

Concept Note for a Side Event on Wednesday 4 April, 2018

***Towards a Global Compact that Safeguards the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families-
An Interactive Dialogue of the ILO and Constituents with Civil Society and other Stakeholders***

The Council of Global Unions Working Group on Migration (CGU-WGM) joins with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to organize a side event on Wednesday 4 April, 2018 from 1:15 to 2:45pm, during the third round of negotiations on the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, taking place at UN Headquarters in New York, from 3-6 April, 2018.

There is a clear need to uphold the normative framework of international human and labour rights standards as core principles in which to ground the objectives, commitments and actionable items being negotiated in the current draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Equally, there is a need to demonstrate how the standard-setting, monitoring and operational expertise of the ILO in the field of international labour migration can enrich the substantive formulation of those commitments, and contribute to robust implementation, follow-up and review, thereby delivering positive outcomes for migrants, as well as for their origin and destination communities.

Also, demographic and skills challenges facing economies will require solutions to which the ILO's constituents can provide concrete support.

The session will discuss these issues against the backdrop of the ILO's Fair Migration Agenda¹, linked to Decent Work. It will, among others, focus on real life examples to illustrate how the application of this normative framework to migration policy and programme activities on the ground serves to advance the best interests of migrant workers. In doing so, it will illustrate how the Fair Migration Agenda is central to a core set of objectives in the current draft of the Global Compact: enhancing pathways for regular migration; facilitating ethical recruitment, including no fees to workers; promoting decent work, including freedom of association for all workers regardless of status; providing access to public services and social protection coverage; affirming a gender-responsive approach that recognizes women's agency and leadership while addressing situational vulnerabilities and gender-based violence faced by women migrants; investing in skills development and facilitating recognition of skills; establishing mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits. It will thus demonstrate how the ILO works with constituents and partners on the ground, at regional and national levels, to advance a fair labour migration agenda that works for all migrants, while responding to labour market needs and to skills gaps.

Our hope for the Global Compact on Migration is that it will help change the conversation and the reality on the ground. Instead of fearing migrants as the cause of competition for jobs, we hope that more of society can appreciate their contributions and the value of skills mobility, as well as the diversity of labour markets founded on decent work, for the benefit of nationals and migrants alike. And when appropriate legal and regulatory mechanisms are in place to ensure skills recognition, development, and upgrading to meet labour market needs while safeguarding the rights of migrants, we will have moved decisively towards eliminating important drivers of exploitation.

¹ ILO 2014. International Labour Conference 103d Session. Report of the Director General. Report 1 (B). International Labour Office, Geneva.

Panelists will be invited from the ILO, the Trade Unions, and Employers' Organizations. A Government representative will also be invited as a Panelist, while a Civil Society representative will be invited as a Discussant.

Government representatives, the specialized agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in the session, and to engage in a highly interactive dialogue with the Panelists.

Supporting this initiative are: the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), , the International Organization for Migration (IOM),, the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), the Women in Migration Network (WIMN-TBD), the Solidarity Center, and the International Domestic Workers Federation.