



RESPONSE TO THE SRSG'S ISSUE BRIEF #3

International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration

IN PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON
THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION
June 19th and 20th, 2017 in Geneva

The NGO Committee on Migration strongly supports the recommendations in the SRSG's Issue Brief #3 on International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions including at borders, on transit, entry, and return, readmission, integration and reintegration. As the Brief notes, human rights, a whole of government approach, evidence-based policies, partnerships, and public confidence are essential principles cutting across all migration governance. **These principles need to be concretized and implemented now, to protect and assist migrants, through policies and good practices** that are facilitated by an effective, human rights based, gender and age-sensitive governance mechanism.

Our Committee is encouraged that the upcoming thematic consultation on international cooperation and migration governance will **focus on key elements of well-governed migration** such as border management, labor and skills mobility, safe, regular, migration; orderly return, and readmission, social inclusion, migration and development, and crisis-related movements, as outlined in Issue Brief #3. We are in strong agreement with the SRSG that these key elements include:

- expanding legal pathways for migration,
- offering rescue services at sea and at borders while upholding prohibition of collective, expulsion
- implementing national policies that promote social inclusion, and
- supporting diaspora groups to help development in countries of origin.

We are pleased that Panel 1 will explore mechanisms that already exist to enhance cooperation and governance of migration and identify where the governance capacity of Member States can be enhanced through **specific forms** of international cooperation; and that **Panel 2 will explore and present best practices as they relate to questions of transit, entry and borders**, among other issues.

We think it is of the utmost importance that the focus of the consultation be on shaping an actionable government mechanism, and for this purpose concentrate on concrete policies and good practices to ensure safe and regular migration opportunities for people on the move, with a focus on protecting and assisting migrants in crisis and in transit, especially the most vulnerable, particularly women and children. To help accomplish the goals of this consultation, we take this opportunity to strongly recommend some of the already pre-existing guidelines, good practices, and examples, including:

- The Sutherland Report*
- The OHCHR documents on borders**
- the MICIC Guidelines***
- The CS ACT NOW and the second edition of the MADE Civil Society Network's MOVEMENT report, especially the Scorecards****
- The draft Working Document of the Terre des Hommes-Save the Children Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts*****

In addition, there are already good policies and practices by Member States to share, for example Canada's policy of private sponsorship to expand opportunities for safe and regular migration, and Ecuador's policy of equal access to health, education, and the labor market to all residents, without discrimination.

Underscoring that commitments require funding, we join/support the Sutherland Report in calling for the creation of a Financing Facility for Migration to build the capacity of States to achieve the migration related commitments of the SDGs and the broader UN agenda.

Convinced of the **urgency to shift from a concentration of principles to one on practices**, Civil Society has focused on creating specific benchmarks, graduated timelines of 2, 5 and 12 years, and review mechanisms to monitor progress in achieving the NYD commitments. ACT NOW and the MOVEMENT report contain scorecards to monitor progress on achieving migration-related goals of the 2030 agenda and commitments for the GCM. In addition, the Child Rights Draft Working Document uses an SDG approach with goals, targets, indicators, and graduated timelines to measure progress in achieving the Initiative's goals.

We strongly endorse all these efforts.

The NGO Committee on Migration and its Civil Society partners reiterate our steadfast determination and commitment to continue to work hard and collaboratively with States and the international community to build upon the success of the SDGs and the New York Declaration in order to create an effective, human rights based, gender and age-sensitive, actionable and accountable governing mechanism to protect and assist migrants and their families worldwide.

*Report of the SRSG on Migration, Peter Sutherland ([A/71/728](#)) to the UN General Assembly, 3 February 2017

**OHCHR and GMG, [Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations](#), Draft February 2017; and OHCHR, Situations of Migrants in Transit ([A/HRC/31/35](#), 2016)

***MICIC, [Guidelines to protect migrants in countries experiencing conflict or natural disaster](#), September 2016

****[ACT NOW: Civil society response and scorecard](#) for the UN High Level Summit "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants", September 2016; and MADE (Migration and Civil Society Network): [2nd edition of MOVEMENT: A Global Civil Society Report on Progress and Impact on Migrants' Rights and Development](#) (through year 3 of the 5 year 8 point Plan of Action), 2017

*****J.Bhaba and M. Dottridge with A.Hong: Child Rights in the Global Compacts, Working document, draft, 30 May 2017