



national network for immigrant and refugee rights

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8 points. 5 years. Collaboration. Action.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to address you this morning as a representative from global civil society. Our many, diverse organizations and community members, concerned with health, safety, welfare and happiness of some 232 million people in migration around the world today, welcome the opportunity to share our proposals for a “5 Year Action Plan”.

The proposal was formalized in November of last year, has been supported by hundreds of civil society organizations worldwide, and was shared through the UN and with various states as our contribution towards this High Level Dialogue. Since the beginning of this year, some 600 civil society leaders and organizations have met in 21 regional and national events, and convened again here in New York in July at the time of the Informal Interactive Hearing organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, to discuss this proposal and more. This has been an unprecedented level of participation, indeed, since the last High Level Dialogue in 2006. Even during this week, some 500 global civil society partners have continued to confer across the street in the parallel People’s Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights.

As we noted in the conclusion of July’s Interactive Hearing, we are mindful that we now stand at an important moment, one which we hope will be a crossroads, between simply talking, and taking deliberate action. While we recognize, and in fact, very much support, strategic thinking and planning to address the complex factors motivating migration, we are eager to identify durable solutions, the strongest rights protections and standards, opportunities for migrant and diaspora contributions, and real partnership. We come here to help make a difference.

We urge states to support our 5-year, 8-point action plan in considering the outcome document. Our hope is that the High Level Dialogue will launch an action agenda that will be both reasonable and ambitious. Our proposal focuses on eight points -- issues that also fall within the topic areas of the four roundtables.

Briefly, we wholeheartedly support the integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda, with a view to addressing the contributions that migrants make to development in countries of origin and destination, as well as better policy planning and coherence that can **make migration more genuinely a choice and not a necessity**, with greater gain than drain. In this view, we support the right to migrate, and the right to remain at home, with decent work and human security.

We encourage models and frameworks to facilitate the engagement of diaspora and migrant associations as entrepreneurs, social investors, policy advocates and partners in setting and achieving priorities for the full range of human development in countries of origin, heritage and destination.

We believe there must be reliable, multi-actor mechanisms to provide assistance and protection to migrants stranded in distress, beginning with those trapped in situations of war, conflict or disaster, whether from natural or man-made causes, and certainly with the same logic and urgency with respect to migrant victims of violence or trauma in transit. The deaths off the coast of Lampedusa, as well as the hundreds of thousands and more of other migrants who have lost their lives under similar circumstances reinforce this urgency.

Throughout our proposal we seek models and frameworks that address the needs and rights of migrant women in their specificity. Mechanisms must also consider the best interests of children, in the context of migration, including their rights.

We would like to see benchmarks for promoting the exchange of good practice and enactment and implementation of national legislation to comply with the full range of provisions in international conventions that pertain to migrants, even outside of the labour sphere, with particular concern for rights in the context of enforcement policies, rights to basic social protections, and due process.

Our proposal envisions a redefinition of the interaction of international mechanisms of migrants' rights protection, in the context of the UN normative framework and institutionalizing the participation of civil society in future governance mechanisms. Finally, but certainly not for the least of our concerns, we urge the identification or creation of effective standards and mechanisms to regulate the migrant labour

recruitment industry, and we strongly support mechanisms to guarantee a full and broad range of labour rights for migrant workers, and this in the context of decent work and ensuring the dignity of all migrant workers.

Migrant workers rights cannot be protected through informal networks, with no monitoring systems, no genuine participation of civil society and no reference to the normative framework agreed upon at the international level.

These are our recommendations for state action and in some areas, action in partnership with civil society. Our emphasis is on strategic planning, rights, and action, and we hope you will agree that can collaborate on several areas of convergence.

Despite a life often touched by uncertainty, exploitation or trauma, our migrant families, friends, fathers, mothers, even children still hold to hopes and dreams for a better life, a brighter future, not just for themselves, but for their communities, their new countries, and their countries of origin.

We members of civil society share those hopes and dreams and stand ready to support a five-year plan as advocates and as partners.

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Thank you.