

Proposed Terms of Reference for UN Network on Migration’s Civil Society Liaison

Context:

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) adopted by UN Member States at the Marrakech Conference on 11 December 2018, states that Member States will:

“...implement the Global Compact in cooperation and partnership with migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations... and other relevant stakeholders.”¹

In addition, paragraph 45 of the GCM established a UN Network on Migration to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.² To that end, the Terms of Reference of the UN Network itself commits it to:

“Engage with external partners, including migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations... and other relevant stakeholders at global, regional and national levels;”³

Towards these ends, the position of Civil Society Liaison will be created within the UN Network Secretariat to enable it to meet these commitments.

Objectives:

The objective of the Civil Society Liaison is to support the full contribution and engagement of all civil society with the United Nations Network on Migration, specifically towards the implementation, follow-up, and review of the GCM consistent with the Terms of Reference for the UN Network. The CSO liaison will be a part of the UN Network Secretariat team and report directly to the UN Network Secretariat Director. At the same time, the Civil Society Liaison will also establish and be accountable and maintain relationships with a broad range of civil society organizations at all levels (national, regional and global) working on migration. The Civil Society Liaison will facilitate the full engagement of civil society entities, including migrant organizations, with the UN Network to ensure that civil society in its diversity, is appropriately reflected in the work of the UN Network.

Tasks to be performed:

- Establish and develop working relationships with the full range of civil society working on migration at all levels,;
- Develop and implement clear, simple, transparent and mutually-agreed upon procedures and mechanisms for civil society engagement with the UN Network, accessible to diverse civil society actors, especially those from the Global South and migrant organizations;

¹ Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, paragraph 44, page 33

² Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, paragraph 45, page 33

³ Terms of Reference for the UN Network on Migration, Objectives, page 2

- Act as a communications portal for civil society to access all aspects of information relevant to the UN Network and its work, facilitate communication and information-sharing between the UN Network and its members with civil society, advise civil society on opportunities for inputs and relevant procedural requirements;
- Act as an advocate and facilitator for civil society engagement in all aspects of GCM implementation, follow-up and review, with Member States, UN Network members, and all other relevant stakeholders;
- Brief the UN Network and its members on all related civil society organizations and formations, contributions and positions;
- Where appropriate, participate in and report on relevant civil society events to the UN Network, to better the UN Network's understanding of, and support for civil society engagement;
- Propose a work-plan, including communication means, resource needs and meeting participation requirements to ensure the most balanced civil society engagement possible;
- Assist with ensuring that civil society are adequately informed in a timely manner of any accreditation and/or registration requirements/eligibility and procedures for engagement in any GCM-related event, including but not limited to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and the Regional Migration Review Forums (RMRFs);
- Organize regular briefings for civil society that are accessible as widely as possible (across regional time zones, and in relevant languages) to update on the most current developments of the UN Network and its work;
- Directly support the civil society representatives on the Network's Working Groups and Migration Trust Fund, ensuring that they have all the necessary tools, communications etc. to fully engage their respective committees and groups;
- Perform any other duties as agreed with civil society and the UN Network.