

## **SADC-CNGO: CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT MAURITIUS, 19 – 22 NOVEMBER 2012**

In 2012, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for the first time takes place in Africa, chaired by the Government of Mauritius. This is an historic event, not only for the African Continent and Southern Africa, but for the peoples of the world. The GFMD has already made a significant impact and its task becomes more urgent given the forthcoming UN General Assembly's High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, in September 2013.

Civil society organizations will meet in Mauritius on 19 and 20 November before the governments convene the following two days, bridged by a Common Space of civil society and governments on the morning of 21 November. The SADC Council of NGO's wishes to extend its thanks to the Government of Mauritius for hosting the event and creating space for dialogue between ourselves and government representatives.

The overarching theme for the civil society programme of the GFMD 2012 is "Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration" and this reflects the urgent need to ensure that a global migration framework is realized for the estimated more than 215 million migrants. For the same reason civil society organisations have focused on Four Thematic areas, vis-à-vis:

1. Operationalizing a rights-based approach to labour mobility, markets and Matching;
2. Operationalizing human development in international migration
3. Operationalizing the protection of migrants and their families
4. Operationalizing the future of migration & development governance

We firmly believe that the objectives **to enhance the protection mechanisms available and services delivered for migrant workers and to enhance the diaspora for the development of their country of origin will be achieved by implementation of the recommendations below.**

Therefore, we, a representative body of regional civil society in the Southern African region, invite governments and multi-lateral institutions to consider, consult and implement the recommendations made by Southern African Civil Society, and endorsed by 8<sup>TH</sup> SADC-CNGO Civil Society Forum, which are as follows:

### **1. Recommendations to SADC**

### **1.1 Noting that:**

- 1.1.1. In order to achieve regional integration, SADC Member States committed themselves to “*Develop policies aimed at the progressive elimination of obstacles to the free movement of capital and labour, goods and services, and the people of the Region generally...*”
- 1.1.2. Despite the development of the draft Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in 1995, and its later amendment in 1997, more than fifteen years have elapsed without the ratification of this Protocol
- 1.1.3. Similarly the draft Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons has come into effect

### **1.2 Believing that:**

- 1.2.1 The Southern African region has had a long history of cross-border migration and movement of people and that it is a historical reality that continues to impact on all countries in the region to this day
- 1.2.2 SADC, in pursuing regional integration, has started to address the issues of the free movement of persons
- 1.2.3 That continued delays in the implementation of an effective and uniform regime governing the free movement of people across and between Member States hampers and retards economic, social and cultural development within SADC
- 1.2.4 Member States have prioritized the free movement of capital and the free movement of non-SADC citizens, in particular tourists and those from outside the African Continent, over the free movement of the peoples of SADC
- 1.2.5 Such actions create the breeding ground for unfounded attitudes of xenophobia towards neighbours
- 1.2.6 Exploitation and vulnerability, including criminal activity, arises from the absence of an effective and strong and open mechanism for peoples movement

### **1.3 Therefore our specific recommendations to SADC and Member States are as follows:**

- 1.3.1 Signing and ratification of the Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons in order to establish a multi-lateral regional policy framework focusing on the regulation and management of migration in the SADC Region
- 1.3.2 Generate periodic statistic reports on the labour market situation in the SADC region and build up a regional labour market information system as part and parcel of the Regional Matrix of Indicators on Poverty and Development
- 1.3.3 Set up one coordinating body in the form of a Focal Point that will be responsible for the overall coordination of labour migration activity in the region and the harmonization of different national effort
- 1.3.4 Strengthen the data collection and management system on labour migration within governments to obtain primary data for a regional system
- 1.3.5 Assign focal points within consulates to ensure adequate follow-up information and protection with the regional migrants workers
- 1.3.6 Build up and strengthen Employment Information Centres in order conduct job matching, labour inspections, intermediation and other essential services
- 1.3.7 Set up a Diaspora Unit within the SADC Secretariat and develop a Diaspora policy and strategy
- 1.3.8 Negotiate win-win bilateral as well as multilateral labour arrangements that benefit the SADC region and the countries of destination

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