

## **GFMD Civil Society Chair Report 2018**

### **Closing Ceremony, Global Forum on Migration and Development**

**Marrakesh, 7 December**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We find ourselves today in a pivotal moment in history, in just three days the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration will be adopted here in Marrakesh.

This Compact, which promises to be a big leap forward in the global governance of migration, has seen significant civil society participation and activity.

However, as governments were developing this Compact, we have continued to witness significant and daily deteriorations in the lives of migrants across the world... walls being build, borders being closed, and migrants being intercepted, detained and deported.

In this unique historical moment, civil society has concluded the 11th Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). This meeting, which extended over the period of three days, including a day of shared 'common space' with governments, saw the participation of more than 350 civil society participants from the different regions of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Civil society believes that the ultimate test of this Compact is the ability of member states to implement it in a complete, balanced way and in accordance to the principles of human rights.

And as we find ourselves today in a moment where states are renewing their commitments the 23 objectives of the Global Compact, civil society is here today to present you with a number of commitments:

- 1) We, civil society, commit to continue to defend the human rights of migrants, to interpret and implement the Compact in accordance with human rights principles and to work to ensure that migrants are at the heart of all policies that affect them.
- 2) We commit to raise awareness of the Compact, to collect and use facts and data to change the negative narratives on migration, to highlight the contributions of migrants at all levels and to foster social inclusion at the local and national level. As we develop national actions plans those will include inclusion and non-discrimination.
- 3) We commit to continue to fight to ensure that all migrant workers, women and men, regardless of status, are guaranteed their core labor rights including the freedom of association and collective bargaining and to ensure that those rights are respected and protected at all stages of migration.
- 4) We commit to mobilize, advocate, and lobby governments to bridge the gap between regular and irregular migrants at the local and national levels. We also commit to provide services to all migrants regardless of status and with a special attention to the most vulnerable migrants.
- 5) We commit to continue to view migration from the larger lens of human mobility and to work at the national level to ensure the joint implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees to reduce gaps and to ensure that people do not fall through the cracks of rigid definitions. In this regard, more initiatives like the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts are needed to bridge the two compacts.
- 6) We commit to continue to push for a stronger climate displacement agenda in the Global Compact and in other spaces such as the GFMD so that the unique risks facing climate-vulnerable communities are recognized and addressed in a short time frame.
- 7) We commit to continue to work to ensure that the principle of the best interest of the child as the primary consideration in all matters concerning migrant children is always respected. No child should be detained for immigration purposes or separated from their family.
- 8) We commit to recognize and support the role of women as leaders in communities, families and economies whether as primary migrants or as the 'left behind' when family members migrate for work

9) We commit to be critical, yet to engage in the spirit of dialogue and partnership with member states, UN agencies and other stakeholders implementing the Global Compact.

10) We commit to monitor and keep governments to account on all their commitments. We will take the initiative to create monitoring systems to track progress at the different levels, connecting the national, regional and global and to create multi-year civil society action plans for implementation.

Finally, on the GFMD itself, we appreciate the approach of Ecuador, the incoming GFMD Chair for 2019, in making sure that the GFMD has a broader focus on those left behind. We also call for the Youth Forum to become part of the GFMD in 2019 as the Mayoral Forum has become part of the GFMD in 2018.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, government representatives,

Civil society discourse could have been in a thousand languages, but the message would remain the same.

The voice of civil society is also the voice of migrants. And on behalf of them, we ask you to remember that you have imposed such a pact, to improve the situation of people on the move and make migration: orderly, safe and regular.

We ask you today to commit to no longer allowing any regression of fundamental human rights standards for people on the move.

We ask you to make the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration a living commitment that will lead to real change practiced at the national level.

We ask you, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to make this pact a visible and tangible step towards a more just and secure world for everyone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all people on the move, it's not our location that defines our rights!