



**Civil Society Programme 2015**  
Global Forum on Migration and Development

**Achieving Migration and Development Goals**  
*Movement together on Global solutions and Local action*

Concept paper and draft programme<sup>1</sup>  
*13 August*

**1. 2015 GFMD Civil Society programme**

The GFMD Civil Society Days 2015 (CSD) and Common Space with governments will take place from 12 - 14 October in Istanbul, Turkey, just weeks after the new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are adopted by governments at the United Nations. How these goals will actually contribute to the well-being, empowerment and human rights of migrants, communities and societies, and how to ensure that they are implemented and monitored effectively will be a major focus for this year's GFMD Civil Society Days, as well as the Government programme.

At the same time it will have been almost exactly two years after the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN High-level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development, which took place in October 2013. Accordingly, the programme of the Civil Society Days will also look at global and local movement and progress since the HLD, and what needs to happen next. In particular, the programme will take forward the issues of [the "5-year 8-point Plan" that civil society launched at the HLD](#) and the [outcomes from the GFMD 2014](#), linked with the themes that the governments have decided to focus on in their own [GFMD 2015 programme](#) entitled: "*Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development*".

The overall theme for the 2015 GFMD Civil Society programme connects the governments' theme of partnerships to the work of civil society movements around the world these past years, with a recognition of interaction among the many actors in this work, at home as well as in processes like the GFMD. Accordingly, civil society's overall theme this year is:

**Achieving Migration and Development Goals**  
*Movement together on Global solutions and Local action*

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<sup>1</sup> This concept paper has been put together on the basis of feedback from the Civil Society International Steering Committee, as well as over 500 suggestions received through the 2015 GFMD Civil Society Days application form, linking these with the results of civil society's GFMD 2014 Evaluation and Recommendations, global civil society's "5-year 8-point Plan" and the GFMD 2015 government programme.

## 2. 2015 GFMD Civil Society Programme: Themes and Format

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, countries of origin, transit and destination. Therefore all debates and recommendations of the civil society programme will continue to integrate and promote a human-rights and human-development perspective.

Under the overarching theme of '**Achieving Migration and Development Goals - *Movement together on global solutions and local action***', the 2015 GFMD Civil Society programme and preparations will be structured around a mix of plenary debates, and four parallel working tracks.

### **Plenary Debates**

- I. 2015 has been another dangerous and deadly year for migrants moving across borders in search of safety, new opportunities, or a better life. As obvious, deadly and unacceptable as these risks are to life, the risks to migrants *en route* are also risks to development. Yet alternatives hardly exist for these migrants and families. Therefore, the opening plenary debate of the 2015 CSD will be dedicated to testimonies and ideas from migrants, civil society and other thinkers and movers on: **"Safe Migration: root causes, route choices and alternatives to forced and dangerous migration."**
- II. Given that the 2015 GFMD will take place just after the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals which will shape the global development agenda for the next 15 years, civil society's final plenary debate will spotlight how the SDGs can contribute to the wellbeing, empowerment and rights of migrants, communities and societies and what can and should be civil society's role in implementation and monitoring. The final plenary debate will feature thought leaders and movers from civil society, governments and international organizations to discuss: **"the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond 2015 - civil society's role in implementing and monitoring migration-related targets"**.

### **Parallel Working Sessions**

Parallel working sessions will be organized along four thematic tracks, each divided in two linked thematic sessions, as listed below. The themes for the working session directly relate back to some of the Round-Table themes on the governments' GFMD 2015 agenda (*referred to below as RT*), as well as many of the points on global civil society's "5-Year 8-Point Plan" (*referred to below as 5y8p*).

1. **Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals beyond 2015 for migrants and communities**  
(linked to RT 2.1/2.2 + 5y8p 1)
  - 1.1. Civil society's role in fashioning global, national and thematic indicators relating to migrants and migration
  - 1.2. Civil society's role in implementing and monitoring the SDGs relating to migrants and migration
2. **Achieving goals for human security and human development for migrants on the move**  
[linked to RTs 1.1 /3.1 + 5y8p 3, 4, 5 and 6]
  - 2.1. Protecting migrants in crises and transit
  - 2.2. Durable and development solutions for forced migrants

3. **Achieving goals for labour mobility, labour rights and decent work** [linked to RT 1.2 + 5y8p 7 and 8]
  - 3.1. Reforming migrant labour recruitment policies and practices
  - 3.2. Reforming migrants labour employment policies and practices
  
4. **Achieving goals for migrant empowerment and action for human development** [linked to RT 1.1 / 3.2 + 5y8p 2]
  - 4.1. Beyond xenophobia: materializing human rights and social inclusion of migrants and diaspora
  - 4.2. Diaspora and migrant action on job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy

### ***Global Movement Report and Thematic Action Papers***

Based on a global survey with civil society organizations, interviews and desk research, a global “Movement” report will be prepared to assess what has been achieved on civil society’s “5-year 8-point Plan” in the two years since it was prepared, adopted and presented in the context of the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.<sup>2</sup> The draft of the Movement Report will be ready in September and will underpin the preparations and programme for the 2015 CSD. The final report will be published after the GFMD, incorporating the 2015 GFMD results.

Building upon this global Movement Report, thematic 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).<sup>3</sup> 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 adopted during the CSD.

### ***Crosscutting: women, children and local authorities***

Throughout the programme a women’s and a children’s perspective will be integrated and to this end bridging papers will be prepared on the links with the 4 thematic tracks. In addition, a Women-rapporteur and a Children-rapporteur will be appointed to gather from the various CSD Working Sessions specific practices and recommendations relevant specifically to women and children in contexts of migration, and report back to the plenary.

Furthermore each of the Working Sessions will include specific attention to realities, implementation and action by local authorities.

### ***Special sessions on current events***

Upon the request of many civil society participants the programme will include a number of special sessions to look more closely at a number of current events that require attention or have momentum.

The special sessions will be on:

- a. Protecting migrants at sea

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<sup>2</sup> The 2015 Civil Society Movement Report has been commissioned by ICMC and MADE (Migration and Development Civil Society Network) and will be prepared by an independent consultant from the Maastricht University.

<sup>3</sup> Representing a diverse group of 30 civil 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 2015 GFMD Civil Society Days.

- b. Protection and durable solutions for Syrian refugees
- c. Children in the context of migration – reflecting on Barcelona +20
- d. Commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Migrant Workers Convention

### ***Interaction between civil society and governments***

Since the inception of the GFMD, civil society organizations have consistently expressed their determination to increase formal and informal spaces for civil society-government dialogues. In the 2014 GFMD, civil society initiated a small number of thematic “breakfast tables” with a 5-5-5 formula: 5 tables, each with 5 leading governments and 5 civil society leaders focused on a specific migration and development theme, informally over a light breakfast, for 90 minutes. Some 20 governments participated (a few at more than one table) - almost all at high technical, ministerial or ambassadorial level. These tables were so positively evaluated by government and civil society participants alike that ICMC and the International Steering Committee of civil society are planning to expand them for the GFMD 2015 in two ways: [1] to as many as 8 thematic breakfast tables and [2] with a set of up to four “regional teas” bringing together a small number of governments and civil society leaders from the same region in a similar informal dialogue over tea.

### ***2015 Common Space: provisional***

The Common Space that bridges the CSD and government programmes continues to be the principal modality 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, the Coordinator of the GFMD Civil Society for the GFMD works, with guidance from the International Steering Committee of civil society (ISC), to define the Common Space concept and themes together with the GFMD Chair-in-office.

Linking governments and civil society, and linking the themes of both programme components of the GFMD, the theme of the 2015 Common Space is:

### **Moving together beyond 2015: *advancing human security and human development with people and societies in motion***

Common Space will be structured as follows

- (a) **An introductory plenary session (30 minutes), featuring an inspirational key note address** by a global leader who can put migrants and migration in a wider development context. Civil society proposes to invite Mr. Kofi Annan to provide an address on “*from Millennium to Sustainable Development Goals - putting migration on the agenda of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*”. A brief open discussion will follow the key note.
- (b) **Three parallel break-out sessions (120 minutes)** with panels made up of government and civil society speakers, as well as other non-state-actors. The following three themes have been identified as of key importance to government and civil society:
  1. ***Partnerships and action for the protection of migrants in crises and transit***
  2. ***Partnerships and action for decent migrant labour recruitment and employment***
  3. ***Beyond xenophobia and exclusion: local partnerships and action for the social inclusion of migrants and diaspora***
- (c) **A wrap-up plenary** with concluding remarks from the rapporteurs of the three parallel break-out sessions, and concluding remarks by the Chair.