



Civil Society Programme 2016
Global Forum on Migration and Development

Time for Action:
Doing rights-based governance of migration and development;
in our communities and across borders

Final Concept paper and provisional Programme of Civil Society Days 2016

July 2016

I. Introduction

This year's GFMD will take place from 8 - 12 December in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Civil Society Days will take place the first two days, followed by Common Space between civil society and governments and then the Government programme through the fifth day.

The timing of this GFMD is momentous:

- just three months after the UN General Assembly holds an extraordinary “High-level Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” on 19 September (hereafter: HLS), where UN member states are expecting to produce a negotiated, action-oriented outcome; and seven months after the high-level “World Humanitarian Summit”, which together with events in February and March form a deliberate series of one high-level international meeting nearly every two months this year that the UN Secretary-General, UN member states and agencies will have devoted to improving responses to human mobility.
- only months after the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is expected to formally join the UN system as a related agency—after 65 years outside it.
- just months ahead of the next GFMD in Berlin, Germany; with the subsequent GFMD already committed for 2018 in Morocco, followed by the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the UN General Assembly (HLD) in 2019.

- and the completion of year 1 of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs)¹ and year 3 of civil society’s ‘[5-year 8-point plan](#)’, which civil society launched at the HLD in 2013 for collaboration with governments in migration and development².

All of these are evidence of a clear recognition of the importance of migrants and migration, a growing convergence on concrete respect for human rights and human development being the foundation for solutions that are practical as well as fair, and on the principal challenge being not to discover principles, rights and practices but to implement them.

In this direction, there is great wisdom—and compelling ambition—in the Bangladesh Chair of this year’s GFMD pointing “*towards a Transformative Migration Agenda*” in the overall theme for the [GFMD 2016 government programme](#).

Civil society leaders and organizations are at the heart of this work. Indeed, a growing proportion of civil society participants in these processes are migrants, refugees or diaspora³. For example, nearly half of the delegates in the GFMD 2015 Civil Society Days were migrants, refugees or diaspora themselves, or representing organizations led by migrants, refugees or diaspora. Active worldwide on the ground as well as in advocacy, civil society is at once: the subject in migration and development, co-responsible as actors, partners with governments at all levels and drivers of people-centered, right-based implementation.

The programme of the Civil Society Days will therefore look at how we act in these directions, together. Not just recommendations, but implementation; internationally, across borders, but also regionally and locally, in our communities. This year’s GFMD Civil Society Days will also incorporate local practices that have or have not worked, in order to take, showcase and inspire action and follow-up on the ground. As in the past two years, the programme will take forward the issues of the “5-year 8-point Plan” and [civil society’s outcomes in the GFMD 2015](#), linked with the themes that the governments have decided to focus on in their own programme for the GFMD this year: “*Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: towards a Transformative Migration Agenda*”. Accordingly, civil society’s overall theme this year is:

“Time for Action: Doing rights-based governance of migration and development in our communities and across borders”

II. 2016 GFMD Civil Society Provisional Programme

From the very beginning of the GFMD civil society has advocated for the protection and promotion of the human rights of all migrants as central to human dignity and human development. The protection of human rights is an imperative in itself; it is further clear that without adequate protection, large numbers of migrants are severely constrained from improving their own human development, that of their families, communities and countries of origin, transit and destination. Therefore all debates and

¹ Adopted by 193 UN member states in September 2015, the “[2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)” contains at least 7 explicit references to migrants and migration plus clear language in the preamble that makes clear that every one of the 17 goals applies to everyone, including migrants, regardless of status.

² The 5-year 8-point Action plan came out of back-to-back plenary and workshop meetings in both the 2012 GFMD Civil Society Days and the World Social Forum on Migration (WSFM) in late 2012, endorsed by a vote of some 500 civil society representatives from around the world in the closing plenary of the WSFM. As a distinct Outcome and follow up to the HLD, civil society proposed that Plan explicitly to collaborate with States during the five years through 2018.

³ Here and in processes of the GFMD and second [High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development](#), civil society has generally used the term “diaspora” to comprise migrants and the children and grandchildren of migrants.

recommendations of the civil society programme will continue to integrate and promote a human rights and human-development perspective.

The 2016 GFMD Civil Society programme and preparations will be structured around a mix of plenary debates, four tracks with a total of eight parallel working sessions, a set of special sessions and a significant expansion within the Civil Society Days programme itself of small regional and thematic tables for direct interaction with governments.

A. Plenary Debates: first morning and second afternoon

- **Opening plenary:** *From discussion to Action.* An overview of where we've come since the last GFMD, connecting specifically to the SDGs, the HLS outcome and new energy on governance of migration, and what we need to do next. The CSD Working sessions will then be space to take forward further discussion and follow-up. This session will also consider the context today, in particular the disparity between these hopeful developments and the rise of xenophobic discourse and policy worldwide.
- **Closing plenary:** *Commitments: Civil society's role in Moving forward.* What specific commitments do we make as civil society to participate in, implement and measure progress on our recommendations here?

B. Parallel working sessions: first afternoon and second morning

The themes for the 8 working sessions directly relate back to points on global civil society's "5-Year 8-Point Plan", and as indicated, both to roundtable themes on the governments' GFMD 2016 agenda and to specific SDG targets.

1. Objective and structure of working sessions

Each working session will aim to identify and measure the quality of policies, practices, partnerships and tools that are actually being implemented for rights-based migration and development. There will be specific emphasis on identifying the role of **global, regional and other trans-national governance mechanisms** and on generating input for implementation and measurement of the SDGs related to the theme of the working session.

Working sessions (and Action papers for each one) will be structured to provide:

- short overviews of applicable human rights standards
- an overview of concrete policy tools and practices we can learn from and which might inspire future action (international – regional – national – local)
- key recent recommendations by civil society at the GFMD
- snapshots of good practice and partnership linked to a specific governance level
- guiding questions for debate:
 - what can we learn / how can we replicate
 - who are the necessary actors
 - what is the role for an international governance mechanisms

2. Themes for the 4 tracks of 8 working sessions

- **Theme of track 1: Doing protection of migrant workers**

- Points 5, 6, 7 and 8 of civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan
- Government GFMD roundtables 1.1, 1.2 and 2.1
- Principal SDGs: 8.8 and 10.c
- Outcome of the HLS regarding the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration

Working session 1.1: Promoting rights in recruitment processes throughout the labour supply chain

Working session 1.2: Protecting and empowering migrant workers in all global supply chains

- **Theme of track 2: Doing protection of migrants on the move**

- Points 3, 4, 5, and 6 of civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan
- Government GFMD roundtables 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2
- Principal SDG references: General declaration and 10.7
- Outcome of the HLS regarding the Action plan on the safety and dignity of all migrants, the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees

Working session 2.1: Protecting migrants in all crises, in transit and at borders

Working session 2.2: Development solutions for forced displacement, including in contexts of conflict, disaster and climate change

- **Theme of track 3: Doing inclusive development**

- Points 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 of civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan
- Government GFMD roundtable 2.1
- Principal SDG references: 4.7 and 10.7 and the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (paragraph 40)
- Outcome of the HLS on the global campaign to for social inclusion and against discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

Working session 3.1: Creating welcoming societies and ensuring the social inclusion of diaspora and migrants

Working session 3.2: Migrant and diaspora action for job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy

- **Theme of track 4: Doing global governance better**

- Points 1 and 6 of civil society 5-year 8-point Plan
- Government GFMD roundtables 1.1, 3.1 and 3.2
- Principal SDG references: 10.7 and 17.18 and Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paragraph 40 and 111)
- Outcome of the HLS regarding the Action plan on the safety and dignity of all migrants, Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees

Working session 4.1: Multilateral cooperation and governance of migration and development: institutions and legal frameworks

Working session 4.2: Implementing and monitoring migration-related aspects of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the role of the GFMD

C. Special Features

1. Global Movement “Scorecard”

Taking forward civil society’s commitment to an independent measuring of progress on each of the points in its “5-year 8-point Plan”, the assessment published in early 2016 will be updated in a simple “scorecard” that reports on what has been achieved on each of the 8 points—plus fighting xenophobia—through the end of 2016, “year 3” of the Plan. Drafts of these scorecards will be shared with the organizers of the working sessions a few weeks ahead of the GFMD, as a formative input to each session, and then distributed for discussion to all participants in the CSD. The recommendations coming out of the working sessions will be incorporated in final scorecards after the GFMD.

2. Thematic Action Papers

As done and positively evaluated in the GFMD 2015 Civil Society Days, Action Papers will be prepared for each of the working sessions, by groups of civil society leaders identified by the Civil Society International Steering Committee (ISC).⁴ The Action Papers will lay out existing and suggested goals and indicators, practices, tools, and action steps for implementation. These Action Papers will be refined and taken forward during the CSD.

3. SDG Bridging paper and Trackers

The SDGs that all UN member states adopted in the 15-year *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in September 2015 set targets on some of the top priorities that civil society had advocated in GFMDs and the two HLDs since 2006. Most notably, this includes protecting migrant worker rights (SDG 8.8) and facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration (SDG 10.7). These issues are once again priorities for civil society this year and are a major part of the Civil Society Days programme.

The declaration of the 2030 Agenda makes further clear that all 17 of the SDGs pertain to migrants, regardless of status.

As the GFMD in December marks the end of the first year of that Agenda, civil society attaches enormous importance to implementing and measuring progress for migrants across the range of goals and targets. In this direction:

- At least six weeks ahead of the GFMD, an SDG bridging paper will be prepared, with sections that match SDGs with the focus of each working session. These sections can then appropriately be incorporated into the working session Action papers.
- Special “SDG trackers” will be appointed for each of the working sessions to ensure that discussion and recommendations connect directly to corresponding SDGs. All SDG trackers will come together towards the end of the GFMD to gather outcomes of the discussions and draft a consolidated report back to the plenary, ideally with an overview of policies and

⁴ Representing a diverse group of 38 society leaders active in migration and development worldwide, the International Steering Committee (ISC) advises and guides ICMC’s Global Coordinating Office on the programme, the selection of participants and follow up of the 2016 GFMD Civil Society Days.

practices gathered during the working group discussions and highlighting priorities for civil society to move forward.

4. Women and Children Rapporteurs and Bridging papers

As done and positively evaluated in the GFMD 2015 Civil Society Days, a Women in Migration rapporteur and a Children in Migration rapporteur will be appointed to both drive discussion and gather from the various CSD working sessions practices and recommendations relevant specifically to women and children in migration, and report back to the plenary with concrete proposals for action.

At least six weeks ahead of the GFMD, a bridging paper on issues of women in migration and another on children will be prepared, with sections corresponding to each working session. These sections can then appropriately be incorporated into the working session Action papers.

5. Direct interaction with governments, local authorities and private sector

This year's Civil Society Days will devote special attention to advancing rights-based migration and human development in concrete collaboration with governments, local authorities and the private sector. Amongst the panellists of each working Session, we will aim to include one local authority/government representative/private sector participant (depending on the theme) in order to advance the multi-stakeholder character of governance and SDG frameworks.

Within the programme, civil society this year will elevate the importance of smaller, closed-door and informal tables with governments, with either regional or thematic focus. In number, scope and importance, these will significantly expand on the positive experience of bringing together 5 civil society leaders with 5 government leaders in some 10 "breakfast tables" during the GFMD Civil Society programmes of 2014 and 2015.

Working closely with the civil society International Steering Committee, ICMC's Coordinating Office will determine closer to the GFMD the final list of about 10 tables, along with those who will participate from civil society (some of whom will be selected by and in the CSD working sessions) and from among governments.

6. Special sessions

As done and positively evaluated in the GFMD 2015 Civil Society Days, there will be a small number of special sessions with very specific and timely strategic focus, several with explicit focus on follow-up to outcomes of the HLS 19 September. The focus and structure of these sessions will be determined closer to the GFMD.

D. 2016 Common Space

The Common Space that bridges the CSD and government programmes continues to be the principal form for interaction between civil society and governments within the official GFMD programme.

As in all GFMDs since the initiation of the Common Space in 2010, ICMC's Coordinating Office works to define the Common Space concept and structure directly with the GFMD government chair, with guidance from the International Steering Committee of civil society. This joint elaboration is undertaken closer to the GFMD.

III. 2016 GFMD Civil Society Days Programme: *Agenda*

Thursday 8 December <i>Day 1 - GFMD CSD 2016</i>	
8:00 - 8:50	Registration
9:00 - 12:00	Opening Ceremony and first Plenary Debate A) <i>Opening ceremony, presentation of the programme</i> B) <i>Artistic performance and short plenary session</i> C) <i>Opening debate</i>
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch and open space
13:30 - 17:00	Parallel working sessions <i>4 parallel groups with 60 – 90 participants (see suggested themes) with the possibility to break into smaller groups</i>
17:00 - 19:00	Special sessions and open space
19:00 - 21:00	Evening programme
Friday 9 December <i>Day 2 - GFMD CSD 2016</i>	
8:30 - 12:00	Parallel working sessions <i>4 parallel groups with 60 – 90 participants (see suggested themes) with the possibility to break into smaller groups</i>
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch and open space
13:30 - 14:30	Report back from SDG tracker, Women rapporteur and Children rapporteur
14:30 - 16:00	Plenary Debate <i>Brief reports back from the 4 tracks of working sessions, plus discussion, recommendations + next steps</i>
16:00 - 18:00	Final Plenary Debate and Close
Saturday 10 December <i>(opening Government Days and Common Space)</i>	
9:00 - 12:00 (tbc)	Opening plenary and Common Space (tbc) Opening ceremony <i>Government Days, with report by civil society Chair</i> Common Space: to be elaborated between civil society and with the GFMD government Chair: - Inspirational “bigger picture” key note address - 4 break-out sessions - Common Space wrap-up and Concluding debate