

Civil Society Days 2015, 12-13 October 2015

ACTION PAPER FOR WORKING SESSIONS 1.1 and 1.2¹:

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals beyond 2015 for migrants and communities

Session 1.1: civil society's role in fashioning global, national and thematic indicators

Session 1.2: civil society's role in implementing and monitoring the SDGs at home

1. SETTING THE STAGE

1.1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Between 25-27 September, world leaders met in New York for the UN Sustainable Development Summit. All 193 member states signed on to the Declaration on Sustainable Development called 'transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²'. This Agenda sets forth a set of 17 goals and 169 targets³ for the world to meet—internationally and nationally—to achieve sustainable development over the next 15 years.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development picks up from and moves well beyond the first set of global development goals—the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that have been pursued in the 15 years since their adoption in 2000, with a diverse record of success on several of them. But where the MDGs specifically targeted countries from the so-called 'global south',

with a poverty focused agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals aim more comprehensively at a range of challenges that the whole world faces, including but not limited to ending poverty. More

¹ This draft Action Paper has been prepared as input for the 2015 GFMD Civil Society Days by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), in coordination with the Augustinian NGO at the UN and Cordaid

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

³ <http://www.globalgoals.org>

importantly, the new Agenda is universal, aims to combat inequality and specifically targets vulnerable groups.

Also different from the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda includes 7 explicit references to migrants and migration. Civil society organizations have played key roles in articulating and advocating for specific inclusion of migrants and migration, together with the need to adequately finance its implementation. Under the leadership of the MADE Working Group on Global Governance of Migration and Development⁴, civil society organizations and networks from around the world came together to create a unified “Stockholm Agenda”⁵ calling for the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 global and national development agendas. In addition, the working group has put forward indicators to measure the achievement of the SDGs for migrants and communities and coordinated expert input into on-line consultations.

1.2 Where is migration in the 2030 SDG Agenda?

The 2030 SDG Agenda starts from the principle to “leave no one behind”, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. It embraces migration and migrants in three parts⁶:

1. Explicitly in the Declaration⁷ accompanying the Sustainable Development Goals, is included the phrase; *“We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons”*
2. Under the 17 Goals and 169 targets, 7 targets refer explicitly to migrants and migration⁸
3. Throughout the rest of the goals and targets that are “migration or displacement-relevant”, such as access to education, health, decent work and more, because all Goals are explicitly “for all” and are also targeted towards vulnerable people—which the Declaration of the Agenda clearly says includes migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons.

1.3 What next?

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda it is now up to governments to decide how this agenda will be translated into national policies and how their implementation will be resourced and measured. This means that many civil society organisations will be focusing their advocacy efforts on:

- Ensuring that the 2030 Agenda, including the migration-related goals and targets, will be incorporated into national policies, and that these policies will be implemented.
- ensuring that the formulation of these policies and their implementation are conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner that includes participation of civil society, migrants and diaspora
- Ensuring the adoption of effective global and national indicators so that progress on the SDGs can be effectively monitored and measured
- Ensuring the adequate resourcing of national policies including the establishment of annual budget lines for migration-related policies

⁴ <http://www.madenetwork.org/global-governance-migration-and-developmentt>

⁵ <http://gfmdcivilsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Civil-Society-Migration-Stockholm-Agenda-June-2014.pdf>

⁶ See: <http://post2015.org/2015/08/12/the-mdgs-ignored-migrants-and-refugees-how-will-the-sdgs-fare/> or read the MADE newsletter on migrants and migration in the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development on: www.madenetwork.org

⁷ See paragraphs 23, 25 and 29 of the Declaration

⁸ See targets 5.2, 8.7, 8.8, 10.7, 10.c, 16.2 and 17.18

❖ Implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda

On implementation, the SDG Declaration is rather general. In the coming months, much is still to be defined within the UN and at member state level. The Declaration states that:

- **Overall:** A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make vital contribution to this agenda in ensuring no one is left behind, it will promote accountability, it will be people-centred, gender-sensitive and respect human rights; it will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country led evaluations. (art 72 and 74).
- **National level:** member states are encouraged to develop – as soon as practicable - ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can build on existing sustainable development planning tools if appropriate. We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes. (art 78 – 79).
- **Regional level:** Follow-up and review at the regional and sub-regional levels can provide useful opportunities for peer learning. We encourage all member states to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. UN regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting member states in this regard. (art 80 – 81)
- **International level:** The high-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) will follow up and review the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level. This HLPF will meet once a year under auspices of ECOSOC and every four years under auspices of the UN General Assembly. It is expected to provide leadership and guidance to member states on implementation, and will conduct thematic reviews on specific issues of concern. (art 82 – 84)
- **Global Thematic reviews** will be conducted: these will ensure the integrated nature of the SDGs as well as the interlinkages between them. (art 85)

This means that, at the global, regional and national level, civil society will have an indispensable role to frame, monitor, and be co-accountable for progress on achieving the sustainable development agenda. It is therefore key that citizens, migrants and civil society worldwide follow-up with their respective governments to make sure that, on paper as well as in reality, no one is left behind.

❖ Indicators and measurement

Over the course of 2015, the UN has started the process of developing a global indicator framework to measure progress on the implementation of the new goals and targets. This process has been delegated to an Interagency Expert Group⁹ (IAEG), which is developing a set of proposed global indicators by March 2016, to be adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The IAEG consists of the national statistical offices of 28 UN member states¹⁰ and UN agencies. In recent months they have launched worldwide consultations to draft global indicators, completing the second round of consultations early September. From the civil society side, the MADE Working Group on Global Governance of Migration and Development¹¹ has provided inputs into the consultations,

⁹ <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>

¹⁰ Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, Cameroon, Cabo, Verde, Senegal, Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, The Philippines, Fiji, Samoa, Cuba, Jamaica, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Russian Federation, Italy, Canada, France, The Netherlands, United Kingdom

¹¹ <http://www.madenetwork.org/global-governance-migration-and-development>

aiming to promote measurable and meaningful indicators for migrant and migration related goals and targets. The next meeting of the IAEG meeting on 26-28 October in Bangkok is expected to result in a near-final list of global indicators to be approved in March 2016 and submitted to the UN general Assembly for adoption. The global indicators will then be guidance for the development of national indicators that will be used for measuring progress in every country. These will be developed in parallel to the process of national policy making.

2. PAST CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE “5-YEAR 8-POINT ACTION PLAN” AND GFMD 2014 – WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

The below table is an extract from the draft *Global Movement Report*, a report presenting progress on Civil Society’s 5-year 8-point action plan¹². Through interviews with key civil society actors, a survey completed by more than 330 civil society organisations across the world, and extensive document review, this report aims to reflect the current progress of implementing Civil Society’s 5-year action plan. It specifically looks into civil society achievements, and assesses areas where further and strengthened civil society action could be considered. The below table reflects the findings of progress on implementing the 1st point of the 5 year 8 point plan:

POINT 1: Post-2015 development agenda					
5-year 8-point plan Point 1	Civil Society Recommendations	Benchmarks	Verification	+ ¹³	Justification
Integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda to address not the contributions that migrants make to development in countries of origin and destination, but also the possibilities for better policy planning and coherence that can make migration more genuinely a choice and not a necessity, and greater gain than drain. This development agenda would work to affirm both the right to migrate and the right to remain at home with decent work and human security. As such, it links migration to United Nations development concerns regarding poverty, health, gender equality, financing for development and sustainable development, and to future development goals.	1) Widely supported civil society campaigns towards governments to include migrants and migration in development planning and agendas	Did civil society engage in campaigns to include migrants and migration in the post 2015 development agenda?	Document Review (e.g. Stockholm Agenda); Interviews	+	Although many interview participants indicated that civil society was late to engage in campaigning for migration to be included in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, efforts such as the Stockholm agenda are widely believed to have been significant in the decision to include migration in the zero draft.
		Is migration reflected in the Post-2015 Development agenda?	Document Review (e.g. zero draft); Interviews	+/-	Migration has been included in numerous places in the Zero Draft of the SDGs surpassing the expectations of many. However some limitations exist such as the gendered focus on trafficking.
	2) Inclusion and monitoring of specific goals and targets on migrants and migration in post-2015 global and national development agenda	Are plans in place to ensure the on-going monitoring of migration related indicators?	Interviews	+/-	This is an area that any interview participants view as key for moving forward. Particular attention was paid to developing tools for measuring migration related indicators.

Table 1: Progress on Point 1 of the 5-year 8-point plan, *Global Movement Report*, Elaine McGregor, and Maastricht School of Governance

¹² See: <http://www.madenetwork.org/agenda-change>

¹³ Green (or +) indicates good progress has been made. Orange (+/-) indicates some progress has been made. Red (-) indicates no substantial progress on this point.

3. THE WAY FORWARD – PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Based on these findings, and considering the current state of affairs with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the organisers of this session propose the following action and goals by civil society for the coming period until the next GFMD in Bangladesh:

1. Goal: To ensure civil society engagement with national policy formulation, implementation, budgeting and indicator development, in order to ensure the achievement of the migrant and migrant-related goals and targets at national levels
Indicator: By early 2016, develop a coordinated civil society advocacy strategy and toolkit. By end of 2016, implement and regular review progress within and across regions of the coordinated civil society advocacy strategy
2. Goal: To ensure civil society engagement in the designing and conducting of thematic review of migration-related goals and targets, including defining the role of the GFMD and its Civil Society Days, as one part of developing an institutional framework for the global governance of migration and development
Indicators: By early 2016, develop a coordinated civil society advocacy strategy on a global thematic review. By end of 2016, civil society has developed and advocated its position on a thematic review of migration-related goals and targets.

4. EXISTING PRACTICES AND TOOLS ON CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZING

As of 2016, most of the actions will need to happen at national level, but there is scope for regional work to the extent that national policies are discussed, coordinated or even formulated at regional level. Furthermore advocacy needs to continue at a global level. Below we provide two concrete examples of organizing ourselves at international level; these are not exhaustive, but merely aim to provide concrete examples that you can get engaged with:

1. The MADE Working Group on the Global Governance of Migration and Development
The MADE programme has been set up to provide additional capacity to GFMD civil society organizing. It has set up specific working groups on three issues, and one is dealing with the Global Governance of Migration and Development. This working group¹⁴ is led by Cordaid, and has coordinated advocacy efforts aimed at inclusion of migrants and migration into the post-2015 development agenda – including the drafting the above mentioned “Civil Society Stockholm Agenda” and providing inputs into the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) global indicator consultations. It will now focus on facilitating national and regional efforts to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into national policies, monitor their implementation, and facilitating information sharing of civil society organisations on their national and regional efforts, challenges and strategies.
2. Beyond 2015 and its successor
Beyond 2015¹⁵ was a global civil society campaign, pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals. It was not linked to a specific issue, but rather wanted to bridge different constituencies and priorities to speak in one voice to ensure an

¹⁴ www.madenetwork.org/global-governance-migration-and-development

¹⁵ <http://www.beyond2015.org/>

ambitious and legitimate SDG policy framework. This campaign was also organized at the regional level, and every country had a dedicated focal point. The campaign ends in October 2015, but current discussions on a follow-up strategy are ongoing, and will build on existing initiatives like Beyond 2015, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), Action2015. The basic outline of the follow-up campaign¹⁶ was discussed last month in September in New York, and will entail regional and thematic working groups.

5. GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE SESSIONS

1. Which policies need to be changed in your country in order to translate the migration-related targets into national policy, practice and reality?
2. What are your main recommendations to governments to ensure that migrants and migration are included in the national sustainable development framework?
3. Which alliances should we build or strengthen in order to ensure effective implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and migration-related targets? At national, regional or international levels? What kind of tools would these alliances need?
4. How do you see the monitoring of implementation of the migration-related targets? What type of thematic review process would you see as desirable, and what could be the role of the GFMD in general and the Civil Society Days in particular?

¹⁶ <https://www.loomio.org/g/uJd5wTXQ/global-civil-society-movement-on-the-un-s-sustainable-development-goals>