Open letter to the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU Member States

To: President of the European Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
First Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr. Frans Timmermans
European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos
DG HOME, Director of Dir. B - Migration & Asylum, Mr. Laurent Muschel
European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica
DG DEVCO, Director of Dir. B- Human & Society Development, Mr. Luis Riera Figueras
President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy
Head of Cabinet of the European Council, Mr. Didier Seeuws
Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Mr. Matteo Renzi
President of the European Parliament, Mr. Martin Schulz
Members of the European Parliament on the DEVE Committee
Members of the European Parliament on the LIBE Committee
Members of the European Parliament on the DROI Committee
Members of the European Parliament on the EMPL Committee
All Permanent Representatives to the European Union

CC: Members of the Cabinet of Commissioner Mr. Dimitris Avramopoulos
Members of the Cabinet of Commissioner Mr. Neven Mimica
DG HOME, Members of the Unit ‘International Affairs, Mobility Partnership’
DG DEVCO, Members of the Unit ‘Employment, Social Inclusion, Migration’
DG DEVCO, Members of the Unit ‘Civil Society, Local Authorities’

Subject: EU Member States must include migrants and migration-related targets in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals agenda

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The civil society organisations signing this letter would like to urge the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament (EP) and EU member States to take migration and migrants into account in the negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

Although 232 million migrants contribute to the economic and social well-being of their countries of origin/heritage and destination worldwide - some 72 million in Europe, they are not yet fully recognized as actors and subjects of sustainable human development. In that respect, we particularly welcome the statement made by Commissioner Avramopoulos during his hearing, recognizing the important contribution of migrants to development and look forward to the European Commission’s full engagement on EU policies regarding development and migration.

In that direction, and as civil society organisations working in both migration and development in Europe and beyond, we very much hope that the new EC will remain fully committed to its efforts to ensure the integration of migrants and migration in the post-2015 UN Sustainable Development...
Goals agenda, as expressed in the EC Communication on post-2015\(^1\). We also hope that the European Parliament will support the EC in working in that direction.

In particular, we believe that the Communication's emphasis on human rights and safe, orderly and regular migration makes only more and more sense as part of the remedy to increasing tragedy across Europe's sea and other borders and an obvious response to the region's growing demographic and labour imbalance. We further note the consensus on this approach in the Outcome Document of the states' Open Working Group on the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDG's).

We are concerned however that a protectionist agenda, driven by narrow economic and national interests, would prevail over an EU-oriented human-rights based approach to migration policy that would benefit countries of origin, transit and destination (i.e. in Europe) as well as migrants themselves.

As an input to the UN and Council negotiations on post-2015, we would like to share with you attached Civil Society Stockholm Agenda on migrants and migration in post-2015 development agendas\(^2\). The 'Stockholm Agenda' is a set of migrant-centered, rights-based goals and targets that support development that is human, economic and sustainable. The agenda is a direct product of the recent Global Forum on Migration and Development and parallel civil society processes in Stockholm. 270 civil society organisations around the world\(^3\) have signed it so far, one of the largest numbers of sign-on's we've ever seen, showing a strong convergence among civil society organizations worldwide.

We would like to see these targets included in the post-2015 global and national development agendas. In that regard, although we acknowledge the inclusion of some of the targets in the Outcome Document of the States' Open Working Group\(^4\), we would like to encourage the EU and member States to continue their efforts in the current negotiations and insist on targets which have not yet been considered (see targets 6, 7 and 8 listed below).

You will see on the agenda that, framed around nine goals, the targets call for, among other things:

1. Decent working conditions and social protection for all migrants, regardless of migration status, that conform to international labour standards;
2. Reduction in the cost of sending remittances and reduction in the cost of labour migration and recruitment;
3. Access to social and legal protection, and decent work for migrant women and girls, including domestic workers;
4. Access to education for all migrants and migrants' children, regardless of migration status;
5. Access to adequate and quality healthcare for all migrants, regardless of migration status;

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\(^1\) EC, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, A Decent Life for All: from vision to collective action, 2 June 2014.


\(^4\) e.g. labour rights and safe and secure working environments for all workers, and especially for migrant women (OWG 8.8); safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, including through implementation of planned and well managed migration policies (OWG 10.7) and reducing transaction costs of migrant remittances (OWG 10.c)
6. Increased migrant participation and contribution in public policy planning and implementation;
7. Institutionalized mechanisms that embrace, integrate or reintegrate migrants and their families into their countries of origin, heritage and destination;
8. Full engagement of migrants and diaspora members as partners in development;
9. Facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, through enhanced international cooperation

To ensure a genuine human rights and migrant-centred approach re-affirmed by the EC on multiple occasions, the undersigned civil society organisations urge the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU member States to take our recommendations into consideration when negotiating the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal agenda. We believe that the current negotiations around the post-2015 development agenda are the opportunity for the EU - as a major development stakeholder - to re-affirm that no one should be left behind and to fully recognize migrants as actors and subjects of sustainable human and economic development.

On behalf of the organisations listed:

NB: For more information please contact Sophie Ngo-Diep, ICMC Europe: europe@madenetwork.org