

Meeting of the Friends of the Forum
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Update on Civil Society Activities

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Mr. Chair, colleagues in migration and development, thank you for the opportunity to share with you this update on the work we join you in as we look to the final 10 weeks leading up to the GFMD.

1. Civil society activities leading up to GFMD since last Friends of the Forum meeting:

The civil society Concept Paper has been finalized, directly along the lines of what we reported to you at the last meeting of the Friends of the Forum in June. Reflecting a drafting process with wide consultation and further written feedback from 25 civil society and international organizations, the concept paper has adopted the overall theme of “Operationalizing Protection and Human Development in International Migration.”

Building on civil society emphasis in the GFMD to date and connecting very much to your GFMD programme this year, three tracks of the programme will be: [1] Operationalizing a rights-based approach to labour mobility, markets and matching; [2] Operationalizing human development in international migration (with an emphasis on diaspora engagement), and [3] Operationalizing the protection of migrants and their families. A fourth track will specifically focus on the UN HLD and connecting migration with the post-2015 development agenda. All four tracks will be given six hours of attention in breakout sessions.

The Concept Paper is available on civil society’s GFMD website, www.gfmdcivilsociety.org but also on paper on the side tables.

The selection of civil society delegates has been finalized.

Forgive me for a quick word on how we do this selection of civil society delegates. As in all prior years of the GFMD—and unlike the government side of the GFMD, participation in the civil society days programme is by invitation only. After an open and widely publicized application process, the selection is made by civil society’s GFMD International Advisory Committee (the IAC), looking for applicants with positive engagement in migration and development activity, representivity and diversity. This year’s IAC is made up of 29 leaders from civil society sectors ranging from diaspora groups to academia, from the global trade unions to the World Economic Forum, gender-balanced and from every region in the world.

There are two “maximums” in the selection of civil society delegates to the GFMD, established to allow for more genuine dialogue in the sessions: an overall number, and one per organization. Like last year, we aim for a maximum of 150 - 180 civil society delegates.

A few words and statistics on **civil delegates who have been invited** this year.

- Out of the 563 applications received, invitations have been extended to 258 organizations. This is a higher number of invitees than in prior years because of our concern at the high cost—and current absence of financial support—for delegates to participate this year. I will refer to this dilemma in greater detail in a moment.
- The organizations invited present a diversity of civil society sectors. Specifically, two sectors, migrant rights organizations and development organizations have 85 and 84 delegates invited respectively—with both sectors containing many diaspora groups; labour: 43; academic: 35; private sector: 11;
- The organizations indicated being active in a diversity of regions. Though not all completed the question in this regard, 82 do their principal work in Africa; 51 in the Asia-Pacific; 48 in the Americas; 44 in Europe; and 6 in the Middle East.
- Among those invited, 117 are women, 141 men.

The full list of invited civil society delegates will be posted shortly on the *civil society* website www.gfmdcivilsociety.org, alphabetically and by country.

Finally, invitations are going out this week to governments, international and regional organizations and other observers, including media.

2. Highlights this year

As we work to finalize the actual programme of the Civil Society Days for the 19 and 20th, what's especially worth noting??

First some good things to report.

- Civil society's emphasis this year is **not on new issues but on deepening attention** to and taking forward recommendations that civil society and you have already made in GFMD meetings; to cite one important example, regarding recruitment agencies.
- The priority is on **operationalizing the recommendations**, with real-world mechanisms and benchmarks, including partnerships with states and international organizations.
- The **special (fourth) track** on the High Level Dialogue and Global Governance is likely to take as a starting point the two assessments of the GFMD: yours, and the independent assessment commissioned by the MacArthur Foundation. More on that at the end. For the focus on the High Level Dialogue, we are in the process of confirming the involvement in our programme again this year of UN Under-Secretary Thomas Stelzer.
- We are currently identifying **speakers and panelists** for our four tracks and their subthemes. At the explicit request of civil society's International Advisory Committee, we will be inviting a number of government representatives as speakers and panelists.
- In fact at the IAC's suggestion, we are opening the Civil Society Days programme in its entirety to **government participation** as observers. We especially welcome you to the concluding sessions. We also welcome and will facilitate bilateral meetings between civil society delegates and their governments during the GFMD Civil Society Days.
- Civil society's preparatory activities** continue to broaden. With the support of the Dutch development agency Cordaid, and as described in civil society's GFMD concept paper, we have created two global civil society Working Groups: one on "*Global Governance and the High Level Dialogue 2013*" and the other on "*Migrants/Diaspora and Development*." With support from the Swiss government, a pan-African civil society meeting is being held in Ghana on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Open to all civil society from Africa and African diaspora, the purpose of the meeting—whose agenda has great convergence with

yours and civil society's for the GFMD—is to engage and prepare civil society delegates and recommendations for the GFMD and other global follow-up. Outside of the GFMD-related activities that civil society itself organizes, civil society continues to actively participate in many other together with governments and international organizations, including at the several meetings on migration and development in Brussels and Port Louis in June, tomorrow and Wednesday's important workshop on *Labour Mobility for Refugees*, and the meeting on domestic workers in the Philippines next month. A number of bilateral meetings have been held and are further scheduled between national civil society organizations and their governments, including among many others the Netherlands and the United States.

- Finally in good news, we continue to be enthusiastic about the Chair's framing of this year's **Common Space**, taking its overall theme of "*Common ground and partnerships in action*" from a high-level context-setting into three breakout dialogues and a report back and wrap-up in plenary. We believe that the focus on themes that directly relate to the programmes of both civil society and the states is an effective way to truly explore common ground and partnerships. We welcome as well the mix of lead speakers, for which we were happy to suggest, among others, several diaspora and labour groups and private sector leaders from among civil society delegates. It will be good to finish the work together on the guiding questions and format for dialogue within the sessions.

Now the one pressing worry to report: an inability at the moment to offer financial support to civil society delegates that cannot participate in the GFMD without some help of that kind. Mr. Chair, we appreciate the news today that the government programme of this year's GFMD is now substantially funded, and so is the Chair's own contribution to the civil society programme. But our worry is that with 10 weeks to go, civil society is working to close a funding gap of close to US \$ 200,000. We are in active conversation with a few donors, but not sure to close the gap.

What is noteworthy is that the overall CS budget—US \$ 860,000—is already just *half* of what the budget was two years ago. But the current funding shortfall is *within* this reduced budget. And the biggest casualty of the shortfall is: participation of CS delegates in the civil society days and common space. This is especially a problem—in fact, a sure *blocker*—for participation of civil society from developing and lower income countries, many of whom are active in migration and development, have applied and have been invited but *will not be able to cover the full cost on their own*. In prior years: broad assistance was available, in some years to absolutely anyone who asked. Since assuming the role of Coordinator of GFMD civil society in 2011, we have never planned for that much. Last year, our plan and fundraising succeeded at offering at least partial support to a little over ½ of the civil society delegates. This year, travel is more expensive for just about everyone, so even raising this year's budget line for travel and accommodation, we were able to set the budget for only about 50 of the 150—just 1/3rd of the total number of delegates. Unfortunately, at the moment even those 50 are not covered. May I appeal for your governments to consider, as soon as you can: where possible, a direct contribution to the Coordinating Office that we can allocate for cost-sharing with delegates like last year, and/or your support directly to individual civil society delegates for their participation. Some delegates have indicated that they have already contacted their governments. To governments that have already extended support, and to you who may be in the position to consider it now, thank you. I will gratefully be available at the end of this session for further questions—and possibilities.

3. GFMD assessments

Some brief closing words on the two assessments. We are happy to hear of the completion of the **states'** assessment and congratulate all who worked on and participated in it. Together with the civil society International Advisory Committee and the broader network of civil society organizations with whom we systematically communicate, we look forward to the opportunity to dialogue with governments about its recommendations, and about next steps that we would most effectively consider together.

With respect to the **civil society** assessment commissioned at the end of last year by the MacArthur Foundation to the independent firm Social Impact (which I reported to you at our meeting together in June), we understand that most of the data-gathering for the study has now been completed. This includes more than 60 survey responses and more than 40 key informant interviews. A final report will be made public this fall in advance of your GFMD meeting and distributed to all interested stakeholders. As noted a moment before, the report will be presented and discussed within the programme of the Civil Society Days as well. The MacArthur Foundation also welcomes additional opportunities to discuss the report; the Foundation is considering the possibility of sponsoring an event in New York in the spring of 2013 to present the report to the broader UN community in advance of the High Level Dialogue.

In short the study examines the impact of the GFMD on civil society groups and networks engaged in issues of migration and development, whether and to what extent the Global Forum has contributed to improved interactions between governments and civil society actors working in this field, and the impact of these interactions on policies and partnerships.

With confidence in our participation with you in this process and on the ground all over the world, and sharing with migrants and you the hope for more human development and societies everywhere, we look forward to acting on recommendations in both assessments.

/Thank you.

Copies of this update are available on the table at the side of the room.
