

final: 22 March, showing 152 signatures

3 February 2016

Honourable Mr. Shahidul Haque, Chair, 2016 GFMD,
Honourable members of the Steering Group for the Global Forum,

As members of the civil society International Steering Committee for the GFMD, we are writing this letter to request a meeting with you to discuss taking the next step in deepening civil society interaction with states in the GFMD process.

Specifically, we wish to propose that the GFMD simply pick up the model of civil society involvement that succeeded at the UN High-level Dialogue on International Development and Migration (HLD) in 2013.

We write as leaders of organizations from around the world that have been active in the GFMD and High-level Dialogues for the past 10 years. Many of us are active as well in partnerships with you and intergovernmental agencies on the ground, working to improve benefits and reduce negatives at the intersections of migration and development. Many of us are migrants and members of the diaspora.

Like you, we see the increasing urgency of this work given so many enormous challenges and opportunities right now in the movement, work and integration of migrants.

In many respects, the situation is so dire, and co-action so imperative, that we can no longer afford to sit in separate rooms at this. Like you, we recognize that the key is implementing practices that take discussions and recommendations like those that arise in the Global Forum forward with concrete, positive results. Such results will only be achieved if civil society participates in the discussions on the definition, implementation and monitoring of the recommendations and practices.

Almost from the very outset of the GFMD in 2007, it was always clear that “states-led” did not mean “states-only”, and that any such process on migration and development needed civil society to be involved if it wanted things to move forward.

In the years since, civil society has become an important partner in the process: bringing concrete examples of practice and partnership, engaging with states in preparatory events and follow-up to the GFMD meetings, frequently raising issues and approaches that states were not raising but came to appreciate, and building relationships and trust at national, regional and international levels. Successive GFMDs have responded by incrementally increasing the place of civil society in the GFMD, notably by doubling the civil society days (2008), innovating a half-day of common space between civil society and states (2010) and, from the civil society side, convening breakfast table discussions among civil society and states (2014 and 2015) and inviting states as panellists in the GFMD civil society days working sessions (2015).

We believe that the experience has been positive, with working relationships more and more strong, professional, tested and trusted. The moment is now to secure the next step of interaction.

In fact, this “next” step has already been taken, and with good result—just outside of the GFMD. At the HLD in 2013, in ways similar to the GFMD, civil society organized two days of interactive hearings ahead of the states HLD sessions. In that organizing, civil society (a) matched many of its discussions and recommendations to the themes that the states were taking up in the HLD sessions, and (b) designated a small number of representatives of civil society to participate directly in the states roundtable sessions, with one as a panellist and others to speak from the floor if called upon. This worked in all the HLD sessions, and was evaluated across-the-board (i.e., by states, civil society and agencies) to be successful.

What we propose is not to slide backward from that model but to pick it up in this year’s GFMD: to step up to the moment, the opportunity and the call in front of us today, which is to work more closely together on the challenges and opportunities of migration and development, in order to improve the effectiveness and legitimacy of this global process.

We would be grateful for a meeting with you prior to the upcoming Friends of the Forum meeting to be held in Geneva, together with the Chair and Troika. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

- Bikash Chowdhury Barua, BASUG - Diaspora and Development (The Netherlands)
- Bob van Dillen, Cordaid (The Netherlands)
- Catherine Tactaquin, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (USA)
- Colin Rajah, Global Coalition on Migration
- Dennis Sinyolo, Education International
- Efrain Jimenez, Federacion Zacatecana A.C" and "Federacion de Clubes Zacatecanos del Sur de California" (Mexico and USA)
- Eva Sandis, NGO Committee on Migration (New York)
- Gibril Faal, AFFORD (African Foundation for Development)
- Ignacio Packer, Terre des Hommes International
- Jille Belisario, Transnational Migrant Platform
- John K. Bingham, ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission)
- Khady Sakho Niang, Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale Issues des Migrations
- Leonir Mario Chiarello, the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN)
- Martina Liebsch, Caritas Internationalis
- Michele LeVoy, PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants)
- Milka Isinta; Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights.
- Petra Snelders, RESPECT Network Europe
- Philip Hunter, Verité
- Rodolfo Cordova, International Network on Migration and Development
- Syed Saiful Haque, WARBE Development Foundation (Bangladesh)
- William Gois, Migrant Forum in Asia

Cc: Mr. Peter Sutherland, UN Secretary General’s Special Representative on Migration and Development

With additional signatories

- ACAT-RCA
- Action Jeunesse pour le Développement (AJED-Congo)
- Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)
- Active Help Organization
- Afrique Culture Maroc
- agisra, Information and counselling center for female migrants and refugees
- Aid Organization
- Alianza para las Migraciones en Centroamérica y México (CAMMINA)
- AMUMRA - Asociación Civil de Derechos Humanos Mujeres Unidas Migrantes y Refugiadas
- Antenne pour la reconnaissance de l'environnement au Congo (AREC)
- ARCA - Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants
- Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation (ASYARF)
- Ashok Sansthan
- Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum, Migrants' Center
- Asociación de Migrantes Nicaragüenses en Costa Rica (AMNCR)
- Asociación Dianova
- Association AFVMC - Aide aux Familles et Victimes des Migrations Clandestines
- Association for Community Development- ACD
- Association pour la promotion des droits humains
- Associations ECODEL pour le developpement équitable
- Asylum Access
- Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc
- Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication
- Bauchi Human Rights Network
- BRAC
- Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center
- Casa del Migrante de Saltillo [Frontera con Justicia AC]
- CBO COMUNITARIAS
- CEFASA
- Ceforec International Network
- Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines
- Center for Migration and International Relations
- Centre for Indian Migrant Studies
- Centre for the Study of Human Rights
- Centro de Apoyo Marista al Migrante
- Centro de Derechos Sociales del Inmigrante
- Centro de investigaciones en DDHH Pro Igual
- Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.
- Centro InterCulturaCidade
- Centro Internacional para los Derechos Humanos de los migrantes CIDEHUM
- Colectivo Migraciones para las Américas (COMPAA): <http://www.imumi.org/pnd/>
- Commission Africaine des Promoteurs de la Sante et des droits de l'homme (CAPSDH)
- Confédération des Travailleuses et travailleurs des Comores
- CONFESEN
- Congregation of the Mission

- Congregations of St. Joseph
- CONSTRUIRONS ENSEMBLE LE MONDE
- Corporación Anne Frank Colombia
- Curia Generalizia Agostiniana
- Deepti Bhuban
- DeFehr Foundation and Palliser Furniture
- Diaspora for African Development (DfAD)
- droit à la vie
- Emigrad@s Sin Fronteras
- EMMAÛS INTERNATIONAL
- Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM)
- FASED MAROC
- Fédération Association Des Migrants Mali
- Fédération Euro-Africaine de Solidarité (FEASO)
- Federation of Albanian Associations in Greece
- Femmes et Contribution au Développement
- FOCSIV
- Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos FOCO
- Foro Nacional para las Migraciones en Honduras-FONAMIH
- Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues de Migrations (FORIM)
- Fraternité Solidarité Jeunesse Cote d'Ivoire
- Friends of the Earth Sierra Leone
- Fundación ESPERANZA
- Fundación migrantes y refugiados sin fronteras
- Global Development Africa Foundation
- Global Workers Justice Alliance
- GOAL
- Government Services Employees Association
- Grameen Development & Poverty Alleviation Sangstha (GDPAS)
- HIRDA
- Hivos
- Hope for Children UNCRC Policy Center
- HOPE FOUNDATION NGO
- Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF)
- Human Rights Training Committee
- Human Support Services
- Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME)
- ICIRORE C AMAHORO
- Incitare
- Insan Association
- International Campaign for Freedom and Peace (I.C.F.P)
- International Detention Coalition
- International Network of Alternative Financial Institution (INAFI) Asia and Bangladesh
- international Network of Women Migrants and Diaspora (inwodi)
- International Organization for Educational Development
- International Youth Council-Nigeria Chapter

- Jesuit Network for Migrants Latin America and the Caribbean (RJM-LAC)
- Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc
- Kapo Seba Sangha (KSS)
- Kathak Academy
- Kenya county Government workers Union
- La Brique
- Lawid (Latin American Women Initiative for Development)
- Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)
- Let them help themselves out of poverty
- Manav Seva Sansthan "SEVA"
- Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MAREDES)
- Migrant News Lanka
- Migrant Voice UK
- migrant workers support organisation
- Northern Citizen Community Board Pakistan
- Observatorio para el desarrollo territorial - Universidad Católica Sedes Sapientiae
- OCDEMA
- OKUP (Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program)
- OMCAP
- One Third Sweden
- ONG MARS
- ONG Un Monde Avenir
- ONG Union fait la Force (UFF)
- Organisation pour une Citoyenneté Universelle
- Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization
- Passionists International
- Philoxenia Association
- Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD Regional)
- Plateforme Diaspora Afro-Européenne
- Plateforme Euromarocaine Migration Développement Citoyenneté Démocratie
- Policy Analysis and Research Institute of Lesotho (PARIL)
- Poverty Elimination And Community Education (PEACE) Foundation
- Professional Alliance for Development/PADet
- Public Services Labor Independent Confederation
- Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
- Red de Jovenes Sin Fronteras- Costa RICA
- REDMIGRES, Red Migraciones El Salvador
- Rencontre Africaine pour La Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO)
- Research and Enterprise for Diaspora (RED-UK).
- RESPECT Network Europe
- Save the Climate
- Saviya Development Foundation
- Sendika Kristianina Malagasy (SEKRIMA)
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Solidarité des femmes burundaises pour lutter contre le SIDA et le paludisme

- Somalia International Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC)
- Terre des Hommes
- Terre des Jeunes du Burundi
- The Lutheran World Federation
- Uganda Management Assistance Programme (UMAP)
- UNANIMA International
- United Nations Association of Georgia
- Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation Inc.
- Visions Solidaires
- Vivere
- Water Employees Trade Union of Malawi
- women's rehabilitation center (WOREC)
- World Solidarity
- Worldview Mission
- YSEA foundation
- Zimbabwe United Nations Association