and thematic preparatory meetings to represent the work and recommendations from those meetings
  - From the floor, 1 rapporteur from preparatory meetings of the thematic working groups in New York 13- 14 September, reporting civil society convergence there
  - 4 speakers from the floor pre-selected in the thematic working group meetings
  - 3-4 other speakers from the floor called on by the moderator, time permitting
- **Government speakers** from the floor, recalling that the UN GA resolution intends “Interactive” Hearings); from the floor:
  - at least 2-3 governments per cluster, invited to speak from the floor as respondents immediately after the panelists
  - additional governments, time permitting, as called on by the moderator
  - underscoring: each cluster on the programme indicates “RESPONSES BY MEMBER STATES” and “INTERACTIVE DEBATE”. These Hearings are an integral part of the HLD, but not the HLD itself. They are informal; civil society hopes interactive too.

### III. Connecting to the HLD in October; *most briefly*

1. Under the UN GA resolution, the office of the President of the UN GA will prepare and distribute to states and others an **official report of the Hearings**.
2. **Civil society will continue to advocate for an HLD outcome** in a firm commitment to this 5 year collaboration with civil society.
3. ICMC will continue to work with the international Civil Society Steering Committee and the UN offices on the more limited **civil society engagement in the HLD itself**, i.e., in the plenary spot and the roundtables, as called for in the UN GA resolution.
4. Civil society organizations from around the world and New York are organizing quite a number and range of **parallel Civil society events** outside the UN the week of the HLD, including trade unions and organizations that work for children and for migrant victims of violence and trauma in transit.

#### **Close**

Clearly, civil society is taking this HLD seriously. And so, one big invitation—and a request for one firm Outcome from the HLD:

- the invitation, to governments: please **participate** in the Interactive Hearings 15 July.
- the one firm Outcome, which so much of Civil society worldwide seeks from the HLD: **a 5 year agenda of collaboration between states and Civil society**, on 8 issues.

We are in this wide stream together, with a steady current but slow boat. We need to pick up the pace. And can: reasonably but with appropriate *urgency*.

/Thank you.