

## 2016 HLM Civil Society (self-organized) Action Committee

### To organize civil society advocacy for the 19 September UN High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

Terms of Reference for June – December 2016

*Updated 30 May 2016*

#### 1. Introduction

In a 22 December 2015 [decision](#), the UN General Assembly (UNGA) agreed to hold a “High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” (HLM). This high-level meeting will be convened by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 19 September 2016 in New York<sup>1</sup>.

Under a modalities resolution currently being finalized by UN member states, civil society is invited to engage in the process through a number of entry points, in particular through:

1. participation in informal interactive multi-stakeholder society **Hearings** at the UNGA in July (**now scheduled for 18 July**);
2. participation in the **HLM** 19 September; and
3. contributions to the **outcome document**

#### ***The separate UN-led civil society steering/selection committee***

The Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) that presides over both the informal Hearings and the 19 September HLM decided to themselves organize a UN-led “*volunteer civil society Selection Committee to support broad and inclusive participation of civil society in the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting*”.<sup>2</sup> That Committee is currently being selected by the UN on the basis of open applications, and will have as its mandate to draft the concept note/program for the informal hearings and to *nominate* candidates for civil society speaking roles in both the hearings and the HLM.<sup>3</sup>

#### ***This self-organized HLM 2016 Civil Society Action Committee***

To support civil society **advocacy on the outcomes and implementation thereof**, which lies outside of the scope of the UN-led committee, civil society organizations and networks are self-organizing into a 2016 HLM Action Committee, propelled by:

- The **International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)**, which has long organized global NGO participation in meetings of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), including annual NGO Consultations.

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<sup>1</sup> A separate [ministerial event](#) will be hosted by the United States at the UNGA the next day (20 September) on “*Strengthening the Global Response to the Global Refugee Crisis*”, in order to promote more humanitarian funding, expanded resettlement and additional pathways for refugees, and better refugee inclusion and self-reliance.

<sup>2</sup> In contrast to this 2016 model, in 2013 civil society participation, program and messages in the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) were self-organized by a Civil Society Steering Committee, coordinated by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), working in direct collaboration with the UN,

<sup>3</sup> For further information, see the Terms of Reference of the [UN 19 September Civil Society Steering Committee](#)

- **ICMC**, which has since 2011 organized global civil society participation meetings and activities connected to the yearly, States-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and the 2013 UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), working closely with a diverse group of some 25-35 civil society organizations worldwide convened as an International Steering Committee (ISC) for that purpose<sup>4</sup>.
- The **NGO Committee on Migration (New York)**, which has since 2006 organized its membership principally around UN processes in New York but also in relation to UNHCR and IOM meetings.

## **2. Purpose: *advocacy on action and implementation***

ICMC, ICVA and the NGO Committee on Migration are convening this 2016 HLM Civil Society Action Committee to coordinate civil society advocacy on action and implementation leading up to, at, and after the HLM. Working with its Coordinating Office in Brussels, staff in Geneva and a dedicated focal person New York, ICMC has agreed to take the lead on this.

This Action Committee will provide **a platform to coordinate, and where possible collectively organize key civil society messages to go into (1) the outcome document; (2) commitments by governments; and (3) implementation mechanisms.**

The Action Committee will also advise on the value, prospect and organizing of:

- a one-day civil society strategy meeting open to all civil society on Sunday 17 July**, one day prior to the hearing, for which ICMC will take the organization responsibility
- strategic, direct, and global contact with governments** on HLM outcome negotiations and implementation
- Communication in all these directions**<sup>5</sup>

Members, on a voluntary basis, are suggested to be organized in **four thematic groups** to lead messaging and advocacy in that theme, taking as the starting point the three pillars put forward in the final pages of the [report of the UN Secretary General](#), and adding a fourth action area:

1. An Action Plan to uphold “the dignity and safety in large movements of both refugees and migrants”
2. A “Global Compact for Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees”
3. A “Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration”
4. An Action plan for social inclusion and against xenophobia and discrimination

Wherever practical, linkages will be forged between the work of civil society’s Action Committee, and the UN led Steering Committee. To ensure an inclusive process, civil society organizations outside of these two Committees will be consulted on a regular basis through open conference calls or specific outreach.

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<sup>4</sup> The ISC for the GFMDs and 2013 HLD has comprised a mix of civil society organizations active in migration and development at global, regional, national and grassroots levels—with broad sectoral, geographic and gender balance. ISC members are principally non-governmental rights, development and faith-based organizations, migrant and diaspora associations, trade unions and worker organizations, academics and private sector actors. Service on the ISC is strictly voluntary.

<sup>5</sup> ICMC proposes to create a simple temporary dedicated website to collect civil society statements, preparations, and to provide updates practical information on the HLM.

### 3. Membership and term

Membership in the Action Committee will include no more than 20 civil society representatives, comprising the ten members of the ISC Core Group, and 10 NGOs working on refugees and forced displacement from the ICVA network, aiming for:

- a) a balance of refugee and migration expertise;
- b) a diversity of civil society, with a mix of sectors, regions, international-regional-national levels of engagement and gender
- c) contributions of staff time and, where possible resources to achieve the proposes described above

The Action Committee will have a term of **June through December 2016**. Service on the Committee is strictly voluntary.

### 4. Planning and meetings

- The Action Committee will meet regularly through conference calls of 90 minutes (normally beginning 16:00 Geneva time), following the meeting schedule at the bottom of this document. ICMC will take responsibility for meeting agendas, documents and reports, in close consultation with ICVA and the NGO Committee
- Members will have equal voice in Action Committee discussions and recommendations;
- Members will further exchange views and follow up by email
- The Action Committee is proposed to be organized in three phases:
  - I. **Phase 1: Outcome document phase - *May - July*** - working out collective priorities and key civil society messages quickly, particularly on comprehensive action and implementation mechanisms, providing input through the co-facilitators, in available outcome processes, and through bilateral meeting with governments in New York, Geneva, Brussels and capitals on their positioning on the outcome document.
    - **Sunday 17 July**: one day strategy meeting with open invitation to all civil society to prepare for interventions during the hearings, and smaller meetings with governments the day after.
    - **Monday 18 July**: Interactive Hearings (possibly with (a) self-organized side-event(s))
    - **Tuesday 19 July: 60-90 minute** “breakfast-meetings” (and possibly lunch and “happy hour” meetings) with small leader-to-leader groups of selected governments and civil society groups on priority messages
  - II. **Phase 2: Commitments phase - *half July - September*** – advocating with states to (publicly) commit to comprehensive action and certain policy changes/ pledges / action during the 19th of September, around the four action areas (see above) possibly linking also with the 20<sup>th</sup> of September US refugee summit
  - III. **Phase 3: Follow-up-Launch phase - *September - December*** - interact and advocate with states and the UN in the launch of outcome(s) follow-up processes.

#### **Proposed meeting schedule for 2016 Action Committee:**

- Friday 3 June
- Wednesday 8 June
- Wednesday 22 June
- Wednesday 6 July
- Saturday 16 July (face-to-face in New York)
- Wednesday 27 July
- Wednesday 31 August
- [further meetings in September and beyond tbc together]