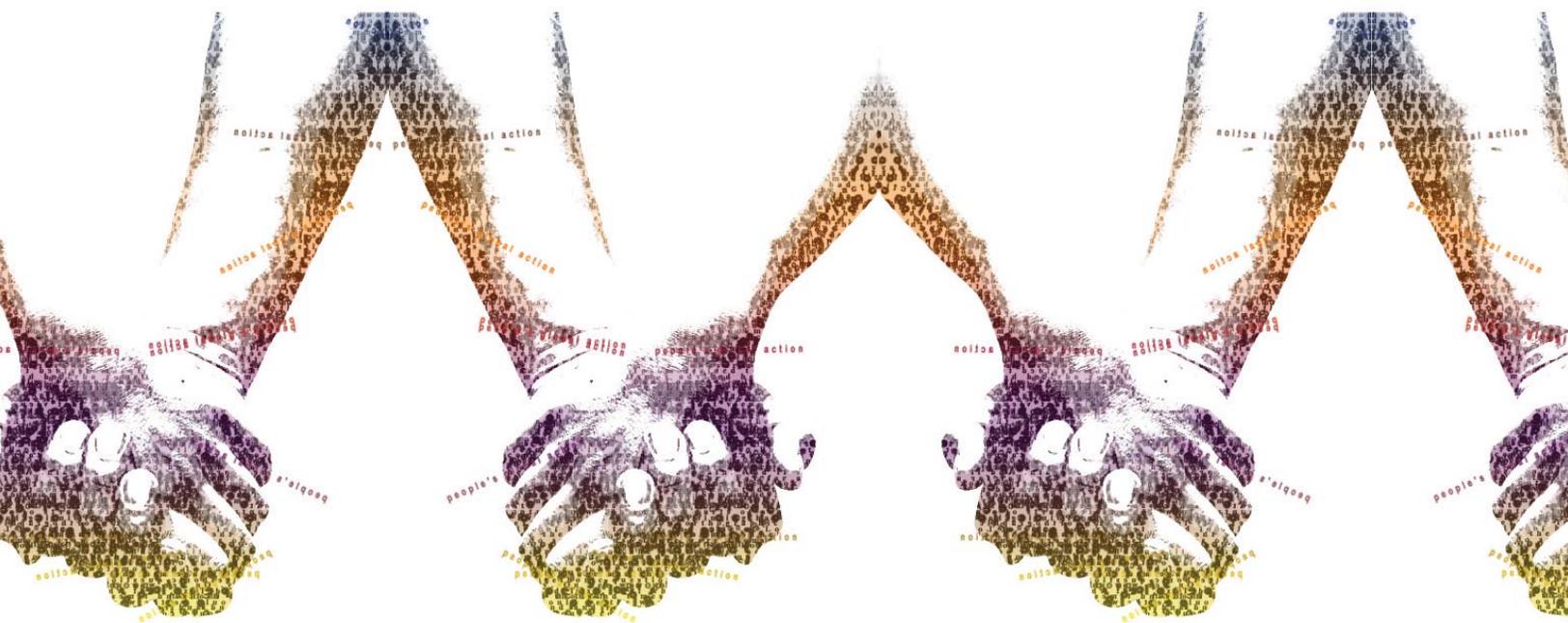


PEOPLES' GLOBAL ACTION ON MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS, 2009

The Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Migrants



1-5 November, 2009
MIGRANT FORUM IN ASIA

**Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights 2009:
The Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Migrants.**

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Migrant Forum in Asia
85-C Masikap Extension
Central District, Diliman, Quezon City 1100
Tel. No.: +632-928-2740
Fax: +632-433-3508
Email: mfa@pacific.net.hk

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a c k n o w l e d g m e n t s

The success of the People's Global Action is the result of the concerted efforts of migrants groups, refugee groups, human rights organizations, women organizations, non-government support organizations and all the other groups who prepared and worked together to create a space for discourse beyond the development benefits of migration, and to find the collective voice that would speak to the governments in the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

This report, which puts together the results of those conversations, and attempts to describe the synergy of the 5 days of the PGA, was made possible with the cooperation and commitment of organizers, partners, volunteers and of course, the migrants themselves.

Our gratitude to KASAPI Hellas, the local organizing partner of the PGA, to all the Greek NGOs who exhibited solidarity and to the International Working Group for their dedication, perseverance and steadfastness, not to mention expertise, in bringing together the whole PGA experience.

Our thanks to the workshop organizers for their enthusiasm, preparedness and commitment.

Our thanks to all sponsors and funders who made possible the participation of many delegates from across the globe.

And to everyone, who in one way or the other but especially by participation, made PGA 2009 another meaningful experience, many thanks and let's continue!

Thanks is also extended to Mabs, Cindy, Terence, Agnes, Alice, Ralph, Jolovan and all the rest who contributed to the preparation of this report.

f foreword

As a major organizer of the Peoples' Global Action since the High Level Dialogue in 2006, Migrant Forum in Asia is privileged to be part of the shaping of a people-grounded process that parallel the government-led Global Forum on Migration and Development. Likewise, along with other regional and international organizations who continuously monitor the discourse on migration and development, we also bear witness to the struggles and triumphs that engagement brings, as exemplified in the preparations for the 2009 PGA. The road to Athens was peppered with challenges that ranged from the logistical to the political.

For MFA, the process of engagement, which we shared at length in the report of the 2008 PGA, is rooted in adopting and implementing various strategies at the local, national, regional and international arenas. Thus, MFA prepared for the 2009 GFMD and PGA with national and regional multi-stakeholder consultations as lead up processes. Together with increased networking to reach out to and involve other sectors, MFA and Migrants Rights International witnessed the growth and strengthening of existing and new alliances.

The build up of alliances is a welcome development in the light of the tightening space for civil society in the official Forum. Nonetheless, we have been able to impact on this official process. The PGA was quoted in the official Civil Society Day report.

This PGA report aims to show these gains as well as to present the challenge and urgency of continuing the process of engagement. The report simply presents the events and discussion points that were raised during the workshops organized by different groups. The workshop accounts detail experiences and hopes and give recommendations. The diversity of the workshops itself shows the intersectionality of migration with other issues and hence the need to reach out to and bring in more groups, more sectors, more civil society actors especially from less explored mobility corridors like Central Asia and the Pacific.

The report has many voices from the complexity of issues that the migration and development discourse needs to highlight and address. The message is the same however: what is needed is a rights-based approach to migration and development. The challenge is clear as well: if not Brussels, Manila or Athens, how can we make Mexico deliver?

William Gois
Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
Chair, Migrants Rights International

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list of acronyms

A

AFL-CIO- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
 AOSIS- Alliance of Small Island States
 ASEAN- Association of South East Asian Nations
 AWG- Athens Working Group

B

BWI- Building and Woodworkers International

C

CAREF- Servicio Ecumenico de Apoyo y Orientacion a Migrantes y Refugiados
 CEDAW- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
 CHIRLA- Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles
 CIMADE - Comité inter-mouvements auprès des évacués (Europe)
 CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility
 CMA- Center for Migrant Advocacy
 Collectif des Sans Papiers
 CSD- Civil Society Day
 CSO- Civil Society Organization

D

DESME-Center for Research on Women's Issues Network (Greece)
 DFA-OUMWA- Department of foreign Affairs– Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Philippines
 DIWATA- Determined Independent Women in Action for Total Advancement
 DRUM- Desis Rising Up and Moving

E

EPS- Employment Permit System
 EWG- European Working Group

G

GCDMDHR- Global Community Dialogue on Migration, Development and Human
 GCR- Greek Council for Refugees
 GFMD- Global Forum on Migration and Development
 GGM- Global Governance of Migration
 GUFs- Global Union Federations

H

HOME-Humanitarian Organization on Migration Economics
 HRC- Human Rights Council

I

IAC- International Advisory Committee
 ILC- International Labour Conference
 ILO – International Labour Organization
 IRPAD- Institut de Recherche et de Promotion des Alternatives en Developpment
 ITS- Industrial Trainee System
 ITUC- International Trade Union Confederation
 IWG- International Working Group
 IWG-DW- International Working Group for Domestic Workers

M

MdM- Doctors of the World
 MFA- Migrant Forum in Asia
 MWC- Migrant Workers' Convention
 MRI- Migrants Rights International

N

NAKASEC - National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
NALACC- National Alliance of Latin America and Caribbean Communities
NDWA- National Domestic Workers Alliance
NDWM- National Domestic Workers Movement
NGOs- Non-government organizations
NHRIs- National Human Rights Institutions
NNIRR- National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

O

OFWs- Overseas Filipino Workers
OHCHR- Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
OWWA - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

P

PAG- Pakistani Association of Greece
PGA – Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights
PSI- Public Services International

R

RC- Re-evaluation Counseling
REDD- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
RMMRU-Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
ROC- Restaurant Opportunities Center

S

SAMREN- South Asia Migration Resource Network
SAARC- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SMJ- Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan
SNTUC- Singapore National Trade Union Council
SOS SMS- SOS Short Messaging System

T

TIGRA- Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action

U

UER- United to End Racism
UNHCHR- UN High Commissioner on Human Rights
UNFCCC- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN HLD- UN High Level Dialogue
UNI- Union Network International

W

WOREC- Women's Rehabilitation Center, Nepal
WSF- World Social Forum
WSFM- World Social Forum on Migration
WTO- World Trade Organization

Introduction

Since early 2000, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) has monitored the discourse on migration. When the UN General Assembly, through resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, held a high level dialogue on international migration and development at the UN General Headquarters in New York City, MFA was there with the rest of those who had been lobbying to organize a major international forum on migration.

The High Level Dialogue, held on 14-15 September 2006, was attended by over 140 member states who discussed the global implications of international migration and the mutually beneficial interaction between migration and development. A large number of UN member states expressed their interest to continue the dialogue on migration and development, through an informal, voluntary, and state-led global forum. Thus was born the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

The GFMD is a permanent intergovernmental forum where international discourse on migration policy, its relationship to development and the position of migrants' rights are crafted. It brings together senior policymakers from around the world to exchange experiences, identify best practices, and foster interstate cooperation in leveraging migration for the benefit of development.

The first GFMD was held on 9-11 July 2007 in Brussels, Belgium. It comprised of two interrelated parts: a meeting of the civil society actors on the first day, organized by the King Baudoin Foundation, and a discussion by government representatives on the second and third day. The 2007 GFMD focused its discussions on remittances, promoting temporary labor migration and in channeling the remittances of migrant workers back to their countries of origin.

In 2008, the second GFMD was hosted by the Philippines on 27-30 October 2008 in Manila. The Civil Society Day (CSD), organized by the Ayala Foundation, consisted of two full days, including a half-day interface session with representatives of member states at its closing plenary. The 2nd GFMD carried the theme "Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development," building on the themes of the first GFMD, but with a special focus on protecting and empowering migrants for development.

The two days allotted for selected representatives of civil society, trade unions, academe, private sector and other stakeholders in migration to participate in the official process of the GFMD and make their recommendations according to the roundtable discussions, were considered inadequate, prompting civil society organizations led by Migrants Rights International (MRI) and Migrant Forum in Asia to convene a Peoples' Global Action (PGA).

What is the Peoples' Global Action?

The Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights or PGA is a parallel event to the official GFMD organized to give space for global civil society groups to raise and discuss issues around migration and development.

In 2006, during the High Level Dialogue in New York, the Global Community Dialogue on Migration, Development and Human Rights was organized to provide a venue for migrant workers and advocates coming from different global regions to come into common position with regard to migration, development and human rights. The parallel event gathered together around 80 individuals from 45 organizations from Asia, North America, Latin America,

Europe, Africa and the Pacific. Several workshops were held on various themes, focusing on the root causes and consequences of migration, and promotion of international standards on migrants' human rights vis-à-vis violations. The discussions also highlighted the responses and strategies being undertaken in different regions.

Recognizing the limited space and opportunity provided for civil society participation with the one day allotted as Civil Society Day, MFA, together with MRI, organized a similar event during the first GFMD in Brussels. It was held parallel to the official GFMD which took place on July 10-11, 2007.

In 2008, the parallel event to the official GFMD was attended by almost 4,000 delegates and lasted for a week (22-30 October). The assembly later decided to adopt "Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights" as the name for subsequent parallel events.

Why PGA?

Among civil society organizations (CSOs), there is an overwhelming agreement that the GFMD's "migration and development" theme was meant by governments to be synonymous with "migration for development" and "managed migration". CSOs feel that the GFMD mandate "migration and development" does not go far enough to affirming the human dignity of migrants and to firmly placing their rights at the center of development. Instead, the migration-development model calls for an intensification of the segmentation of labor, particularly female labor, which continues to reinforce inequality.

With this perspective so contrary to the perspective of migrants and CSOs, it is not surprising that since the 2007 GFMD, there has been not much improvement in terms of the mechanism, structure and discussion around migration and development. The 2009 theme was again centered on development aspects rather than human rights. The GFMD likewise remained a closed event, with participation by migrants and civil society restricted to the official CSD.

The PGA is an event and opportunity for civil society to critique and challenge the ongoing discourse on migration and development as symbolized by the annual GFMD through information sharing, dialogue, analysis and developing joint positions on current and emerging issues on migration. The PGA provides the essential space for lobbying and pressuring governments and international bodies to look at migration from a human

rights perspective and to make governments accountable to their international human rights and development commitments. Furthermore, PGA paves the way for capacity building and the establishment and widening of networks.

The relationship between the GFMD and the CSO-led processes is not completely separate, nor should it be so. Many of the representatives organizing and participating in the PGA were also official delegates to the GFMD. The PGA will continue to be organized to enable migrants, social movements, and civil society worldwide to directly tackle and respond to current migration and development concerns.

PGA 2009 in Athens

As governments met in Athens for the 3rd GFMD, PGA was also organized with the support of local immigrant and migrant communities in Greece led by Kaisahan ng mga Migranteng Pilipino sa Greece (Unity of Filipino Migrant Workers in Greece). KASAPI, as it is more popularly known, has, since its founding in 1986, established collaboration with the trade union organizations and NGOs in Greece on the issue of migrants' rights and welfare.

Held from 1-5 November 2009 at the Technopolis in Athens, Greece, PGA 2009 carried the theme "The Global Economic Crisis and its Impact on Migrants". It was attended by roughly 300 participants representing diaspora organizations, migrants' associations, migrants' rights NGOs, human rights NGOs, development organizations, trade unions and workers' organizations, women's groups, faith-based organizations, peasant organizations, anti-poverty groups, indigenous peoples and a variety of other social movements. They came together to explore from a rights-based perspective the full range of issues involved in migration, including the underlying problems of poverty and injustice, and how CSOs can decisively address these.

The 2009 PGA demonstrated how civil society engagement outside the GFMD had grown consistent and more vibrant.

The Road Leading to Athens

Organizing the 2009 PGA was not an easy feat. The International Working Group (IWG)¹ was faced with so many challenges logistically and politically.

The IWG, composed of MFA, MRI, the Union Network International (UNI), Public Services International

(PSI), Building and Wood Workers International (BWI), International Trade Union Confederation, the European Working Group (EWG)² and the Athens Working Group (AWG)³, had a series of meeting in Athens from April to September with local anti-racist groups. The organizers introduced and explained the PGA as a social movement and as a process of engaging the GFMD.

Dialogue with local organizations was a challenge because of differing political ideologies and perspectives on how migration and development should be framed. Finally, after a series of consultations, the IWG decided to hold the PGA with the help of KASAPI Hellas. It was emphasized that PGA is not a one shot event but a continuous process that requires consistency on previous positions and approaches from a rights-based perspective necessary to widen the very limited space provided in the official GFMD. The PGA had been adhering to a 'hybrid model', both 'following the government agenda' and 'having an independent agenda'. This hybrid model is important considering that there are already existing global parallel events that discuss about migration. For the PGA organizers, CSO participation is seen as key to the GFMD.

Consistent with this approach, the MFA network conducted several activities at both the national and regional level in preparation for the PGA. MFA members conducted multi-stakeholder consultations among migrants groups, families of migrants, migrant returnees, civil society organizations, trade unions, faith based organizations and local government agencies. Aside from coming up with recommendations for the GFMD, the consultations also served as capacity building for the organizations and government agencies that were not familiar with the GFMD process. Consultations were held in: Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal⁴.

MFA and MRI also held a Side Event during the 11th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on September 2009. Representatives from different regions gave updates on their preparations for the 3rd GFMD while the Mexican Ambassador to the UN briefly outlined the Mexican government's plans in hosting the 4th GFMD.

At the official GFMD process, 14 MFA members and partners participated as official CSO representatives to the GFMD. The MFA Secretariat, through its representative Mr. William Gois, was also chosen by the Onassis Foundation to be its Asian regional antenna providing practical inputs during the preparations for the official CSD.

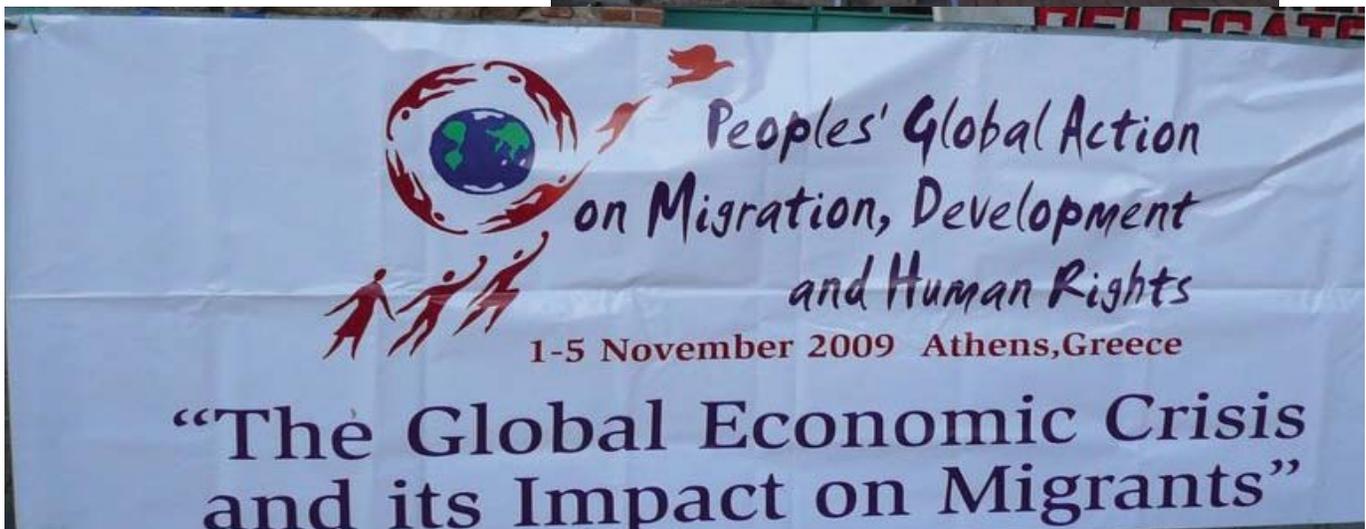
NOTES:

¹ The IWG coordinates the preparations of the different working groups and other CSO initiated activities around the GFMD. The IWG is responsible in determining the political framework and agenda of the PGA in consultation with the AWG, EWG and other partners that have been monitoring the GFMD process. The IWG also provides guidance in determining the program and coordinates with the AWG for the local planning.

² The European Working Group, composed of migrant support organizations across Europe, was formed after a Consultation convened by the Transnational Migrant Platform (TMP) in Amsterdam on May 29, 2009. It organized and coordinated preparations of European CSOs to de-brief on the GFMD and on CSO initiatives in engaging the GFMD process. EWG members include KASAPI-Greece; Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW); RESPECT Network Europe; 11.11.11 – Belgium; Transnational Migrant Platform (TMP); EMCEMO, Transnational Institute (TNI), Migrant Rights Center Ireland (MRCI).

³ The AWG or the Athens Working Group was led by a local migrant group in Greece, KASAPI Hellas. The AWG helped coordinate the local program and other preparations in Greece.

⁴ See <http://www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction/otheractivities.html> for reports of the consultation.



The Opening of the People's Global Action

The Peoples' Global Action had 2 Opening Ceremonies. The first was on November 1 at ONA Theater Hall where the organizers, led by Migrants Rights International, welcomed the participants. PGA participants who were official delegates to the official GFMD then left for the Civil Society Days.

On November 4, the PGA participants staged a rally at Propylaia, near the official GFMD site. Carrying placards and banners that demand rights and respect, they denounced ongoing government policies to criminalize immigrants and use them as scapegoats for the crippling global financial crisis.

After the rally, the participants, together with the official CSO delegates and representatives from the trade unions, returned to the Gazi Factory for the re-opening of the PGA.



William Gois welcoming the participants

assembly that the PGA is a parallel event to the Global Forum on Migration and Development which was opening the next day in Astir Palace, in a city where immigrant communities have difficulty practicing their religious beliefs and are targets of police violence. He asked everyone to dwell on these questions as the next days unfold: what kind of development is being discussed, and for whom is development for?

*Alexandra Everet-Alverti
Vice Mayor, Municipality of Athens*

Ms. Everet-Alverti welcomed the delegates with a bit of history of migration in Greece, offering its efforts to adopt best practices to address the needs of migrants which actually comprise 20% of the total city population.

Welcome Remarks

*William Gois
Migrants Rights International/Migrant Forum in Asia*

William Gois of Migrants Rights International and Migrant Forum in Asia welcomed the delegates of the PGA on behalf of the other organizers. Remarking on the situation of migrants, including migrant children, in Greece, which is rapidly the situation of migrants anywhere in the world, he noted how fitting it was to hold the PGA in Athens. Mr. Gois kept his welcome short and sharp, reminding the

She shared that in 2006, the new code of municipalities gave more authority and obligation to include migration concerns in high level negotiations. In 2007, the Mayor has instructed work in four areas focused on migration: 1) to reach out and come close to each and every community; 2) to encourage by allowing the necessary space for the participation and representation of migrants; 3) to establish a migrants council; and 4) to encourage participation of positive initiatives on migration in Europe.

Ms. Everet-Alverti ended her welcome with the observation that while "efforts are taking place, it is slow".

*Yvette Jarvis
Mayor's Office, City of Athens*

"I am an immigrant who came here more than 20 years ago. I have been fortunate to be a part of the political process in this country. But it is very sad to say that we (immigrants) still have many of the issues now that were on the agenda ten years ago. Maybe we should take into consideration how they see us. They see us as commodity and money. I think we need to find the technique to show them that we are not. I am an idealist but a pragmatist. We need to find the strength to hit them in their pocketbook."

Jarvis expounded on her experience as an immigrant, one among many who have gone through many difficulties. She also shared the success of the education program for migrant children, giving importance to listening to the migrants who voiced out what was needed. What I understood was that the basic conditions they had were time, childcare, and money. I am proud to have taken that project on, and now, the project has expanded beyond Athens to other parts of Greece. CSOs set the agenda which goes to the government.

Some observations and suggestions she made:

- A lot of money being spent but not on things that matter the most.
- If the West is serious about development, that must also erase debt.
- Citing foreign doctors in the UK, the athletic drain from Africa, and the immigrants who make up 60% of those who create trillions of dollars for the IT business in the United States, she also asserted that if a country is going to take, the country must also give back.
- Civil society needs to begin thinking of the situation more like business people.
- There is also a need for more research and to create databases allowing host countries to optimize the talents that migrants bring to the country
- Immigrants should take part in the political process, and establish mentoring programs to teach other migrants how to get involved. Once there is a vote, politicians will take notice.

*Tos Anonuevo and Katsuhiko Sato
Global Union Federation*

Important points from the speeches of Tos Anonuevo and Katsuhiko Sato of the Global Unions Federation:

- The 2004 ILO Conference was a turning point for trade unions as they finally considered migrants as part of their constituency. Now, organizing migrants is a new stage of work for trade unions.
- It took some time for trade unions to get involved because the traditional collective bargaining agreement, which is the main activity of trade unions, did not fit with migrant workers. Since then, migrant workers have organized themselves and become part of collective agreements.
- Workers or trade union members are not always supporting migrant workers because workers themselves are facing difficult situations. Those in precarious working conditions oppose and with them it is difficult to discuss these issues. Their minds are very nationalistic and ideal. In any case, we need to discuss within our organization and educate our members that migrant workers problem are also workers' problems. But trade unions can and should cooperate with NGOs and other CSOs.
- To work with civil society for the cause of migrant workers and work on common perspectives is why the Global Union Federations is represented and fully participating at the PGA.
- In order to negotiate with governments, agreements must be reached. Citing the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, emphasis was made on consultations and discussion process for the agreement.
- Each sector is related/All sectors are interrelated. One way to tackle issues is to work together with the media and internet which can establish best practices, an effective network and common database system.
- The Global Union Federations wants the GFMD to go back to the ILO which will be "a crucial reflection point for us." The trade unions operate on the principle "an injury for one is an injury for all."

Opening Plenary: "The Global Economy and the Current State of Migrant Rights"

Representatives from different regions gave short presentations on "The Global Economy and the Current State of Migrants Rights" in the opening plenary.



Louretta Macauley, United African Women Organization
(Africa & Europe)

Louretta Macauley
United African Women Organization (Africa & Europe)

Ms. Macauley opened her sharing by asking why immigrants from Africa, Asia and other less developed countries, who left their homes in search of a better life, are being chased away. She proceeded to focus on the plight of migrants in domestic work and on migrant children's rights.

As a woman, the easiest job to find is that of a domestic worker. In Greece, this means working without basic pay and freedom.

As Macauley explained, "if you don't have a stamp, you will lose your paper, domestic workers in Greece need 8 hour jobs and overtime payment." Macauley asked her friend, Click, to share what it's like to leave her family behind and not see them for 18 years.

"We came from Africa just to find green pastures. What surprised me was that African children do not get two passports. Most of the women do domestic work. I am a teacher, but I cannot get a teaching job in Greece. I work 10 hours a day, cook, look after the children, and then go home. They say that you have to pay taxes to have a living permit. But I have been here for 18 years, but now I no longer have papers? I haven't seen my children all this time. I can't go back because I have no papers. We are educated, but why can we not do such jobs in Greece?"

Click's story is one of millions across the world. She cannot return, yet cannot leave. Macauley likewise brought to light the immigrants' children's struggle: born in Greece, yet without birth certificate or citizenship. Trapped in the only country they have known, "Children who are born in Greece do not have rights, and do not have birth certificates."

Ellene Sana
Migrant Forum in Asia and
the Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (Asia)

Sana started her session by saying that the Philippines has been touted as the global model for migration. There are laws and mechanisms in place. Unfortunately, although the Philippines may have a policy in place, the Filipino model has not produced the best results. The terms of migration are still dictated by receiving countries.

Sana focused her session on the feminization of migration, noting that in Asia there is an increase in the number of women migrating independently from men. It is of great concern for Asian migration that many women, although educated, work as domestic workers and are not treated equally. In Hong Kong for example, 98% of the Filipino women migrants are domestic workers. Sana opined that this type of migration is brought about by a neo-liberal paradigm and made emphasis on two points: that women's work is undervalued and that there is a need for cooperation with receiving countries, especially in providing consular services to migrants. Remarking that many governments do not factor this rising feminization of migrants in policy and procedures, Sana ended her sharing with the hope that the participants "will engage in discussions and mobilize so that there is more leverage to change policy."

Gabriela Liguori,
CAREF (Latin America)

Liguori shared on [the European model of migration and in particular on] the experience of migrants in Geneva, "home of international organizations" and an unprecedented amount of undocumented workers. The immigrant population apparently makes up 42% of Switzerland's total population, but Switzerland restricts them and employers do not respect human rights, e.g., workers cannot just leave Switzerland. Further, 10 to 15 thousand undocumented migrants put in applications [for regularization?] which the administration accepted but were rejected by the government. This brought to light the incidence of "grey employees" where employees' claims are not honoured even if they all paid their taxes. Liguori said their subsequent investigation brought them back to the political level and asserting their right of employment.

Referring to a comment that trade unions in Europe are strong, Liguori agreed but that "trade unions are not the best allies" in their struggle as migrant workers.

"Whatever has been gained by the trade unions may be lost and they may also have problems of their own. I must give a message---a very clear one to the people and on behalf of

the people who should be here but do not have the ability to exit Switzerland: tomorrow will come faster if we continue our fight and continue our way forward.”

Ynes Gerardo
Collectif des Sans Papiers (Latin America & Europe)

Gerardo comes from the Dominican Republic and corroborated Gabriela Liguori’s sharing, speaking on behalf of the almost 300,000 undocumented migrant workers in Switzerland. Pointing to a “deficit of democracy in Europe,” she elaborated on the incidence of “grey employees,” how the claim to legalization ended up with stepping backward with the 2006 law that disregards all data collected on undocumented workers, restricts migrants and forces them out. As Switzerland is not part of the European Union, this puts the the migrants in danger [of xenophobia].

With reference to the organizers’ questions on whether it is necessary to form a forum outside of the GFMD and for whom is development, Gerardo declared that the struggle for development is experienced more by those who live in insecure environments, like migrants. Since political actors and trade unions are not always supportive of migrants, and migrants have to fight for themselves, Gerardo emphasized that “there is a need to organize in addition to the official environment because the official ones do not represent the needs of migrants.”

Cathi Tactaquin
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)/MRI (North America)

Tactaquin started her session by stating that it was the United States, which has more than 12 million undocumented migrants, that initiated the economic crisis with the greed of the financial institutions. Now the banks are reaping profits when only just a year ago it was seeking bailouts. Yet, the crisis is still affecting millions of migrants, especially the most vulnerable, the poor and working people. Tactaquin shared how the economic crisis opened up the ugly discussion of hate and discrimination against immigrants; there are even some who blame the economic crisis on immigrants. There is currently a campaign for CNN to get rid of Lou Dobbs and his voice of hate against the Latino immigrants in the US.

Nonetheless, Barack Obama’s election raised hopes for changes in the immigration policy. The US is seeing a lot of immigrant women being deported and separated from

families, and being deported without sufficient reasoning. In North Carolina, a place traditionally associated with hate and discrimination, there is a disproportionate number of police checkpoints. Tactaquin had a meeting there with migrant women and learned how the migrants organized themselves through activities, such as exercise and yoga, to contribute to their emotional and mental health.

Sonia Lokku
CIMADE (Europe)

France came up with the idea of an immigration pact which set the tone for what European countries will do for immigration and asylum policies. The pact had no civil society involvement and the main measure is border control. In June 2008, the European parliament voted a Return Directive which allows the retention of migrants for up to 18 months. Those who are deported will be allowed to return after five years.



Lokku made a very poignant point in saying that not a single European Union country has ratified the 1990 Migrant Workers Convention. She also questioned why there are detention camps, and why migrants are being held for detention. France currently allows NGOs to access detention centers, yet Lokku also noted that the government sets targets for deportation. Much of the effort to deport is through arrest, and “for every eight arrested, one is deported.” She also stressed that although there are millions of migrants fighting for survival, those who were killed at the European and African borders should not be forgotten. The first death started in 1993, and has been increasing since then. Lokku finished her sharing by making a statement heard by all in the audience, “I am ashamed of being European.”

Edda Gemi
Cultural House of Albanian Immigrants (Europe)

Gemi represented the Balkans countries and she shared how last year, the Cultural House of Albanian Immigrants organized a big meeting with women all over Greece and tried to record an image of immigrant women in Greece. The basic problems revealed are the following: immigrants don't have any rights to be politically involved, and therefore cannot influence the decision-making process; policies in place currently spend money to prevent migration, yet migration occurs nonetheless; the law does not include gender components; there is a double impact on second generation immigrant woman because they play a most critical role in social integration. Gemi concluded by saying European society, despite its efforts, fear and cannot welcome the stranger or the "other".

Conversations that Matter

After the welcome remarks and plenary, the participants were allowed time to interact with one another. Everyone was encouraged to come together in groups and start a discussion to learn from each other. The following "conversations" mattered enough to be discussed.

Group One: The Bar Associations

"The fundamental work of any Bar Association is to promote human rights." One discussant, who is a member of the Bar Council in Malaysia, believes "that the Bar is an area for migrants to explore advocacy." The Bar Association is not lobbied by migrants groups. There are Bar Associations around Europe that provide free legal aid to those without means. It was suggested that a "systematic lobbying of the Bar, perhaps a national Bar Association in the receiving countries, could do more towards providing improved migrant policies." In Hongkong for example, the Bar Association works with refugees to improve their rights, and strategic litigations lead to changes in the laws and services being provided to refugees. Another example is the Bar Association in the Philippines which is very much engaged in supporting Filipino migrants in Thailand.

Group Two: DIWATA (Determined Independent Women in Action for Total Advancement)*

The women in DIWATA*, a Filipino migrant group in Greece, led their own discussion and presented their projects to the participants at the conference. DIWATA was formed and launched as an organization of Filipina migrant workers in 1998. It has formed the only successful loans and savings cooperative in Europe and works very closely with the Munting Nasyon School, a school for migrant children. Many activists who run migrant organizations in various countries are turning to DIWATA for information and inspiration, especially concerning the women's cooperative. DIWATA is doing something very important, not only for its members, but also for all the migrant women in the world.

**goddess or priestess in the Philippines before the first white man came and removed the influence of women priestesses*

Group Three: Illegal Migrants in the "Cradle of Human Rights"

The discussion revolved around the difficulties of migrant workers in Switzerland, a country that is also known as "the cradle of human rights." One discussant, from the Collective of Workers without Legal Status, addressed the hypocrisy of a state that has some good laws regarding migrants and the indifference in enforcing these laws. She shared that many of the employers are actually the people who write up the laws. Other employers are diplomats with legal immunity, making it almost impossible for migrants in their employment to take legal action. Essentially, it was claimed that it is often more difficult to be a documented migrant than undocumented in Switzerland.

Moreover, it has taken years of work to convince unions that migrants' rights need advocacy. Illegal workers are considered outside the realm of union work, and migrants are seen as competitors to the local workers and therefore left to fend for themselves. A message offered from the discussion:

"We live in difficult times. The future is a better horizon, but we can see the past which instructs us. What I want to say is that the future is built on the past and for that it must be a better horizon, but the future is constructed through action. Only through action is the other world that we dream of possible." - *compañero de migrante*

Keynote Speeches



Walden Bello

Akbayan Representative to the Philippine Congress

Bello shared with the audience his experiences of being a migrant worker during his years of political exile to bring down the Marcos dictatorship. During those years, he reflected on the type of identity that emerges as a migrant worker: identity of a worker, identity of the birth country, identity of the host country. Combined, Bello said these identities converge and create what would be a global citizen, one that is able to “cut[s] across [our] national identities in a common class consciousness as a worker.”

The experience of a being a migrant, as Bello shared, is not one dimensional. It is not solely economical or political. It also affects the social, emotional, personal, and the spiritual. Further, the experience is shared across all regions and the increase in migration is uniting peoples. “Regardless of region, I think we are all united under the agenda of full rights of migrants, and the dismantling of oppressive economic international institutions and frameworks. I think the economic crisis is in a sense, an opportunity for people in the South and North to get together around a common agenda.”

Dr. Raul Delgado

Director, Doctorado en Estudios del Desarrollo Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas

Dr. Delgado focused his speech on how countries of origin “invisibilize” the important contributions of their migrants, as well as the cost of migration to their countries. Dr. Delgado

developed a four part presentation with Stephen Castles, titled A Comprehensive View of the Phenomenon, which he briefly shared with the assembly.

1. Basic Landmarks of Contemporary Capitalism

One important landmark of contemporary capitalism is the oversupply of labor. [There is] also an impressive increase in the South to North migration; since 1975, the number of migrants nearly tripled. The main driver of capital development now is cheap labor, and this is problematic. Southern countries are playing an important role in supplying places like Silicon Valley with workers. There are many quantitative and qualitative transformations in the migration phenomenon.

2. Internationalization of Production and Exploitation of Labor

Internationalization of production is a strategy aimed at lowering production costs and weakening the working class by relocating production bases overseas. Related to this is the transnationalization and differentialization of labor markets. The main problem has been structural adjustments, and the result is disembodied export of labor. There are 72 million workers around the world who are working in the North, not only where they are needed but also replacing workers as a corporate strategy. Through migration, resources are transferred from the North to the South, and net profits are transferred to the North.

3. The Mexico/US Migration Experience

There are 12 million Mexicans working in the US, most of whom are undocumented migrants. In 2008, Mexicans contributed \$547 billion dollars to the US GDP (4%). However, almost half of Mexico municipalities are experiencing depopulation and the cost of the exodus for Mexico between 1994 and 2008 is twice that of the total amount of remittances. The important question now is: who is subsidizing who?

4. Alternative Agenda on Migration and Development

An extensive and contradictory modality of capitalistic expansion based on the export of cheap labor is the international division of labor which countries need to take very seriously. Temporary worker programs are by no means win-win-win solution yet they are at the top of the GFMD agenda. This is problematic especially with regard to the EU, US, and Canada. It is known that these schemes fail and cannot be conceived as a solution – or even a partial solution as the results would only lead to increased undocumented and vulnerable migration. For these purposes we need an alternative policy agenda that would consider the needs of countries in the periphery.

Peter Waldroff

General Secretary, Public Services International

The current trade union perspective is that the economic crisis has had an enormous impact on people across the world where an estimated 200 million people are unemployed. Waldroff acknowledged that, in many cases, migrant workers, and especially migrant women and children, are hit harder than local workers.

Waldroff believed that the debate on migration is overshadowed by money and remittances, while the real issue is human rights and human development. He emphasized that the link between migration and development should also be about justice. The failure of rich countries to develop their own workforce has resulted in recruitment. A combination of trends between developed and developing countries results in drainage of skills from the South to North. Waldroff continued by saying that,

"The bottom line is that rich states use migration as short term solution, arguing that it provides a win-win situation. And this is absolutely not true. To assist migration through bargaining and representation and rights of migrants in public services debates – this is what we work for and these are the issues that we must attack head on. Now is the time to act."



Report from the Civil Society Days

William Gois

Migrant Forum in Asia/Migrants Rights International

A brief review of civil society participation in the GFMD was given as introduction to the official delegates' report on the Athens GFMD Civil Society Days (CSD). Gois noted that although there were 2 days given for CSD in the 2nd GFMD held in Manila, as compared to one day allotted in Brussels, there was in fact less civil society participation as delegates were asked to leave after the report was made.

This year was an improvement with three roundtables and three interface sessions where governments could sign up for the sessions. Around 25 to 30 governments signed up for each roundtable. The interface sessions involved having the same number of CSD participants and government officials, i.e., if 23 governments signed up, 23 CSD delegates were invited for that session. The first roundtable on diaspora went relatively well, although the governments that it was aimed at were not at the session. Nonetheless, some of the governments at the roundtable were hopeful that some of the recommendations are doable. The interfaces, however, was made an excuse for reducing the civil society reporting to the big plenary to only half an hour.

Remarking on these experiences, Gois stated that civil society organizations are still not familiar with this new space because it keeps redefining itself. For example, this year, the International Advisory Committee (IAC) has more members than before, but its role was more limited.

Despite all suggestions, it is the foundations and host governments that determine how the CSD is designed. "The process itself has been held hostage by a certain academic way of thinking to the point that we should come with practical solutions." He said this has become the mantra of governments.

Looking forward to 2010, Gois mentioned that there have been meetings with Mexican civil society groups but there are also

complications with the government. Further to 2013 when the Forum will return to the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, Gois posed the following questions: How can CSOs design a day that serves civil society's purposes at best? Is it worth continuing participation in the CSD? Is this the arena we want to engage in?

To conclude his report, Gois shifted the reflection to the role of the PGA asking, "does the PGA have to be an alternative to the GFMD?"

Pronouncing that "we are much stronger, more united and more aware of each others' work", he raised the need to deliberate, to organize and to decide in the next few days.

"At the end of the day, to host a Peoples' Global Action and have an outcome that does not reflect the needs that we are fighting for...we need to think whether or not we want to continue the process."

Plenary Forum on Undocumented Migrant Workers, Domestic Workers and Other Workers

Ana Avendana,
AFLCIO (United States)

Avendana started her panel session by saying that the estimated number of 8-10 million undocumented workers in the US is not a good enough estimate and that although there are legal systems and courts that recognize migrants' rights, the practice continues to discriminate. Citing an unsuccessful attempt for a compensations claim by a migrant worker in Wisconsin, she highlighted the difficulties undocumented workers encounter in making claims, especially with insurance companies, including not getting paid, and how employers solve these situations and avoid US labor laws by deporting the workers. Avendana says this is not sustainable for workers in the United States. Undocumented workers and migrant workers are especially victimized.

On a positive note, Avendana observed that migrants are starting to organize collectively to deal with the injustice, to challenge the law and exercise their rights. She recounted an incident where she saw workers huddling together and discussing minimum wage. She perceives a growing labor movement among migrants and noted that that was how American trade unions began, when workers started to decide on the terms and conditions they want. "It highlighted to me the need for working collectively and in solidarity. We need to start thinking of outreach and partnerships and solidarity... We need collective solutions. We formed partnerships with other unions and NGOs, and organizing campaigns." It became clear to AFLCIO that this partnership with workers and trade unions made sense. The combination of the institutional power of trade unions and the creative energy of the workers on the street can lift labor standards. AFLCIO started a campaign to improve their conditions and the communities in that campaign were the workers themselves. Avendana ended her speech stressing the need to start talking to trade unions and to start partnerships that have not been in the traditional sphere.

Grigoris Kalomoiris,
Federation of Teachers of Secondary Education
in Greece

After a brief introduction to the trade union movement in Greece, Kalomoiris highlighted their demand for government to apply realistic policies for the problems of immigrants and for their social inclusion instead of the policy of zero tolerance. "Not only does it not solve the problems but it is a step backward of humanity principles. We need to have respectful terms." Kalomoiris called for a comprehensive policy of social inclusion for immigrants in Greek society. This includes:



- "all the labour and social security rights";
- a structure for Greek language learning, vocational centers with social support and interpreters, schools with foreign students who have social workers;
- Greek citizenship for all the children who have been born in or have been in Greece for a long time;
- accessibility to health services;
- equal pay for equal work, political rights, and the right to elect and be elected for five years; and
- closing detention centres and instead financing social security schemes.

Kalomoiris added that the trade union movement in Greece sees an escalation of fascist attacks against refugees and immigrants. He called for the legalization of immigrants and providing asylum to refugees. Technical restrictions for asylum seekers should also be lifted. Kalomoiris also pointed out that immigrants leave their home countries because of poverty. Thus, there is a need to support countries of origin in fighting poverty.

He went on to explain the "logic of the government," telling the participants that he anticipates being charged for helping immigrants who were beaten up by the municipal

police. He then ended his speech by giving assurance that the trade union movement will stand by the workers because it is against racism, nationalism and any other kind of racism.

Fe Jusay,
RESPECT

This is the third year that RESPECT has participated in the PGA. RESPECT wants to make migrant domestic workers visible and advocates for an effective protection of their rights. Jusay shared that there is a lot of vulnerability in migrant domestic work, mainly due to the structural condition of the work itself: it is in the informal sector and not easily accessible to trade unions. Moreover, aside from the sex industry, domestic work in Europe is the most open form of work.

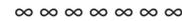
Jusay shared that RESPECT sees regularization as the best practice in changing the vulnerable situation of undocumented migrant workers. In 1997 and 1998, Kalayaan (United Kingdom) and KASAPI (Greece) were at the forefront of the regularization of migrant domestic workers. Some gains in the campaign include:

- a. In the UK, regularization measures on migrant domestic workers are being implemented although many employers continue to commit abuses.
- b. In Ireland, after 4 yrs of campaigning for the rights of migrant workers, the Ministry of Justice announced the scheme of regularizing migrant domestic workers. This is the first step towards regularizing the estimated 30,000 undocumented persons.
- c. In the Netherlands, RESPECT did participatory research which revealed that migrant workers have no contract with employers, are without social benefits, and have no access to health care and other services. Other problems identified are diplomats who invoke diplomatic immunity when their domestic workers attempt to access their rights to redress and the au pair scheme, where young girls are paid meager wages.

According to Jusay, some of the issues that the campaign need to focus on are strengthening the self organization of migrant domestic workers making them as principal actors in the campaign, promotion of the Charter for the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers in Europe, and innovative methodologies of awareness. She also suggested the following:

- a. pursuing a new level and mode of policy dialogue between migrant domestic workers and “experts”;
- b. joint initiatives and campaigns for promoting transnational organizations;
- c. alliance building among migrant domestic workers from different countries and continents;
- d. visibility to migrant domestic workers organizations as transitional social actors and agents of change in labor receiving and sending countries; and
- e. using participatory methods of research.

Jusay ended her session by pointing out that “the human rights of migrants are strongly under attack with repressive and racist immigration policies” and by underscoring the urgent need to promote and support the self-organization of migrant domestic workers, and other migrant workers.



Press Conference

On 4 November, a press conference was held to mark the second opening of the PGA. Organizers led by Migrants Rights International and KASAPI Hellas, with delegates to the official GFMD and representatives from the Trade Unions took turns in expressing their views on the recently concluded Civil Society Days of the GFMD, emphasizing how the global crisis is affecting migrants and reiterating the overarching call of the PGA: migrants rights are human rights!

A press release made on 27 October preceded the 4 November press conference.

To signal the beginning of the workshop sessions and to commemorate the efforts and sacrifices made by migrants in the struggle for their rights and well-being, the PGA delegates put up an 'altar' where prayers may be offered.



'In honor of all of the migrants who have given their lives for freedom, for justice, and for the survival of their loved ones.'

Thematic Workshop Sessions

Parallel events like the PGA allow migrants and other civil society actors to actively articulate the critical conditions being faced by migrant communities worldwide, and find joint solutions.”

The PGA was held from 1 to 5 November at the Technopolis Cultural Center in the Gazi district of Athens, Greece.

After the first opening on 1 November, the participants spent the next days in large plenaries with world-renowned speakers in workshops, regional caucuses, sectoral summits; visits to local migrant communities and cultural events; public actions and demonstrations; and side meetings related to the issues of migration, development and human rights.

31 workshop sessions were held on the following themes:

1. Addressing Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination as Obstacles to Full Participation Integration
2. Border Policies and Transit Migration
3. Detention, deportation, and the rights of Undocumented Foreign Workers, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees
4. Advancing the Gender Debates on Migration Policy from Rights based perspective
5. Unpacking the Discourse on Migration, Development and Reintegration Programs
6. Changes in Migration Policy Environments Since the September 2008 Global Financial Crisis
7. Strengthening unities, evolving partnerships and developing a common agenda for advocacy

A. Addressing Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination as Obstacles to Full Participation and Integration

1. Addressing Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination as Obstacles to Full Participation Integration

The natural discharge process for healing from hurts is to allow ourselves to laugh or cry or shake or yawn or sweat, etc., as needed. When one is allowed to discharge naturally, the mind is able to think more clearly and re-evaluate. However, when feelings are not properly addressed, distress builds up, eventually clouding our thinking and interfering with our natural desire to cooperate with other human beings. Present day reminders of past hurts also cause us to re-experience old feelings as though they were happening in the present, and influence our actions negatively.

Racism is about this old distress that we carry. This distress is what keeps us from acting powerfully to stop racism, whether we ourselves have been the targets of racism or we have seen others being targeted. Racism hurts everyone and these hurts need to be healed in order to move forward.

The organizers of the workshop, United to End Racism (UER), is a group of people of all ages and backgrounds, in many different countries, who are dedicated to eliminating racism in the world. The theories and practice of UER are based on the principles of Re-evaluation Counseling (RC).

Workshop Mechanics

The workshop focused on dealing with the feelings of racism, xenophobia, and discrimination through listening. Participants were divided into pairs and took turns in playing out the role of counselor (listener) for three minutes.

The facilitator did 10-minute demonstrations each with a Palestinian woman, African-American man and a Pakistani man, asking each one to share how racism has affected his/her life and how each imagines life without racism. Each person responded differently, sometimes laughing, sometimes crying and shaking, or simply talking and sharing their story. Many of the participants listening to them quietly discharged along with them in similar ways. Then everyone did the exercise and it seemed to be a good experience for everyone with many people talking animatedly, laughing or crying.



Insights shared after the exercise:

- a. No one is to be blamed for racism as we were all born into racist societies. However, we must take responsibility for its elimination and the first step is to eliminate the effects of racism from ourselves.
- b. No human being would ever hurt another human being unless they had been hurt themselves. All human beings are assumed to be inherently intelligent, cooperative and good. It is the accumulation of distress that prevents us from thinking clearly, reclaiming our power and acting effectively against racism.
- c. Both the targets of racism and the agents of racism are hurt by racism. People need to look at how they have internalized racism.
- d. People need to discharge the guilt they carry and form alliances in order to support each other in the decision

to eliminate racism completely and to combat racism together.

- e. Discharging the emotional hurts that were installed in us is key to the elimination of racism which in turn is essential to creating a better world - a world of equality, justice and human rights for all.

Recommendations to counter racism and/or to start the healing process:

- Set up listening partnerships
- Listen with respect, give your full attention, trust that your listening is just what the speaker needs, maintain complete confidentiality
- Don't interrupt, don't tell your story out of turn and don't give advice

Questions to help focus on eliminating racism:

- What is your earliest memory of racism?
- How has racism affected your life?
- How would your life be different without racism?
- Recall a time when you were a good ally to people of color.
- Recall a time when you stood up against racism.

2. State Repression Against Muslim Migrants and Immigrant Communities

The workshop aimed to discuss the migrant Muslim Community and the blatant discrimination they are experiencing within the European Union and specifically in Greece. The concerns raised ranged from questioning police's authority to seek and decide on one's immigration status even if one's papers are ok, to religious freedom, to racial profiling of citizens. The organizers wanted people talking about this to put pressure on the Greek government to make changes.

Being Muslim in Greece

There are over 200,000 Muslim migrants in Greece. Some of the key issues that they face in Greece include not having legal status, lack of religious freedom, many and frequent arrests with lengthy time in police stations, and lack of schools for Muslim children.

Discrimination is largely felt in the lack of support for the community to practice their own religion. A mosque still has not been built despite being promised three years ago; when they gather, police would harass the prayer-goers,

especially the older Muslim men. When they approach border controls, guards will demand Muslims to strip, and then wait for up to 8-10 hours even during winter. When they are in police stations, the Qur'an is tossed around. It is also only in Northern Greece that Muslim marriages are recognized, hence religious burials are always complicated, as there is no recognized graveyard for the Muslim migrant community.

More significantly, there is a severe lack of schools which Muslim children can attend where their own religion and values are respected. Only Greek orthodoxy, the official state religion, is supported or recognized by the ministry of education. The Muslim migrant community does not want to send their children, and especially girls, to Christian schools.

The United States Muslim Case

Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) is an organization that works with Muslim communities in the United States. Many problems described in Greece are similar to that in the US. This escalated in a very unfortunate way after 9/11. The Muslim community started seeing people disappear, either jailed or held as material witnesses then shipped off. Many fled to Canada but after US and Canada signed the Safe Third Country Agreement to manage the flow of refugees at their shared border, hundreds of refugees were deported from Canada. DRUM tries to assist the Muslims who cross back to the US.

Other post 9/11 changes that impacted on the Muslim community include the setting up of special detention centers where those aged 16 and over had to register and to undergo an interrogation, mapping the Muslim community and their activities with the use of surveillance and informants even in mosques, and the racial profiling of children.

While there is a large Muslim population in New York, there is no groundwork on whether there is a law on religious protection. There is no legal framework about what Muslims can or cannot do. The Muslim community is more hopeful now that Barack Obama is US president but they are trying not to pressure him too much.

Recommendations

Workshop participants suggested that the Muslim community file formal complaints regarding their situation,

invoking freedom of religion which is enshrined in the Constitution.

3. Intercultural Education

Participants from Albania, Greece, United States, Nigeria, Germany, and France formed the group that discussed the cultural happenings in the immigrant community in Greece, highlighting the challenges of intercultural education.

Keeping in mind that intercultural education is explored either through a hegemonic cynicism that wants to adapt its needs to (local) ethnocentric and financial needs, or through a simplistic sentimentalism, that deals with it in a general, theoretical and humanitarian basis, the group proceeded to expose and briefly analyzed some data of reality, and then listened to each other so as to articulate useful proposals.

Discussion

During and after the 1990s, under the influence of major geopolitical and financial changes, the Greek society rapidly evolved from a society that used to send immigrants abroad into a society that had to receive immigrants within. This huge step from human export into human import had the result to face the need to adapt a monocultural and ethnocentric social framework into a multicultural one. In the various social and cultural dynamics that appeared, the strongest one ideologically is xenophobia, and practically speaking, the absence of a proper, or at least functional, structure to receive, to educate, to include people.

Education is one sector that sensed a great urge for change not only in Greece but in a Pan-European level as well. Education deals with such issues as equal and proper training of people, the basic human right of social inclusion, the rightful place of children in society, and the collective future of humanity. Migration too, as a phenomenon, is in constant evolution, and the resulting interplay is a process of constant education and evolution.

The Greek educational system, however, was unprepared, despite the increasing number of immigrant or second generation children (already 10% in some regions, 3.7% annual rise in classes in 2004-2006). Many of these immigrant children are not included in the educational system. In cases where they are, the lack of the proper cultural capital, the absence of maternal language and the stereotypical attitude from both pupils and educators are obstacles to obtain a good education. The situation is worsened when the state adopts a stereotypical attitude

and registers the children in lower classes, even when they exhibit standard performances. For example, when a child succeeds to the next level, the child is then placed into a "special" class where the child will have to learn the Greek alphabet from the beginning, which then destroys their educational process.

Participants felt the need to re-explore the limits of intercultural education, and suggested the notion of a hybrid identity, i.e., that there are persons that combine different cultural capitals, who are intermediates in at least two different cultures (country of parental origin, and country of actual experience). The hybrids have problems however in adjusting to a mono-cultural or ethnocentric mentality such as currently prevailing in Greece. Thus, instead of being regarded as enriched persons, being able to offer to both cultures their broader horizons, they are considered a problem.

Some important comments arising from the discussion:

France also had to deal with the same issues some decades ago but later established automatic citizenship for children born in France and this helped to give better educational chances for immigrant children there.

In Germany immigrant children must learn a variety of histories in schools. It is important to learn the history of their country of origin as well as the maternal tongue as scientific researches claim that one should conquer a linguistic structure in order to promote his or her further educational and social skills.

Recommendations

Intercultural knowledge enriches society as a whole. Intercultural education and skills, like intercultural psychology, would best be established not only in schools, but also all major public sectors, like hospitals, police departments. There was a suggestion to create a leaflet about intercultural education.

There needs to be a commitment to fully explore and

promote the important issues of intercultural knowledge that would fully make any country with multiple cultures 'multicultural.'

4. Youth and Integration

This workshop highlighted the issues faced by the second generation immigrants in Greece, in particular the government's policy to issue birth certificates only to Greek parents registered on a municipal roll. As a result, more than 100,000 immigrant children do not have birth certificates and consequently, citizenship. As Kathy Tzilivakis reports

in *"It's like you don't exist"* (Athens Times, October 2009), "The only record of [the immigrant children's] existence is a registration at the vital statistics office (lixiarchio) – a registrar of all births and deaths.



This situation creates problems. Without a birth certificate or citizenship, immigrant children cannot leave their parents' country of destination, and cannot return to their parents' country of origin. They become prisoners in their own country: born in Greece, but never acknowledged as Greek, and never given citizenship. As a result, even

when offered opportunities, such as advance educational in post-secondary institutions within the European Union, Greek immigrant children cannot. Greece is currently the only European Union country that does not grant citizenship to immigrant children.

The workshop also highlighted how these children, although given the opportunity to grow and learn in a European system, are reminded daily of their non-existence. Five second generation participants shared their stories and their experience of being discriminated against because of their status from feeling accepted, feeling limited and feeling the need for action. Salient points from their sharing:

- Although sometimes there is acceptability, there is still lack of support to migrants.
- No passport and no citizenship mean not being equal with others.
- Economics plays an integral role in illegal and undocumented migration.
- Having to learn Greek language, Greek history, Ancient Greek language affects the psychology of children

who are not Greek, yet they go through it because they know that good education and work are important.

Recommendation

The young people especially expressed their desire for the unification of the youth and how they are exploring possible avenues of protest. One concrete action they have taken as KASAPI Youth was to start a petition to the government to change its immigration policies.

“The presence of migrants in Greece has created a new reality with very important social, economic and political consequences. Greek society is witnessing the phenomenon of young men and women born and raised in Greece, undocumented, deprived of their birth rights and marginalized in Greek society. Greece is a country where they [the immigrant children] saw the first light of day, or where they grew up, and went to schools. Indeed, Greece is their motherland.”

The new interior minister, Yiannis Ragousis, has already made a speech about a change in Greece's immigration law, aiming to provide Greek citizenship to Greece-born children. This change would be integral for the hundreds of thousands of immigrant children in Greece.

B. Border Policies and Transit Migration

5. Circular Migration: A Critical Assessment of the EPS (Korea's Employment Permit System)

South Korea's migrant worker history started late in 1980s to early 1990s. By 1994, much of the employment system was borrowed from Japan's Industrial Trainee System (ITS), which is run by the private sector without government control. There was also a temporary migrant program but this program involved trainees. There was no guarantee of labor rights. Trainees could not get any guarantees stipulated in the labor law.

One of the major problems with ITS is high recruitment fees, causing substantial debt load. Since it is managed by the private sector, employees tend to abuse the system by hiring undocumented workers because they could be paid half the wage of the native workers. It was recorded that in 2002, 80% of migrant workers were undocumented. It was only then that the government abolished the ITS.

The Employment Permit System (EPS) succeeded the ITS. It is not a perfect system, but it is better than the previous one. The difference between ITS and EPS is that the EPS excludes the private sectors as agents and instead, utilizes the Memorandums of Understanding and the Bilateral Agreements. The EPS also prohibits private recruitments within Korea, and allows migrant workers the same guarantees as local nationals. The maximum stay through



the EPS is five years, and recruits from fifteen countries. The EPS also denies the right of family unification. In Indonesia, trainers tell migrants not to contact undocumented workers and support centers.

Summary

Circular migration is the circular pattern in which the migrants leave and return to their home country. In the workshop, it was discussed that circular migration is for the governments, not the migrants. The receiving country takes cheaper labor without properly investing in the rights of migrants. The three issues brought up during the workshop were:

[1] frequent change of the period of stay during the EPS;
 [2] the insurance of transparency in the migration process;
 and [3] how to overcome competition between sending countries. Some country examples of current occurrences are listed below:

- Netherlands: Tries to oppose circular migration. There is the discussion of the aging population and the need for labor, but the Netherlands does not want migrants. Many European countries, like the Netherlands, believe that migrants mean trouble.
- Israel: Israel does not deal with problems on undocumented migrant workers, and there is little circulation occurring. High fees are paid to obtain visas. Chinese workers pay upwards as much as 31,000 USD

to get to Israel, and the agents in China connect with the manpower agencies in Israel.

- France: There is no circular migration, and there are many undocumented workers. There are five trade unions and six associations joining together to write a document on circular migration.
- Vietnam: Workers must pay a deposit of 5,000 USD before leaving. No one is monitoring or controlling this practice.
- Indonesia: In Indonesia's pre-departure education sessions, it is advised that undocumented workers do not contact centers, and for the centers to not contact undocumented workers.

Recommendations

- Use arguments based on data and solid facts; be increasingly selective when using government research.
- Partner with trade unions as they are important.
- Mobilize civil society efforts to help mobilize the migrant workers movement

6. Children on the Move

The issue of children mobility is rarely reviewed, except for child trafficking which is already being addressed by some special protection rights. The issue includes children who do not attend school for fear of being caught or because of the lack of access to education, those who face deportation, and even those who enter into early marriages, although there is not enough research on the policies and ramifications of this. At times, children on the move also work to support their family. They also experience abuse and discrimination. Children must be treated fairly, irrespective of status.

The workshop revolved around the following questions for its discussion:

- Why are the children moving?
- What role does the child have in the decision to move?
- Is the choice a natural choice to move?
- What are the best ways to support the children without making decisions for the children?
- What are the conditions that children on the move face?
- How can policies in destination countries do the least amount of harm?
- How can civil society organizations provide an opportunity for children to access their rights?

Below are some overviews of the condition of children on the move in various geographical regions.

Children on the Move in the United States and Mexico

There are two major children's issues in the United States. The first is the Mexico and United States border crossing, where the children are crossing alone to reunite with their parents. The children face enormous exploitation, violence, and danger. The second issue is the detention and deportation of both the children and their parents. This divides the family unit, as some children who were born in the US have citizenship and are left behind when the parents are detained or deported. Some states and municipalities can set up a policy on sharing migration status or not, although this varies between states and municipalities. Some of the policies state that social services should not ask for a person's legal status, others have authorized the police to inquire.



Children on the Move in South Africa

In South Africa there is progress, but there are still large areas of vulnerability, especially for girls who face potential sexual exploitation en route to their final destination. There is a center in South Africa for children. However, most children at the center are boys, as girls are picked up by taxi drivers, disappear, and are subsequently, trafficked.

The center in South Africa is trying to set up a system of protection at various points en route for the children. These points of interest are the six countries in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines).

Children on the Move in the European Union

In Europe, many children are on their own. Minors are entitled to special protection in the European Union, but with border issues, special protection then becomes inapplicable. If found, there is a "return and reintegration" policy for children on the move. They go through "transition centers" in their areas of origin which offer basic services. However, the questions remain: under what conditions are positive for the child? Is family reunification in the best interest of the child? In some instances, policies of migration trump child protection. Examples are the atrocious conditions in Spain and Morocco where children may end up in a work situation that provide money for the family, but lacks benefit and protection for themselves. Social services and judiciary guardians are all involved in this process, and Save the Children has a watchdog-type role over these agencies.

In Germany, there is a legal duty to report undocumented migrants to the authorities. As a result, many families do not put their children in schools. However, Germans are unlikely to turn the migrants in to authorities. In the United Kingdom, there is no law about democracy but Muslim migrant families fear being targeted. United Kingdom citizens are reporting suspected undocumented families to the authorities. The University of Sussex has done research on migration, globalization, and poverty. The research shows the children themselves often decide to move. Trafficking also occurs, but less than imagined. Sometimes the parent decides to migrate to improve the family's life but the parent-child bond is not broken. Thus, the argument that children drop out of school to earn money is partially incorrect. Some of the children may not be schooling to being with; migration may even be the strategy to access education for the children. Although difficult to hear, children may not always be victims.

In Greece, the children of immigrants do not have birth rights. The immigrant children are citizens of their parents and as such, could face deportation when they turn 18 to a country they have never known. The new Greek government has announced plans to pass a law to give citizenship to second generation, immigrant children.

Conclusion and Recommendations

There is a link between migration, development and children. From a social perspective, there is a cost benefit of children on the move and the potential access to better opportunities and education. However, questions must be asked to obtain a clear idea of why children are on the move

and what they want to do in the country of destination. Moreover, what support needs to be put in place to prevent risky and dangerous migration and to protect children in countries of destination? This is a sensitive line between protecting the children with providing and collection information.

7. Migration Routes and Refugees from Eastern Africa to Europe: The Situation of the Southern European Borders

This workshop discussed how migrants move from Eastern Africa to Europe. The participants shared knowledge, experience, and stories of the migratory patterns. As many are earning much more in Europe than in Africa, the financial incentive is huge. The discussants also shared the issues around mobility once in Europe.

Summary

After a round of introductions, the parameters of the discussion were identified as Eastern African citizens moving to Italy. Using the example of migration from Eritrea, which is completely militarized, the journey is traced by the participant sharers, highlighting the difficulties and abuses encountered by migrants.

From Eritrea, migrants move to Sudan where traffickers make trans-Sahara trips. Physical abuse, abandonment and sexual abuse occur frequently on these trafficked trips. Once the migrants arrive in Libya they try and earn money. Once the migrants earn enough money, they take a boat to cross the Mediterranean due to complicity between the traffickers and policemen. The prison conditions for those who are undocumented are atrocious. Those who are not detained frequently face racism from Libyans. During this waiting period to cross the Mediterranean, the migrants frequently fall into the hands of traffickers who extract money from their families for their release. During the trip across the Mediterranean, boats to Italy are often intercepted and sent back. Those who make it across after an interview process may get either political asylum for five years, temporary asylum for three years, or subsidiary protection for one year.

Upon release from detention centers, the detainees are exposed to the risk of prostitution. Unaccompanied children are put in shelters, which are also in extremely poor conditions. But the shelter will only keep the migrants for a period of six to nine months. Detainees in urban exclusion

always tend to find their way to northern Europe. As shared by Gerald and Nunu Kidane from the Black Alliance for Just Immigration who paid a visit to a refugee community in Italy, refugees who want to leave Italy unfortunately have difficulties. Due to the fingerprinting process across Europe, the migrants' fingerprints show their country of entrance. Many migrants mutilate their fingers to try and remove their fingerprints. If the migrant or refugee is found in another European Union country without fingerprints, they are kept in detention until their fingerprints healed, and then returned to their country of entry. These migrants are unable to gain employment other than in agriculture and in exploitative conditions.

8. Migrant Restaurant Workers

The workshop was held to introduce the migrants in the restaurant sector in the United States, particularly in New York where many restaurants are known for undeclared work. The Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) of the Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA) in the US, organized the workshop.

The ROC wants to bring the undeclared work into the formal sphere. ROC finds the poor employers; seeks roundtable negotiations to advocate for workers rights, and conducts research about the restaurant industry. The workshop thus mainly discussed how the ROC has been able to successfully organize restaurant workers in the US, and specifically in New York City.

The ROC reported the following:

- The restaurant industry is the largest private sector in the US with over 13 million employees.
- The migrant community contributes largely to the restaurant industries especially in the US. In New York City, roughly 70% in the restaurant industry are non-Caucasian and upwards of 40% are undocumented.
- In the restaurant industry there are three sectors: fine dining, family and quick serve establishments. The worst violators are the fine dining establishments.
- Many of the migrants in the restaurant industry are over-educated in under-paid jobs such as delivery boys and dishwashers.

Wage and Work Conditions

Less than 1% of workers are unionized while the owners have become organized and powerful, keeping minimum wages low. The current wage is \$2.13 per hour and with

tips the median wage is \$8/hour; this means that 51% is making \$8 or less. Many restaurant owners also do not want to hire workers legally. The worker may find a job but is underpaid.

Working conditions are terrible; almost 60% of migrant workers are not getting overtime payment. They can also be trafficked which basically means enslavement. It must also be noted that fair trade does not necessarily mean fair wages for workers. Fair trade does not include workers' rights.

The food safety certification likewise does not necessarily include worker safety in the certification, or in the work place. The National Institute of Health for Occupational Health and Safety Hazards has standards set out for work conditions but these are not met in the restaurant industry. Workers have a high rate of burns and cuts on the job. Electrocutation and heart attacks are also not uncommon.

Racism

The occupational segregation and racism within the industry is very blatant. Unless a person is of Caucasian ethnicity, there is a slim chance the worker would be put on the frontline. A person of color has three times the difficulty to be hired at a fine dining restaurant.

Feminization of Restaurant Work Positions

There are current changes in the migrant communities and dynamics of organizing are changing. Currently, the majority in the industry is female, and many are in the quick serve industry. They are relegated to work in the coat check room, or as pastry chef. A large part of this reasoning is the notion that women are not strong enough to hold trays and cannot work as well as men. Women are also three times more likely to be grilled during interview.

ROC also shared their initiatives, as follows:

- free training for workers during the day which includes skills training and political education
- putting public pressure on restaurants to sign contracts with their workers by lobbying in front of restaurants, indicating that the restaurant has violated health codes and is paying their workers low wages
- a "good restaurant" logo which can be placed on restaurants that are fair.
- creating a restaurant workers alliance to promote solidarity among restaurant workers
- food chain workers alliance which promote "slow

food" establishments instead of fast food establishments; migrants and all restaurant-goers can join this

C. Detention, Deportation and the Rights of Undocumented Foreign Workers, Asylum Seekers and Refugees

9. Detention, Deportation and the Rights of Undocumented Migrant Workers

The workshop was a take off from the special meeting on migrants in detention centers called for by the Human Rights Council during its 11th Session on September 17th, 2009. The meeting showed substantial interest in pushing for alternatives to detention especially because migrants or asylum seekers are not covered by the mandate of the UNHCR.



The workshop covered how detention and deportation of migrant workers occurs and discussed recommendations. Some of the questions raised during the workshop include: Who is to monitor detention centers? How long do migrants stay in detention centers? What improvements need to be made or case that need to be addressed?

To start the session, Ralph Hosoki of Solidarity Network with Migrants in Japan (SMJ), showed a video of a factory 'deporting' its workers by their employers, circa 2007. Eventually, the workers were able to stop their forced repatriation, and to force their employer to pay their unpaid wages although they could not be rehired.

Summary

a. Different countries have different policies on detention and deportation.

- Brazil do not usually put foreigners in detention centers, yet there are over half a million undocumented Brazilian workers in the European union who are vulnerable to the EU Directive.
- South Korea immigration law allows for violence in the crackdown of illegal migrants, and arbitrary detention of migrants without set procedures. The most detained people are undocumented workers, detention is from a few months to a year, and there are no legal remedies.
- The European Union approved a directive which extended the possible maximum detention period to 18 months.
- There are many places where the United Nations cannot enter the detention center.

b. Some existing mechanisms that provide alternative to detention.

- In Belgium, there are alternatives to detention centers.
- In Italy, there is a Working Group on Arbitrary Detention but perceived as not so courageous.

c. Assistance for detained migrants is extremely limited.

- There is no pressure on the countries of origin to protect their citizens detained abroad. "We can't change the law in other countries."
- There have been cases when migrant workers languish in detention simply for lack of funds to buy a ticket home; no assistance from country of origin.

Recommendations

- Abolish the new European Union Directive which extends the maximum period of detention to 6 up to to 18 months. Greece's detention centers are not even considered detention centers, but prisons.

- Create alternatives to detention centers.

There are alternative ways to detaining and deporting migrants. Belgium, for example, since autumn 2008, do not keep families in detention centers. Instead they are placed in a house with their mobility restricted. The shift was made after a report recommended that children be taken out of detention.

- Negotiating a right to enter detention centers. A campaign in Northern Africa and Western Europe asserting

the right to view the inside of detention centers was successful. However, negotiating the right to enter and view detention centers also accepts the existence of detention centers. Should the call be to enter detention centers and monitor, or call for the closure of detention centers?

- Negotiate who monitors the detention centers. In South Korea, the National Human Rights Commission and NGOs conduct annual monitoring focused on the conditions of detention, criminalization, and whether rights are denied due to legal status. Due to reported abuses in detention centers, workshop participants agreed to start a "detention as last resort" slogan campaign.
- Send All Reports to the UNHRC. Feed the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) with reports from all countries. With these reports, the UNHRC can have an excuse to speak with the governments. This can become a long term process of report sending.
- Negotiate giving phone cards to establish communication. Communication is vital especially to be able to extend legal support to detained migrants.

10. Portability of Social Security for Migrant Workers

The workshop focused on social security movements, with a presentation by Dr. Ramshanker Tiwari who is based in Delhi.

Salient points of his presentation:

- Many of the work sectors in India are informal and unorganized. There are roughly 440 to 971 million workers, including Indian migrant workers. In 1999, the second Labor Commission became an umbrella organization to ensure social security, wages, etc. and which recognized self-employed workers who make up roughly 48% of workers in the service sector. Indian civil society NGOs were more concerned with the unorganized sector, especially women workers who are not eligible for social security.
- In 2006, the government set aside the concept of social security and instead developed the concept for a right to water, housing, food, employment, protection, livelihood regulation, and price protection.

- After a series of meetings and demonstrations, one national consultation was held in 2007. The Social Security campaign now currently has 500 civil society organizations joined together to demand for social security protection that should be fully funded by the state, and not private insurance based. The campaign includes the unorganized and undocumented workers who, regardless of their migratory location, are still citizens of their country of origin. A website was created and several workshops were held in India. Interestingly enough, legislation was proposed but was charity and welfare based.
- In December 2008, India passed a bill on social security. Unfortunately, migrant workers, women, and issues of indigenous people are not included. Unpaid women workers also have the right to receive social security provisions as independent workers, not as dependent workers. The social security provision needs to be based on human right, not on government charity. A national consultation in December 2009 will have national human rights institutions (NHRIs) addressing issues of migrant workers. NHRIs will be inviting 100 workers from different occupations to hear them talk, and find out how workers understand social security.

Interventions

- States lack the capacity to provide social security services. Many countries encourage social security portability with the aim of remittances. Even if such social security fees are paid in the receiving country, and sent back to the sending country upon the migrant's return, it is not always the case that there is a guarantee that the migrants themselves will receive them.
- Many migrants do not enjoy such rights even at home. Short-term contract migrant workers do not have social security provisions in their contracts and remain vulnerable when they return home. Highly skilled or permanent migrants have better access to entitlements for social security.
- There has not been much of formal structures of protection, but there have been various unique informal efforts by migrants themselves.

One other comment that was of great interest to the participants at the workshop was the social security agreements in Europe. For example, in Belgium migrants can come to Belgium but pay social security in India where it is cheaper. Migrants choose to pay cheaper social security fees in India, instead of in Belgium/Europe.

11. Shelter for Migrant Workers

When workers need to escape from abusive situations, many run away. This is where migrant shelters aid the workers with their situation. Although they have limited resources, shelters provide food and clothing and, when possible, a bed as well. This workshop showed two examples of shelters for migrant workers; one is in Singapore, and the other is in Oman. Recommendations on how to start such a shelter were given.

Summary

The presenters reviewed how the shelters have been responding to the global financial crisis. Participants raised questions on what led to the setting up of the shelters, the logistics and structure required to set up a shelter, what services they provided and where the migrants go after the shelter.



Jolovan Wham from the Humanitarian Organization on Migration Economics (HOME) in Singapore shared a video regarding migrant workers left in the lurch. Over hundreds of Bangladeshi workers who were brought into Singapore were not provided with work or pay. The Ministry of Manpower's response to the public outcry was to settle the workers' outstanding wages and deport them home to Bangladesh. NGOs in Singapore issued a press release and asked that a percentage of the taxes be used to pay for the welfare of the workers.

Some of the services provided by the shelter in Singapore include negotiating with the government authorities and highlighting the plight of the workers to them, engaging the workers, providing welfare assistance and negotiating with the Singapore National Trade Union Congress to uphold their rights. Some of the strategies adopted were to engage the local and international media, in addition to new media, such as the internet. The effectiveness of the Singaporean shelter's activism and the lessons learnt were that local and international media were effective tools in lobbying for change and creating widespread public support for migrant workers' rights.

In Oman, Bridget Ganguly from Al Amana Centre shared that there is a safe home for run-away domestic workers from India. It was set up by the Indian Embassy. There is also a very active and efficiently run safe house for Filipino women which sometimes houses more than 70 workers. Some Indonesian workers are also housed there until they are repatriated. At present, there is no Indonesian Consular representation in Oman. There are also no shelters for male migrants. The government was considering the possibility of creating a combined safe house, but it was deemed not advisable. The biggest challenge is that there are no NGOs or activities in Oman. The women in the safe house

are those who have been referred by the Indian Embassy. The organization visits the women in the safe home once a week. Due to the fact that sometimes it takes almost a year for cases against employers to be resolved, women are forced by circumstance to return to their abusive employers. Oman's shelter has a capacity of no more than twenty workers.

Recommendations

During the discussion, it became apparent that the setting up of a shelter is extremely useful for the work of advocacy. Providing welfare services allows the NGO to gain direct access to the workers, which in turn allows it to gain an in depth understanding of the problems that they are facing.

The information, stories and data gathered through direct services was instrumental in advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Migrant workers are often perceived as commodities--nothing much beyond their identities as workers. By highlighting the personal stories of some of these workers, and the enormous sacrifices they have made to go abroad to work, it helped create public sympathy and cast the workers in a different light--they are not just workers but also fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, women and men who make enormous sacrifices so they can improve their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

D. Advancing the Gender Debates on Migration Policy from Rights-Based Perspective

12. Forum Theatre - Acting Together for the Rights of Domestic Workers in Europe (November 3 & 5, 2009)

The objectives of this workshop were to give visibility to RESPECT network and its campaign, to develop campaign strategies with other migrant networks, and to exchange good practices in campaigning for the rights of migrant domestic workers in Europe. Another objective was to make a joint statement with other Domestic Workers networks campaigning for the ILO Domestic Workers convention.

RESPECT is an organization of domestic workers and support groups with the following objectives:

- Recognition of Domestic Work as work.
- Regularization of all domestic workers in Europe, and to acquire identification and permit to work.
- Capacity building and support for domestic workers themselves.

RESPECT used theater in facilitating the workshop and demonstrated how groups can collectively show and communicate the struggles of workers through movement. They have been doing theatre work since 2000 to allow migrants to feel their strength through physical movement. The theater of the oppressed is a venue for domestic workers to be visible and to enable them to articulate and enact their struggles. The program gives domestic workers five nights to experience acting. The theatre exercises give examples of how to act in order to negotiate, such as eye contact, and proper speech with the employer, It also makes them act out human and labor rights, learn how to deal with unions and legislation. On the final night, they act in front of an audience. This leads to the empowerment and to the personal development of the domestic workers. The members of the audience are not only spectators "but spect-actors"; they are asked to come up and help with the workers' situation. When policy makers are in the audience, they have to act on their feet.

Summary

The exercises at the workshop consisted of a meet and greet, where everyone had to shake hands and look into the other's eye. Once two people shake hands, they cannot

release their hands until another person is found to shake hands with. The group then continued mixing with one another and kept filling the empty spaces while following the directions from RESPECT. Followed by the icebreaker activity, the group was to line up in order of eye color and shoe sizes, with two separate lines, respectively. Later in pairs, person number 1 was to explain like an expert about a made up word, while person number 2 kept silent. All the partners were then re-mixed into the group. Re-partnered again, person 2 now had to explain the made-up word, while person 1 was to keep silent.



The activities showed that it is difficult to speak on someone else's behalf and that your words are not the same as another person's. It also showed that without proper communication, language and communication barriers distort information. This can be used when speaking with employers, and how migrant workers must speak up, but also articulate themselves in a way that there is no miscommunication. This can also be used for the lack of information between kids at home and migrant parents, and for intercultural differences.

Good Practices

Bombay

- Bring together group movement and enable neighborhood groups so they are known, meet state wide, and then meet with the parliaments.
- Get the press on the movement side because of the number of people and demonstrations.
- To celebrate domestic workers day: bring employers and ministers from all over India
- Present ID card and get access to services provided by a nominal fee. There are a few movements where the governments are giving labor permits because of the identification.

- A domestic worker died and the neighbor made a 5,000 manifestation and forced the public and government to pass bill to help children workers.

Geneva

- A film about a worker who wasn't allowed in court for her own case because she was undocumented and who eventually had to leave the country.
- Swiss citizens tend to generalize about immigrants. Ways to counter this include participating in general cultural events and street festivals to show a sense organization and that immigrants are more than cleaners or workers.

Greece

- From United to End Racism: looking at racism in migration, and to work with the oppressors and victims
- Encourage to act but first to have space for ourselves to be emotional and talk to see where domestic workers get their invisibility.

Ireland

- Domestic workers made a quilt which told the story of the workers, but it was too big to bring around. A poster of the quilt can be used instead, especially on the internet.
- Posters attract media attention during marches which would give more publicity and solidarity. Posters also make the police see domestic workers as human persons and not the enemy.

In Bombay, street theater is done by children and domestic workers. Performances are big, lots of people stop to watch, and creates public opinion. They involve migrants including the undocumented or those not recognized by law or deemed not existing. It is hard to bring these workers into the public eye because they could lose their jobs. Currently, the National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM) is working on training them to tell their employers that they are involved, and to help guide the employers to accept and be friendly toward these activities. The domestic workers will make compromises with employers to be able to get time off. This process is only possible after much training and it is a very slow process before confidence is reached.

There was also a discussion on religious avenues being used to network and preach rights but these have limitations such as this would have to be done on Sundays and the problem of police monitoring the activities. The participants recognized that engaging faith-based organizations and churches may not be helpful at all.

Recommendations

- Possibility of building a quilt until next June, which would be a visible article for Geneva.
 - Make post-it sized token memorabilia to make a broad campaign all over Europe, perhaps using the quilt idea as advertisements on the post-its.
 - Make cards with the art of the children of domestic workers to sell for fundraising.
 - Make a visible output with cumulative effort, e.g., a video-multimedia production.
 - Promote the DW slogans in the neighborhood and to domestic workers and employers. The slogans and flyers should not be limited to centers, but to local organizations and everywhere else.

13. 4th International Workshop on Domestic Work

The International Working Group of Domestic Workers (IWG-DW) is a network of domestic workers, migrants, trade unions and civil society organizations across the globe working on domestic workers' issues. It was set up in October 2008 during the 3rd International Workshop on Domestic Work held in Manila as one of events under the 2008 PGA.

A key objective of the IWG-DW is to address in particular the preparation and process of migrant domestic workers' intervention and participation in the campaign around the ILO DW Convention. The workshop took stock of and towards consolidating the different campaigns of the various regions and sectors and deciding how to move the campaign forward towards the 2010 ILC and beyond.

Campaign Updates

India: Overall the ILO campaign to recognize domestic work as work in India is a positive experience. Feedback from the workers on the ILO questionnaire was positive. The campaign will continue to push strongly for a "Convention with recommendations" instead of just "Recommendations," which the government favors. The challenge is that India is so big and there are diverse languages. The campaign for a National Bill for domestic workers continues.

Cambodia: Representative from Cambodia shared that they are working with the Minister of Justice and Labor to ensure compliance of laws with CEDAW. A consultation will be held to see if the same collaboration can be done for the ILO Domestic Workers campaign.

United States: Domestic Workers Alliance are campaigning at three levels: state, national and international. The two campaigns to establish new laws at the state level are in New York and in California. There was also a suggestion to establish a domestic worker bureau in the department of labor without going through the congress. Capacity building has been done to support local organizations to build a stronger base to get greater results. training seminar on how to organize, jobs skill training, and political education for workers was also conducted.

Dominican Republic: The Dominican Republic needs to see the importance of separating national and international level ratifications. It's not only necessary for the country to ratify the Migrant Workers' Convention but other international instruments as well.



Trade Union Representatives: Trade unions have been able to meet and collaborate with domestic worker NGOs and they support campaigning for a Convention supported by a recommendation.

Hong Kong: The possibility of an ILO convention gives a lot of excitement in Hong Kong motivating many domestic workers and NGOs to organize. Unfortunately, not many trade unions are even aware of this process. Thus, there is a need to link up with the different networks in Hong Kong and abroad.

South Africa: There are laws that cover domestic workers, but they only look good on paper, without being implemented. Trade unions are not keen on involving domestic workers due to their classification as belonging to the informal workforce. Trade unions only look at organized labor, thus there is a need to campaign for the trade unions to include domestic workers.

Middle East: The governments in the Middle East sign on to treaties and conventions, but it is quite difficult for any enforcement to occur. The governments are also trying to come up with a standard contract, yet this process is difficult.

Geneva: There are many undocumented migrant domestic workers in Geneva. Diplomats get away with not paying their domestic workers and not being pursued because of their diplomatic immunity. This issue has to be taken up as a common campaign by the migrants themselves and their support groups.

Discussion Points

- The immigration status that is 'regular' provides the fundamental rights for workers in Europe, yet this is the red thread that has to be followed to talk about their basic rights. The immigrant's status has to be incorporated.
- There is a lack of trade union interest in the issue of domestic workers, except maybe in Asia where things seem to be changing. A strategy needs to be formulated in order to get their attention and support on the issue.
- With respect to strategy for the ILC, the participants decided that it must come up with 5 or 6 points to push forward in an ILO Convention.
- A core challenge identified was the difficulty in getting the national communities to jointly proceed forward with their campaigns with a core set of concerns of domestic workers.

Recommendations

- Common work consists of two components. Ideally, an agreed set of points within the ILO convention that ensures the agreed components are within the convention. This means there should be a common agreement on the content for a Domestic Work Convention before taking actions together, followed by reviewing what type of actions that will be undertaken.
- Address the challenge of engaging the national communities to proceed forward and carry the domestic work campaign.
- Strategic lobbying with trade unions and employers' groups.
- Continue building the movement of domestic workers.

The workshop especially highlighted the need to keep the international network active and to "keep the conversations going".

14. Exploitation of Undocumented Migrant Women

This workshop explored the specific vulnerabilities facing undocumented women in the labor market and enabled participants to share and discover solutions which will successfully serve to protect and empower undocumented female workers. The aim of the workshop was to gather experiences from various labor sectors and world regions to explore the role of the unions, social networks, and solidarity movements, and undocumented women themselves, in addressing labor-based exploitation.

Issues Facing Undocumented Migrants

Many women domestic workers in the Middle East experience sexual harassment and abuse of the sponsorship system, such as when employers withhold wages. When they run away, regardless if they had been raped, abused or forced to leave, the migrants becomes undocumented and “runaway” and fined roughly between USD \$1200-1300. Manpower agencies also charge large fees to get the migrant to their destination.

Although seeking aid in embassies is an option, many countries in Asia share an embassy space. There are insufficient number of embassies abroad to aid migrants' needs. If there is an embassy for migrants seeking justice, there is also food. The migrant would remain at the embassy until there is sufficient documentation to return home. In the Middle East, many governments do not allow NGOs to exist. Without this civil society chapter, it is difficult for any migrant to seek justice.

Recommendations

It is recommended that every migrant return home every year or every two years and that employers should finance the ticket.

15. Migration and Development from the Gender and Women's Perspective

The workshop aimed to highlight gender issues that women migrant workers encounter. Participants from Africa, Asia and Europe shared the following insights:

- Women belong to the majority group numbers-wise, but they are treated as minority in the world.
- Some women are already sexually harassed, or intimidated and they don't even realize it.

- Many are not informed of their rights. Even if they have knowledge of centers to help them, they are afraid to venture out for fear of deportation.
- The images of the women and men in their respective social conditioning push the stereotypes of how men and women work. Many of these gender stereotypes need redefinition.
- Literature, media and development help to underscore and reinforce gender inequalities. Parents should be specially sensitive to this to guide their children.

Recommendations

Women rights advocates helping women migrant workers should use CEDAW, in particular General Recommendation 26, to make governments accountable and ensure that women migrants' human rights are protected.

Approved in November 2008, GR 26 ensures that women migrants are protected, and includes the violations of women's human rights by non-state actors. The purpose of this recommendation is to eliminate discrimination, and to advocate equality of treatment and state obligation.

“Watch everything from the gender perspective,” as even the most seemingly innocent activities can have indirect notions of gender equality.

16. Beijing + 15 in New York

The PGA Workshop on the Beijing +15 addresses the issues and concerns for the Beijing +15 review and the implications for women migrants at the next UN Commission on the Status of Women conference which will be held on March 1-12, 2010, in New York. At the workshop, participants had experienced the utility of the Beijing Platform in the public services sector, mainly because the trade union movement is male dominated. Discussion around the workshop revolved around the implications of the aging of migrant women and issues around health, safety, and security, challenges within existing international spaces for women's advocacy, and the need for more representation of grassroots members at international conferences.

Carol Barton from United Methodist Church from the United States provided a brief outline of what the convening does. Barton acknowledged that the Millennium Development Goals have tried to displace the Beijing Platform for Action but it is one venue where

governments can be forced to compare their structure reports with the realities on the ground.

Recommendations

- Working group will come together to prepare a statement, with initiatives, such as interventions and a parallel event, in preparation for the Beijing Platforms.
- Involving city councils to increase engagement
- Utilize all multimedia outlets to increase engagement
- Invite UNIFEM and other international agencies (to what/where?)

There was also a suggestion that the informal groups be called the People's Global Action Women's Caucus

17. Daughters of Globalization: Au Pairs Bridging the Development Gap: The Case of the Philippines and the Netherlands

Au pairs is an internationally recognized educational programme where young people between the ages of 17 to 30 come to a host country for a maximum of one year to learn a new culture. They do so by living with a family and in exchange for room and board, does light housework and child minding duties. The programme is popular in the Netherlands because according to the host families, they work hard for less pay, are modest and serious, speak English and are affectionate to the children. These young people are both students and workers.

The workshop concerned itself mainly with how the au pair arrangement is being exploited in the Netherlands despite a European agreement on its regulation. The au pairs work long working hours, have a heavy workload, and are given an inadequate allowance. There is also ill treatment and disrespect from host families, as au pairs endure verbal abuse and indifference by host families. At au pair agencies, these young women are vulnerable to exploitation. There is an inability of the Filipino government, the Dutch government and institutions to give au pairs immediate protection. Although there are stipulated 'free days', the free days are irregular, or the au pair has no free days at all. Much of the exploitation can be traced to the agencies. Two violations that were discovered are coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty and economic exploitation.

In the Netherlands, there are an increasing number of au pairs from the Philippines. From 2000 to 2006, there were a total of 898 au pairs from the Philippines. In 2006, there were 238 Filipina au pairs. In 2009, the current count is 149 Filipino au pairs in the Netherlands. Various groups and trade unions are working on the au pair situation. Parliamentarians are questioning the situation and research was conducted by the Ministry of Justice. The research showed families admitting that au pairs were indeed doing heavy work and that they work longer than required. Due to these results, a hot line was established for au pairs.

There are setbacks to the campaign to provide awareness to au pairs in the Netherlands. A large number of au pairs are undocumented and working as domestic workers in private homes. A subsequent suspension of the placement of Filipina au pairs by the Philippine government only brought about confusion and led to an increase in the number of undocumented Filipinas taking part in the au pairs scheme.

Filipina au pairs in Denmark also have a similar situation to the au pairs in the Netherlands. The difference is that the au pairs in Denmark face more sexual advances. Au pairs are also not allowed to be pregnant; NGOs offer sessions on sexual and reproductive health rights. Both Norway and Denmark ignored the ban imposed by the Philippine government, making the au pairs vulnerable to irregular migration.

Many participants at the workshop criticized the au pair system. Some participants compared the au pair system as a cheap labor scheme, and that the best avenue is to abolish the au pair program. Many young girls do not know what the au pair system actually means. There must be a pre-departure orientation workshop for the girls to gain awareness.

Recommendations

For the sending country (Philippines)

- The Philippines needs to lift the au pair ban to prevent more undocumented au pairs.
- Engage in development of hometowns so that young girls are not easily tempted by the lure of going to a foreign country and earning.

For the host country (Dutch government)

- Au pair regulations should be enforced strictly by the Dutch government, such as but not limited to the

maximum of one-year stay.

- Dutch government needs to provide empowerment training.
- Au pairs should be compensated justly as well as be culturally enabled for the task at hand. Language and skills training must be provided by host country.



- Mechanism for savings and hometown investments must be encouraged by the host countries.

For both sending and receiving countries:

- Coordinated policies between Dutch and Filipino government to ensure protection of au pairs
- Set up a monitoring and supervision system
- Accreditation and references of au pair agencies

For Civil Society Organizations

- Organisations must work with each other for lobby work.
- Create a task force to network exclusively on the rights of the au pairs.
- Ally with media or self organization for balanced reporting.

18. Rising from the Invisible: The Rights of Migrant Women

DES ME is a voluntary and thematic network of organizations in Greece that focuses on taking off the cloak of invisibility on women. They organized the workshop to make visible the plight of women migrant domestic workers in Greece.

Summary

DES ME provided information on the status of women

workers in Greece. Majority of these women come from Russia, Bulgaria, Albania, and Afghanistan and who face mental health problems. The women deal with many problems in their work environment aside from the fact that there is no social security. These include social exclusion and violence especially for those with live-in arrangements. The emergence and expansion of the domestic sector, mainly due to pressing social demands of a large number of households, has become a political issue as the state realized that over 22 million euros are spent each month on domestic workers alone.

The recognition or non-recognition of the rights of migrant women working in the domestic sector is related both to migration policies and policies regulating the labor market and the welfare state, as well as the gender-based depreciation of domestic work stereotypically assigned to women. Hence the invisibility as Greek society refuses them recognition, deprecates their skills and excludes them from accessing labor and social rights. It was also suggested that invisibility is becoming more of an attitude that the new generation adopts toward domestic workers as when they treat them as objects and when children are not allowed to love their caregiver.

The economic crisis highlighted this issue of invisibility of women migrant domestic workers together with the increasing need for social integration and social protection of these women. DES ME shared their initiatives along this line: lobbying to legalize migrant domestic work, working with trade unions, reaching out to women in private households and finding other groups or networks that collectively communicate the feminist agenda.

An African Perspective

“When you are black, you are treated as the lowest. And these are the rich people, and they treat you like nothing. This affects the African community; they don’t see any up in their lives. People are sacrificing everything, and they are the worst psychologically distressed. We are writing this and putting it up in our website.”

Louretta from the United African Women Organization said that as a domestic worker, “you work 7 days a week, with no leave, no over time, no compensation, and the government doesn’t even know that.” She added that women sometimes have accidents in their work and they have to pay for the health care themselves. At times, the employer uses a video camera to ensure that the worker makes time for all the household chores while having to look at the children too.

She suggests that if possible, it would be “best that you do one job.” Other women from the United African Women’s Organization have started to write down all of their problems with employment and employers.

Suggestions from the Workshop

- Try and work as a collective with the government.
- Gather migrant organizations to create a solidarity platform, focusing on trafficking, migrant labor and children.
- Push all women to take this from a women’s rights perspective.
- Find politically active groups pushing the feminist agenda and network.

E. Unpacking the Discourse on Migration, Development and Reintegration Programs

19. Redefining Development

This gathering is more of a forum where two discussants tried to give their understanding of development and how it has been and is being redefined.

Walden Bello began by linking the crises in Africa, Latin America, and Asia and the eventual disintegration of natural economics caused by globalization. He noted that in the past thirty years of disintegration, migration has become increasingly acute. Bello referenced various time frames in which global change occurred, as follows:

- the 1950s to 1960s decolonization as a time of achieving independence through national liberalization, of countries coming into the world stage as sovereign states, and of the state as main actor of industrialization;
- the 1960s to 1970s as a time of relatively high rates of growth for developing countries, resulting in these countries contracting loan agreements that accumulated high levels of debt; and
- the 1980s which brought the debt crisis and the end of state-led industrial development in the south

Bello further said this made people believe that the economic problems were caused by state intervention. In reality, the free mobility of capital and trade liberalism, which eliminated quotas and tariffs, which are what characterize neo-liberalism, moved the state out of production. The state was to leave the process of national economic

development because it distorted the market. This was thought as good because it would lead to the integration of the global economy. During the mid-1990s however, there was the crash of the markets and the erosion of the national economies. Contrary to the projected high growth rates and decrease in poverty, there was only a 1.5% growth rate (as contrasted to the 4-8% growth during state intervention period) and a rapid increase in poverty and inequality. The crisis was said to be brought about by the lack of regulation on finance. The 1997 Asian financial crisis was a crisis of capital flight.

Today, Bello posits, the lack of regulation spawns an even larger crisis at hand; the crisis of globalization is the crisis of the lack of regulation. Bello referred to the Marxist theory of the results of overproduction and the gap between low



consumption and overproduction, noting that “Asia had become more dependent on export oriented production, and now that has collapsed.” He said there is a need for new paradigm and proposed one that would make production work for national economies as opposed to catering to foreign markets.” The creation of a new paradigm also raises the need for an environmentally-aware and sustainable development at the center.

Bello’s eleven ‘pillars’ for a sustainable development model are:

- Production for the domestic market
- Encouraging consumption by locals
- Tariffs
- Industrial policy – subsidies
- Land reform/distribution
- Upgrading QOL
- Development and diffusion of environmental efficiency
- Democratic choice/referendums
- Civil society monitoring of the state

- Mixed economy – private, government, etc., exclude transnational corporations
- Centralized global institutions, importance of regional cooperation

Mamadou Goita, Executive Director of the Institute for Research and the Promotion for Alternatives in Development (IRPAD) in Mali], continued on the same thread, pointing out that “development is a market-led process.”

Goita focused on liberalization and the notion that if everything is good then it should be on the market. He spoke of how in the 1980s the government allied with the private sector, how adjustment programs dismissed teachers and technical assistance to farmers, and other changes that happened because the players in the global market have changed.

Goita cited the example of Mali in the 1980s, when Mali was producing 185 thousand tons of cotton. By the 1990s, hundreds of thousand tons of cotton was the key trade. Presently though, the WTO has taken over the process. He also noted that corporations are now involved in policy changes at the regional level.

With specific reference to Africa, Goita articulated the need to shift from this one way thinking of development.

“Everything is on the market, [and] now the government is so weak in Africa. Today there is no way to get access to resources because they are in the hands of corporations. We are facing a system where development is led by corporations. As players taking leadership on development issues, we need to change. We need to think about industrialization of Africa, but not in terms of foreign investment and natural resources must stay in the country. Who is leading the process is also important.”

Conclusion

Historically, redefining development was a governmental process. However, from both Bello’s and Goita’s inputs, the governments are only partial players while larger corporations have the resources to redefine development: as regulators and controllers of the markets.

20. Making Migration Work for Development



Migrant Forum In Asia

The workshop presented the research findings of the University of Sussex project on “migration and the effects on poverty reduction” from a development perspective. A basic assumption is that migration is one of the strategies for poverty reduction and has positive effects on development.

The ensuing discussion raised questions, probed myths, and generally informed.

Discussion Points

1. There is a need for a clear definition of development, poverty, and poverty reduction. The research at the University of Sussex found that in Asia and Africa, people find that migration expands their possibilities and opportunities.

- Given the lack of universal definition of development, and the range of meanings that peoples attach to it, from running water to skills education to an informed opinion on reproductive issues, do CSOs support the government stance of migration as a tool for development?
- Where and how are people more prosperous, without reducing prosperity to monetary terms?

2. Migration is not defined in terms of international migration because most migration happens in the global South and is not necessarily international. It is from one rural area to the next. Migration, although seen in the international realm occurs much more frequently in short proximity. In some places, it can be just crossing a municipality that causes significant problems. International migration, unfortunately, brings the assumption that the migrant is able to access networks to be able to obtain some form of social protection.

3. Children on the move may not be so much an issue as much as a livelihood strategy adopted by a family to deal with poverty.

- Receiving countries use the language of circular migration to say that people are building up their skills and sending governments agree. However, more often than not, the skills are not relevant to the sending country. If a person is better educated from the start, it is easier to find better jobs.

- Migration as a tool for development should also be examined for its social impact, especially the social disintegration of the family. For instance, in Latin America, there are many children without their families. In Mexico, a third of the municipalities have lost their population. Although some children migrate at the age of ten, the majority of children who migrate are 15 to 16 years old, old enough to work.

4. Governments say more information is needed to put migrants less at risk, but where does the dissemination for migration start? Migrants do weigh the risks, but with the lack of options at home, the final choice is to leave.

- How does the government ensure legal migration? What formal systems of social protection does it guarantee its migrating citizens? How are migrants helped to ensure their hard-earned money do not only build status houses but also preparing them and their families for eventual reintegration?

- The idea was for temporary migration, or until such time the family “develops”, especially economically. Sending countries like the Philippines, however, have become increasingly dependent on exporting labor for their remittances that help keep the national economy afloat.

- Development and migration is not cause and effect relationship.

5. The gender aspect of migration is a positively transformative process. However, the feminization of migration is something of a myth because in the 1970s women were already migrating. “Migrate independently” does not mean that women did not migrate before the 1970s.

6. With regards to diasporas, they were there represented during the CSD. However, the impact of diasporas is dependent on the legal environment of the sending and receiving country. It also depends on how professional the diasporas are, and if they are politicized

or quite out of touch with what is going on. It has been observed that money donated by the diasporas went into private pockets rather than into poverty reduction projects.



Conclusion

Much of the discussion revolved around whether migration is able to work for development and whether development can work for migration. There were many contrasting views during the workshop and the discussion points would hopefully inform perspectives. There is a need to systemize the relationship between migration and development.

21. Strategies for Engaging the Diaspora in Migration and Development Policies

This workshop discussed the issues facing the diaspora, and presented how CHIRLA and NALACC are bringing them into the migration and development discourse.

CHIRLA or The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles was founded in 1986 after the first amnesty passed providing amnesty for 27 million migrants in the United States. After the amnesty, a law was passed that penalized employers up to \$10,000 for hiring illegal workers. CHIRLA is against the penalization of employers because, usually, employer sanctions penalize the workers. CHIRLA’s mission is to advance civil rights and harmony. CHIRLA engages the diaspora communities to inform them about their rights and existing opportunities to advance these rights.

The National Alliance of Latin America and Caribbean Communities or NALACC, on the other hand, is a new network organization with about 100 Latino groups in 15

States and in Washington, D.C.. It was established in 2004 as a result of the 43-45 million foreign-born in the USA, 45% of which are Latinos. 65% of this number are Mexicans who are the largest segment of foreign-born in the US. NALACC is led by immigrants to advance advocacy on issues of quality of life, especially issues on immigrant policy.

CHIRLA and NALACC presented and shared their experience on detention and deportation, organizing, redefining migration and development, and bringing culture into the conversation.

Detention of Migrants Keeps Families Apart

There has been increased enforcement of raids, arrests, and deportation of undocumented workers. In 2008, over 354,000 migrants were deported from the United States. By law, undocumented workers are protected against seek and search tactics, but this remains a law on the books rather than a guarded right. Roughly 84% of migrant households in California have families of mixed legal status. As a result, families are often separated, with adults being sent to detention and deportation and younger members of the family being left behind.

Organizing at all levels

A major strategy in dealing with immigration issues is organizing at all levels. Migrants themselves must be actively involved in the protection of and taking responsibility for their own rights. This is done on the grassroots level, which is increasingly effective, as well as on the national level, necessary to eventually achieve long range goals. Workers are encouraged to learn the skills of advocacy and to help others in the same way. This is done through a skills workshop, focusing on analysis and negotiation. Within this framework the experience of migration itself becomes a way to incorporate practical aspects into the advocacy process.

CHIRLA also developed a program within the high schools and universities to be able to reach out to the youth. Rights education also takes place within the workplace itself when they get invited. The use of ethnic radio stations and video played on national television are other means of advocating for human rights.

Sometimes, there is already organizing taking place, based on class, profession, or religion. However, depending on whether in the city or in the rural area, public meetings or gatherings may be problematic. One solution found was to engage with religious groups who can provide spaces

for interaction. Migrants also occupy different spaces of awareness and do not usually connect politically. They have to be met at the level of awareness that they have, rather than where we want them to be. Time should also be taken to learn how to properly mix migrants rights with the social justice agenda. We need to remember to appreciate what is, rather than to complain about what didn't happen or could have happened.

How can CSOs peak interests? Do people participate because they have problems or because they are really interested? The way to reach large numbers is to go to the people rather than waiting for them to come. One will have to go to churches, workplaces, and bus stations to try to connect with people. By going to such areas one can get a sense of their lives and what they are dealing with on a daily basis.

Migration and Development

Three (3) focus groups for advocacy were identified: the US Federal government, governments in the countries of origin, and multi-lateral institutions, such as the World Bank and United Nations.

In the US, less than in Europe, migration and development are hardly ever discussed together. The United States Congress is set up in such a way that the two topics are discussed separately by different people with different interests. Migration has to be understood with regard to the cost on all levels. Why do people leave a beautiful country that they love? An increasing amount of migrant organizations have begun to talk about development from this perspective. We ask people in the community to draw a picture of what development means to them. The ideal life that they portray in their countries of origin inevitably consists of having schools, hospitals, celebrations and good communities while showing an interest in technology and the importance of families that are kept together. Development is a vision of what makes people happy. It includes a connection between their lives before and now. Thus, it is crucial to invest in housing, health care, and the environment. The use of influence for financial markets needs to incorporate both micro and medium enterprises and the relevance of local markets. An economy based solely on importing or exporting is not sustainable.

Culture needs to be brought to the centre of the conversation.

In the US, migrants are encouraged to forget their roots. The language of origin is frowned upon. The stereotypical 'American' would like migrants to identify themselves as 'American' instead of 'Mexican', for instance. Nonetheless, life differentials are not the whole reason why people migrate. There is a need to affirm and develop national identity to show what each national identity can offer to the world.

It is also critical for us to better understand how to reconcile the idea of the good life with the preservation and restoration of the environment. Migrants are seen as objects and commodities. There needs to be a new definition of migrants, one that does not simply equate migrants with providers of labor. Migrants are not commodities, but human beings with rights, emotions and needs. We need to see ourselves as fully human.

Recommendations

The workshop ended with the following recommendations on strategies for engaging the diaspora:

- Increased leverage and capacity for mobilization when civil society works in coalition.



- Conducting community education workshops on wage information and disseminate information about the especially low monthly, weekly, and daily wages of street vendors, immigrant youth, and undocumented, immigrant youth and children.
- Better education for women as society moves faster when women are educated.
- Make brochures available at ports of exit and entry with information about the services available. Currently, the information is given in detention.
- Plural citizenship for development purposes. Citizenship is essential to discussion. What would be best is a citizenship of the world for complete mobility.

- Help to educate key sectors of the society to see that we are not the problem and to find common ground.
- Initiate programs that respond to needs, such as language learning. Use the teaching of language to simultaneously elevate consciousness
- Have a place that offers legal advice, where it is a service based on actual need and then used to educate.
- Use of cell phones as a new way to disseminate information and to protest through SMS.

22. Remittances and Migration in Africa

Remittances are the amount of money that people send to their families back at their home countries. They represent the blood, sweat and tears of workers, and sometimes of broken bodies, broken dreams, and broken families. Remittances are also financial transactions, done through many different channels and ways, and one common issue for all migrants across the world.

The workshop was originally going to focus on the efforts in Africa. However, at the start of the workshop, it was clear that it was not only Africa that needed to be discussed. The workshop then focused on the biggest remittance giant: Western Union.

Summary

Migration has skyrocketed in the last 20 years. There are now around 200m migrants worldwide. The remittances industry has also become one of the larger industries in the world, currently reaching over US\$328 billion worldwide. It is still growing astronomically. The remittances industry is usually informal, but fast becoming formalized. Western Union, the biggest company in the industry, holds 18% of the market, Money Gram is second with 4%. Banks make up a very small percentage in the industry as there are too many outlets to distribute remittances.

Western Union initially started as a telegram industry, but when the telegram industry died, the company turned to remittances. It is now a well-known company and makes a net profit of \$1 billion a year. The questions are: where is it being invested in the global stock market? Are the practices of the company responsible (including its social responsibility)? Are they being responsible to the communities of their investments? Western Union keeps showing how it is supporting communities, such as the GFMD, but are these programs the right direction? There is already an ongoing campaign and since then, Western

Union has tripled its giving program. However, the main goal was for Western Union to reinvest. It was reported that \$50 million went to Mercy Corporation and some money was given to relief agencies, but no initiatives gave money to migrants.

Western Union has roughly 300,000 outlets, which is ten times more than McDonalds. They charge anywhere from \$20 to \$25 per transaction; when in reality it would only cost \$2.50 to send the remittance. Once a person's name is in the system, it then only costs \$1.75 per transaction. The remaining money is pocketed by Western Union. Domestic workers in Costa Rica shell out 10% of their remittance to send money to the family. In 2006, a movement was organized to boycott the Western Union giant. In 2007 September, the official boycott was launched. Within the first four months 30-35 companies approached the movement and wanted to work with them.

The campaign against Western Union demands:

- lower fees by 20%; WU had said that they can cut by 30% and still make money.
- Transparency especially about the exchange rate or double exchange.
- Social responsibility in investments.

Recommendations

- Regulation of the remittance industry.
- Continue corporate social responsibility campaigns
- Migrants have to be the agents of change in their own development. Learning how to invest their remittances for maximum profit.

23. Where is the Money for Migrant Work?

The last five years the policy around the Global European Policy has changed. On one hand, a more holistic development movement has grown; on the other hand, to pull the former back. NGOs must put their voices together; otherwise, governments will start wagging. The development in the South must also be articulated strongly and effectively. There have been several migrant organizations that have had to close due to their heavy dependence on foundation money. For example, the Ford Foundation has lost 40% of its money due to the crisis. The McArthur Foundation has also spent a lot of money on sponsoring events, such as the Civil Society Day (CSD) of the GFMD. The Open Society Institute has also done the



same thing. Both organizations, though, do not focus on issues relating to migration. What possible alternatives are there to sustain migration work without being dependant on foundations? This workshop focused on the framework around where migrant money has gone. The workshop did not offer any recommendations, as the workshop was to discuss the issues of where the money has gone.

Workshop Summary

It is anticipated that it will become harder to access money from governments in Europe. What about in the U.S.? The year 2010 will be a crippling year as the financial crisis will have affected foundations' international giving. The Ford Foundation is waiting to see what to do for at least another year. Currently, the Ford Foundation is giving transition grants. In the US, NGOs tend not to take money given by the government. The programs that have been hit hard are those that have tapped into city money. These are the organizations that directly support migrants.

In South Africa, one problematic issue is the immigration policy that is control-oriented rather than development-oriented. South Africans rarely know money is spent. The South African government is currently drafting a new immigration control act. In Brazil organizations live off of private enterprises and foundations. Both countries' methods are not sustainable. In Asia there are government agencies that supposedly offer funds, yet how do you access these funds? The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is linked to the kind of contributions corporations make to CSOs. Some migrant communities have initiated a social investment venture. An example of this is when donor X says they can fund "Y" amount of money for 3 to 5 years, and for repayment to be made at a later date. The donor agencies prioritize the funds in different streams, allocating money when a theme becomes popularized. The currently

popular theme is climate change. Aside from these specific thematic streams, where is the money that can be used more freely for migrants? What needs to be done is to creatively repackage migrant issues and topics to better understand the “flavor of the month”

CSOs need to be more creative and better at packaging their topics/issues and understand what the “flavor of the month” is. One question raised was “Why is it that almost systematically, many organizations try to start their own development programs or projects, when they can sponsor an already effective and established NGO or group in the countries in the global South?”

Currently, Unlad Kabayan, a Filipino migrant organization, is the only organization in the Philippines that have taken up the question of development. However, what is problematic is that there is a dividing line that separates initiatives home and abroad. The efforts of migrant support initiatives in sending localities are not reflective of those of groups in the receiving localities, and vice versa. Shared responsibility of movements of migrants in the North and South is a new and emerging challenge. Money from governments are given to larger organizations, such as OXFAM, without questioning how or where the money will be spent. Where is the accountability given to taxpayers to know where their tax dollars are allocated? Until recently, it was difficult for migrant groups to articulate their claims to development.

The awareness of the need to support migration has increased in the last 5 years. A tremendous amount of money, or approximately US \$40 million, went to immigration reform in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, there are allegations of corruption in this regard. Another problem is there are no NGOs in the US that deal mainly with migration issues. Unions tend to focus on labor issues rather than migrant issues. Money is still not allocated for migration.

F. Changes in Migration Policy Environments since the September 2008 Global Financial Crisis

24. Converging in Copenhagen: Climate Justice and Migrant Rights

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) has been tracking the issues since the Kyoto Protocol was signed and migration and displacement was given only

cursory treatment. The workshop sought to draw attention to the link between climate change and migration, and the emergence of “climate refugees”.

Summary

The following were presented to start off the discussion:

- In Copenhagen in December 2009, during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or the “Climate Summit”, the previous framework will come to a conclusion and the member states will attempt to come to a new agreement. However, the voices of the displaced communities have never been brought to the forefront of these governmental discussions and negotiations.

- The past 50 years have seen an average temperature rise of 2 to 5 degrees Celsius. This has had a tremendous impact on the environment; for every 3 degrees Celsius there is a rise of sea levels by 1.3 meters. The last 100 years only saw a 21 centimeter (or 0.21 meter) rise in sea levels. The effects can be seen in the rapid onset of storms, hurricanes, floods, and in droughts and desertification. These impact on peoples’ livelihood and peoples’ access to the most basic living necessity: water. Without easy access to drinkable water, migration occurs.

- United Nations data show that of the 5 billion people in the global south, 3.3 billion live in rural areas and 25 million have already been displaced. This number is more than those who have been displaced due to wars. In Bangladesh there is an ongoing health crisis; the potability of drinking water is at stake every time there is a flood. Almost 2.3 billion people would also be threatened if a mega drought hit Bangladesh. They would also lose their livelihood. In Manila, the devastation wrought by Typhoon Ketsana in September 2009 exposed the immense urban planning problems with housing, structure, degradation of soil, etc., added to the increased average rainfall per day.

- The rising incidence of displacement and/or total loss of property and livelihood due to climate change manifestations have given rise to “climate refugees”.

The workshop raised issues of response and responsibility around climate change.

It was disclosed that responses to climate change also have displaced people.

[1] Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) is making claims over land that is used by indigenous people. The environmental companies have privatized lands.

[2] Moreover, the policies treating migration now are more employment-based, rather than family-based. This will occur in irregular routes and migration becomes an underground process. Undocumented migrants are forced to take some of the worst possible jobs. An example given was employment in meat-processing, which is almost entirely done by migrant workers now. The vast majority of the workers are undocumented. It is one of the most dangerous kind of work.

In the U.S., too, there is the phenomenon of Superfund Sites, which are the most toxic areas in the U.S. The communities who live on Superfund Sites are disproportionately immigrant communities.

[3] There are many groups advocating around climate change, but the people who are actually displaced are not visible. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) are the only governments that are very active on the issue.

[4] The term "Climate Refugees" has been brought to the table but it is still in the process of being defined as the legal framework and regimes needed for climate refugees do not exist. Many governments also resist the definition as it implies a political obligation. There is a strong push back by governments, especially by Western governments, not to call people displaced or severely affected by climate change as climate refugees,

Even in the migration arena, there is difficulty with the terminology as the term 'climate refugee' is new and academic organizations do not have enough evidence to support arguments. In India, there is 'climate exile' – those who have been left homeless by environmental or climate change; they are unable to return home as the home no longer exists.

On who has responsibility for climate change, the immediate culprits are the polluting countries, like the United States. But it is currently very difficult to do something through the existing 1951 Refugee Convention.

The Climate Justice Network recently had a Bangkok process in preparation for Copenhagen. It provided a venue for people to access information, to discuss issues such as the ecological debt of the North and power alternatives, and to connect with like-minded groups and organizations. There

were several public actions taken during the week-long program. Migrant Forum in Asia is starting to grapple with the issue and sent a representative.

Recommendations

- Further discussion should be pursued, including online discussions.
- The discourse must be linked to trade and development
- The Climate Justice Action Network needs to continue, even after Copenhagen Likewise with the Mobilization for Climate Justice in the United States.

25. Economic Crisis Impacts on Migrants Rights: Regional Realities

This workshop focused on the regional realities of the state of migrants' rights through the lens of the economic crisis. It was mainly focused on sharing the realities to promote awareness of each respective country's issues. Recommendations were not offered.

Workshop Summary

The reality of the impact of the economic crisis on migration rights is evident: the Athens GFMD Civil Society Days was less rights oriented than both the Belgium and Manila CSD. Nonoi Hachang, from the Netherlands, remarked that the CSD has been "marginalized" and that the Athens CSD had "no human rights-based discussion." There were limitations on the acceptable topics of the discourse. There was more discussion on research, advocacy and the economic crisis.

Another point made concerned the structure of the CSD. Although activists were invited to present, did the actual report reflect the points they made?

Additionally it was mentioned that Western Union is sponsoring the GFMD. Western Union is the second largest money making venture next to oil, with remittances totaling over US\$400 billion. The banks control the money, using limitation on loans, interest rates, and inflation.

The local and regional crises are forcing people to migrate. Thus was the question posed: are migrants contributing to the global financial crisis? Are migrants damaging their host countries and taking advantage of the situation?

To start off the session, Professor Chowdhury Abrar from the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) in Bangladesh shared about the movement of local workers against migrants in Mumbai, India. Yet, the Indian GDP doubled from 2001 to 2005 due to migrant contribution.

Economic Reliance on Remittances: The Case of Fiji

There is a current brain drain in Fiji although migration is not new to Fiji. In the 1970s there was recruitment of military personnel to Lebanon. In 1999, there was the move to the US, New Zealand, and Australia. In 2000, there was another coup d'état which resulted to job losses. The depreciating economy pushed for migration as a solution to Fijians' financial problems. Subsequently, national plans tried to use migration and remittances for survival. Unfortunately, Fiji has no proper governmental planning or control. The limited land mass and small population means that resources are limited. Fiji has weak television and militarization prevent public outcry. Fijians are not allowed to protest. The Fijian civil society is weak, and repression is common. The racial tensions created by politicians have also made people afraid of one another.

Remittances have surpassed sugar sales, even though sugar is their biggest export. However, since the economic crisis, remittances have fallen. The Fijian government introduced restrictions on the transfer of funds in the banks. In addition to this, the constitution was abrogated. The government started to fast track public sector reforms, yet the media is censored. Inflation rates have gone up by 6 percent, and it is the highest rate of inflation that Fiji has experienced in the last two decades. This is a push factor for many Pacific islanders to migrate to Australia. Tertiary scholarships for Fijian citizens to go to Asia also encourage out-migration. Currently, the only data collection from remittances is from the World Bank. It is suggested that CSOs and trade unions conduct their own study on Fijian remittances. Two questions were raised: Who gets a cut of the remittances? Why are remittance services done by Western Union and private companies when it can be done by postal order?

Deportation of Migrant Workers: The Case of South Korea

Changes in immigration policies in response to current South to North migration have also encouraged employers to use the economic recession as their scapegoat to release migrants. The construction and service sectors have been hit particularly hard with unemployment. There are many

migrants who are leaving on their own, but there are also some who are staying behind to try their luck. South Korea does not want to take in more workers because the government is afraid of backlash from local workers. The local workers question why the government would hire foreign workers when the local workers have no jobs? This would lead to social unrest. However, finding statistics on migration movement is sketchy at best.

North American Corridor: The Case of Mexico and the US

In Mexico, the government's response to the crisis was to sell publicly owned companies, such as the utilities industry. The Mexican government then fired 44,000 workers to deal with the selling off of public companies. English language packages are a part of the government's severance packages to their laid-off employees. There is a significant decrease in the number of migrants coming into the US because Mexicans realize that the job market is quite poor. The sophisticated communication system among the migrants makes the lack of employment known to the migrant community.

While the migration flow from Mexico has decreased, it has not stopped. People are still dying in deserts in their attempt to cross to the US. The US, on the other hand, has not changed much in its law over the past several years. However, there is now more active enforcement of the law and the result is a huge increase of the number of people placed in detention centers. Xenophobia is also happening in the US. For one, the influence of mass media plays a fundamental role in "poisoning the minds of US citizens of the undesirability of immigrants;" an unfortunate example of this is CNN's Lou Dobbs. Over lending to African Americans, Latinos and immigrants who cannot afford may also have contributed to the economic crisis. Additionally, the US health care system excludes undocumented migrants. All these show the crisis is of the political economic model and not merely a 'financial' crisis.

The crisis likewise exposed to a large extent the protectionism in many countries. One weakness of the Northern economies that leads to the large scale immigration is the Northern countries reliance on imports. Without migrant workers, many of the small and medium industries will collapse. South Korea cannot say they cannot accept migrant workers; many of the industries in South Korea would collapse. Social safety nets are not provided by the countries in the global south, which also prompts for migration to the north for livelihood. What may be occurring is the justification for

the financial downfall using the global economic crisis and migrant workers as a scapegoat for those in power.

G. Strengthening Unities, Evolving Partnerships and Developing a Common Agenda for Advocacy

Regional Caucuses

The PGA initially organized five regional caucuses: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. Each delegate chose to either attend the regional caucus of their respective country of representation, or region of interest. Each regional caucus' aim is to discuss the pertinent issues in each respective region. Each regional caucus took it upon the region's organizers to decide on the theme or topic to be discussed.

26. Regional Caucus: Asia

The Asian caucus was attended by those who come from the Asian region, as well as delegates from other regions who wanted to learn more of the issues in Asia.

Some of the major issues that were discussed in the caucus include:

- In South Korea, the government has been targeting activist leaders, community and trade unions leaders in their crackdowns, leading to detention and deportation.
- Migrant repression against undocumented migrant workers. Although there are laws in place to protect migrant repression, accessibility is limited. There is a need to deal with redress for undocumented migrants.
- In the Middle East, the 'kefala' (sponsorship) system continues to be a concern. When a migrant worker runs away from the employer, the migrant worker becomes undocumented. It is also a common practice in that region for employers to confiscate and withhold documentation of the migrant workers.
- In India, there is no minimum wage and civil society groups find it difficult to lobby countries of destination of Indian migrant workers to implement a minimum wage and apply to them as well. However, what India has is a national



law that does not allow children to be domestic workers. This law took 25 years to enact, and in 2006, became successful.

The participants agreed that not everything can be done on the local level. What is needed is to identify common problems in both the sending and receiving countries. The common theme for the governments is the remittances the migrants are sending home.

The use of ILO mechanisms to address labor laws is seen as a successful lobbying tool to the governments. Additionally, depending on the country, the type of language used must attract the government. In Singapore, the government would feel alienated by using the human rights language, yet if put into the practical economic argument, using the focus of the stability of the country, then the Singaporean government will be more willing to listen.

Recommendations

- Pre-departure program: In Nepal, the Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) has established information booths inside governmental buildings where all migrants must visit for documentation. Inside, WOREC offers information regarding safe migration.
- Alternative to Detention: In Taiwan, the Home Workers' Center made it possible for migrants to go home if the migrants first visited the Home Workers' Center. They were able to help undocumented workers get home and either avoid detention centers, or not stay in detention for too long.
- Focus on one specific issue: It was mentioned during the workshop that there are too many human rights issues to tackle at once. It is better to focus on one topic. In

Hong Kong, there was a campaign to have a minimum wage and one day off. Through various slogans and strategic campaigning, there is now a minimum wage and one day off.

27. Regional Caucus: Africa

The workshop generally observed the overall level of difficulty for mobility of the African civil society actors; there is no consistency in the mobilizations. There are only five participants from Africa in the PGA, coming from Mali, South Africa and Cameroon.

The participants unanimously pointed out that the right to migrate is a universal right. They deplored the signatures of many African countries on entry agreements, the risk management influx agreements or the free trade agreements that include conditions of emigration of the population and opposition to governmental aid from Europe and the North.

One discussion was about the misallocation of fund towards the militarization of the borders. Testimonies of colleagues in Mexico about the militarization of the borders in Latin America and in the United States of America built upon the risk factors.

Recommendations

- Africa needs to better communicate on joint actions.
 - CSOs need to seize opportunities, communicate and unify or relay actions.
 - There is a need to reinforce the mailing list within the PGA with the CSOs present for joint collaboration.
 - The participants recommended developing strategies for:
 - o The mobility of civil society to carry the voice of migrants
 - o The mobility of the African citizens among the African countries
 - o Re-entry agreements, risk management agreements, and free trade agreements,
 - o Creating a new form of solidarity by documenting the worst forms of inhuman treatments in the field of migration and human mobility
 - o Continue the struggle for human rights whether in home or host countries
- There is currently an agenda for:
- A reunion on the migrations in Bamako - Mali by MRI, from December 14 to 18, 2009

- Launching of a forum on the position of Central Africa on migration in Yaounde, Cameroon on March 2010
- An African Social Forum in 2010
- World Forum in Dakar in 2011

28. Mobilizing Support for Urgent Action

The aim of this workshop is to increase mobilization and support for urgent action. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has a Special Rapporteur on human rights offenses and offenders. Once reporting is initiated, the OHCHR accumulates reports at the United Nations. Although this is a good strategy to acknowledge cases, it must not be the central strategy. Networking of organizations among countries is also of great importance. As the GFMD was held in Greece, the workshop reviewed two urgent cases in Greece. The government of the host country, government of the migrant, and the migrant community in that host country normally come together to engage in discussions in such cases. The government in which the problem occurs must also be involved because the incident happened in that country. International organizations came into this discussion.

Case One: Konstantina Kuneva

The first case is that of Konstantina Kuneva. Kuneva is a Bulgarian migrant who was brutally attacked outside of her home. Her perpetrator threw acid on her face, which resulted in loss of vision in one eye, and severely damaging the other. It also physically scarred her face and she has undergone at least 15 surgeries to reconstruct her face. During the PGA Exposure Visits, Kuneva allowed participants to meet her and discuss her situation. (See Exposure Visit, p.)

Unfortunately, a case like Kuneva's is isolated or individualized although there are many cases like this around the world. To strengthen Kuneva's argument, organizations must report not only to the Special Rapporteur, but also, even report to the national human rights commissions in Greece. Unless there is proof, the Special Rapporteur case will be difficult to prove.

Case Two: Filipino Seafarers

The second case involved twelve Filipinos trapped in a ship for four months without rations and water. According to sources, the Philippine Embassy is aware of their case, but has not acted. The ship is currently operating on an emergency generator. Although many Filipinos have

finished their contracts, they cannot return as they have not been paid their salaries.

In October 2009, the Philippines was hit by two typhoons which devastated families and communities across the Philippines. The families of the seafarers were also affected but they could not send money home. One man desperately wanted to go home because a family member died, but was not allowed. Officials in Greece and at the Philippine Embassy said they could not do anything about the seafarers' case. The targeted perpetrator is the recruitment agency, and not the company in Greece. Nothing has been heard from the recruitment agency.

The seafarers' case is similar to being in a floating prison. It is one hour to the nearest port. Media exposure on the case should get the Philippine Embassy to act, but it has been trying to escape its responsibility and deny civil society claims. Employers are using the economic crisis as an excuse not to pay. Unfortunately, again, this is not an isolated case.

On another island, there are 12 more seafarers who have not been paid their salaries. Greek shipping companies are the largest employers of Filipino seafarers. Coincidentally, Greek shipping companies are also notorious for not paying wages, even before the economic crisis. It was planned that the workshop participants would visit the ship and the Philippine embassy the next day.

CMA's SOS SMS System

The Philippines' Centre for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)'s experience for mobilizing urgent action is to contact government officials in both the sending and receiving country. Additionally, CMA has spearheaded the SOS Short Messaging System for OFWs in Distress (SOS SMS), a 24/7 text-based ICT mechanism conceptualized and developed by overseas Filipino workers and implemented in cooperation with the various CMA partner NGOs worldwide, as well as with the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs—Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs and the Philippine Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

As a text-based mechanism, SOS SMS rides on the backbone of the cell phone technology, capitalizing on the OFWs' familiarity with the SMS utility, and is dependent solely on the OFW's access to any SMS-enabled landline or cell phone unit. As such, SOS SMS enables the near-instantaneous, inexpensive, 24/7 reporting of OFW cases from practically anywhere.

More significantly, SOS SMS gives Government agencies and NGOs the opportunity to respond and/or intervene, in a timely, adequate and efficient manner, particularly where the OFW's life, safety or well being is a critical consideration.

Originally, SOS SMS was to aid in the whereabouts of Filipino migrant workers in Saudi Arabia. Many were worried that the migrant workers would be affected by the neighboring war in Iraq. Fortunately, the migrants were not affected and as a result, used SOS SMS for other initiatives. The number for SOS SMS is +63 9209 OFW SOS.

Another hotline is 116111, which is a toll free number that 15 countries in Europe use as a hotline for all issues concerning children. Many other agencies tried to develop similar methods to SOS SMS, but dropped the idea. Vodafone International currently funds many different projects, making funding from large companies a possibility.

Recommendations

With combined energy, Kuneva's and the seafarers' case could be moved to the next level with the following recommendations:

- Invite the Special Rapporteur to the country where the case is in question, and get in touch with the government and express concerns
- Linking the issue of migration alongside other human rights issues
- Mobilize with trade unions and women's rights organizations
- Identify and contextualize the issues for governments to increase interest
- Create a short documentary of the Kuneva case. She already gave many interviews in the past.
- Use media outlets, including Youtube, Facebook, and other new portals

29. Bridges Not Walls: Recommendations from the EU-Africa Citizens' Summit on Migration and Development

This workshop presented the results of the recent colloquium in Dakar and discussed the need for capacity building at the national level and organizing of activities such as coming up with statements/declarations and joint calls for actions to mobilize people, networks, and organizations at the local level.

Bridges not Walls is mostly based on voluntary inputs from members whose campaigns are mainly dealing with the issue of European and African migration routes. Bridges not Walls not only deals with the rights of migrants but also with development work and policy issues.

Summary

The recent colloquium in DAKAR enabled groups to share ideas on good practices and to build networks. However, substantial financing is lacking with much of the money going to research and focusing on how to make remittances more productive, etc... The opportunities to meet, network, and mobilize with other organizations and to be able to propose the same agenda to our policy makers is hindered by financial access.

One avenue identified to increase organization's knowledge is inviting informed and knowledgeable group to international meeting where they can advocate their issues. Example, the European Union meetings. By attending these meetings, organizations can learn of the different ideas, policies and strategies that governments share with each other. Networks can also be venues to spread calls for action. International networks especially play a very important role in raising certain calls at the local level. For example, the big march in Bamako on the French Embassy was successful due to international networking. Due to this march, there was increased awareness to the migration situation between France and Mali.

Many strategies were recommended to be used in order to improve political outcomes, so it was proposed that it would be best to select a few, depending on the country or region.

Among the important spaces to be engaged include the World Social Forum and the GFMD. The next World Social Forum will be held in Dakar. Bridges not Walls is planning to make a point on migration. The next GFMD will be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. As civil society members, we need to ensure the civil society presence at the next GFMD. But to be able to do this, it is important to be aware about the local policies to ensure maximum impact. In Mexico, immigration enforcement is privatized, such as the Blackwater security and the building of detention centres. It must be noted that the next USA immigration bill might be very repressive. Mexico complies with US immigration policy and although Mexico presents itself as very progressive, in reality, it is not.

Workshop Decisions and Outcomes

- Although signatures can be obtained, implementing a mandate is not easy. Having mobilizing networks under one general set of principles to have an agreed call for action is important as it creates a solid foundation for a campaign.
- Tackling one problem at a time is easier than taking up the whole load. We should learn to work on more specific agendas and recommendations for specific situations. It must also be remembered that it takes time to work from the grassroots level upwards.
- Civil society must react to European Union policies, laws, directives before these are decided. Action before the final decision increases the probability of changing the legislature. Otherwise every member state are bound to implement the European Union rules. Currently, there is no European movement from civil society on migration issues. The European Union Commission wanted one directive on the rights of migrants. The member states did not agree to this and as a result there are currently four directives. The next issue is a directive on temporary migrants. To counter this directive, NGOs must network now prior to any decision making. June 2010 will mark the start of the conference for the convention of decent work for domestic workers. To increase support, mobilization must occur now.

Recommendations

- Increased mobilization of organizations; use the PGA to network with NGOs
- Action before the final decision increases the probability of changing the legislature
- Mobilizing networks under one general set of principles to have an agreed call for action is important as it creates a solid foundation for a campaign
- Focus on tackling one problem at a time

30. 4th World Social Forum on Migration

The World Social Forum (WSF) is a global event that came as a result of Brazilian NGOs insistence to put up an alternate voice in development global forums, such as Doha and the WTO where civil society didn't have a voice. The WSF was not made to be an organization, but rather an event for democratic debates on ideas, for reflection, for the formulation of proposals and for the interchange of ideas. It provides articulation of social movements, networks, NGOs, and other organizations in the civil society who

oppose the neo-liberal globalization led by the big co-operations who serve their interests and the consequences of their dominance, amongst other things, the restriction of citizen recognition, and of the civil, social, political and cultural rights, due to a free circulation of capital which is not accompanied by the free circulation of people.

The first World Social Forum was held in 2001 where it was realized that there was a need to expand into regional, social and thematic spaces. Migration as a thematic forum came early from the themes in Porto Allegre. The 2006 and 2008 WSFM were both held in Spain. During these forums, there was a lot of commitment to make the international organizing committee composed of migrants themselves. This workshop discussed the upcoming WSFM in Quito.

Summary

For 2010, Quito volunteered to host the 4th WSFM. The meetings being planned in Quito will probably be very different from Madrid (in 2008) because of the significant amount of migration from the European Union to the US. The primary themes for the upcoming WSFM in Quito were still being decided. For more information about the upcoming themes, please visit www.wsfm2010.org.

The issue of bringing together and not excluding other groups engaged in the migration discourse was brought out, citing the example of the United States Social Forum in making incremental steps to breaking segregated movements. However, there is a problem with funding initiatives. There are also drawbacks. In the London Forum, migrant-led groups were brought into the forum and then heckled and harassed by the organizers. The lesson learnt from this experience is that there is a need to have more migrant-led organizations involved in organizing such forums. The problem with finding migrant-led organization is that the NGOs may not be legitimate.

Another issue raised is representation from all continents. Each WSFM needs a balance of both organizations and organizers. There is a current problem of clarity of who is in the WSFM with the representatives of the organizations. The current mix of organizations includes NGOs, and migrant-led organizations. The technical secretariat mentioned one primary organization to organize the WSFM.

For the WSFM in Quito, the dynamics will be different as there is a national forum that has been working together. The organization is based upon the skills of the organizing

volunteers. The funding for the WSFM is from the local Spanish governments. Private foundations have also been helping. There is currently weak representation from Africa and Asia. The participants agreed there is no blueprint for the future. It is best to learn from and share with others and do more specific networking to do other things. A concrete suggestion was to hold regional social forums on migration and then put it all together in the international one.

31. Alliance Building and Common Advocacy for Migrants Rights

Migrants Rights International (MRI) is essentially a multi-sectoral alliance building organization where advocacy groups, faith based institutions, migrants' associations, and trade unions are involved. MRI shared some major achievements in alliance building, namely: December 18th proclaimed as International Migrants Day and the 2007 World Social Forum as the first WSF in the African continent. The PGA, alongside these initiatives, likewise provide new opportunities for alliance building and paves the way for new relationships to be built. When the task of framing the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC) came up, those engaged in lobbying for the MWC felt the need to continue to move forward the collaboration for the protection of migrant workers. The direct method of interacting between partners proved to be crucial in pushing the migration agenda, although internet-based collaboration also has its own relevance.

Workshop Summary

The workshop focused on the various models used for international alliance building to promote migrants rights. The PGA was studied as one of the primary models for this, and there were also reflections on how this year's CSD had a roundtable on alliance building but for the business sector. Case studies of other national and international efforts of alliance building were presented during this session. Policy outcomes are no longer the only desirable goal; the direct interaction and building up of relationships between stake-holders is deemed to be very useful as well. Building up from small connections have immense value. Many of those initiatives come out of direct interactions between people. This is the least respected and underrated strategy: small initiatives are focused and may attain powerful political goals. During the Athens CSD, unions were not given an opportunity to do this and hence, this must change in Mexico.

It is important to recognize that other organizations may have the same goal, yet use different tactics to achieve the goal. Therefore, the recommended path of alliance building is to start from understanding the political connections first, before jumping into collaboration around campaigns and other actions.

One key example is how MRI built its connections with African organizations. Some European organizations acted as catalysts to introduce MRI members to their African counterparts. The Nairobi World Social Forum proved to be important; MRI was able to meet and discuss the issues with IRPAD within a workshop setting, and thus a snowballing of contacts took place. It had a multiplier effect. From the sharing of contacts, each respective organization is furthering their network and collaborating on ideas, experiences, and campaigns. IRPAD joined MRI, became a Steering Committee member and now leads the Africa caucus during the PGA, and is initiating the Africa Conference on migration which will lead to an Africa-wide network on migration.

One such example of this type of collaborations is the draft on the Statement of Detention that was placed before the Human Rights Council this year. There were as many as 160 endorsements on the statement. This was made possible from networking and alliance building. However, such joint efforts came at a cost as each organization had its own political approach and priorities that became secondary to the goal of the one issuing the statement. The common agreement on the text of the document delayed the process. Some organizations did not see things politically as others and parts of the statement were then watered down. This serves an important lesson for all organizations to be cautious. Having a multitude of endorsements versus a streamlined document is the compromise of such an approach.

NAKASEC related its experiences in the alliance building process centering around Korean-Americans in the United States. The alliance demanded due process and changes in the immigration law, stressing the diversity of Americans of Asian decent, and the efforts that must be geared to garner the support of the others who face the same problems. However, unlike MRI, NAKASEC began with needing to get broad support for particular statements and positions, then finding the allies who most closely matched their political goals within these.

Another example of alliance building is the Nicaraguan workers in Costa Rica who stressed the need for trade unions in espousing the cause of migrant workers as well

as the importance of collective bargaining. Affiliates of the international trade unions in Nicaragua and Costa Rica negotiated agreements with their respective governments to offer legal assistance to each other's members. This alliance also needs to build a strategic alliance with trade unions in Europe and the United States, and with the civil society organizations of sending countries. This also places emphasis on the questions of occupation and safety, gender, and climate change.

One participant from Bridges not Walls said that from their experience, "large alliances can be built with little amount of resources." They recalled the Citizen's Summit in Paris experience where hundreds of CSOs from 33 countries participated. The summit had a mix of many civil society organizations that jointly came up with a set of comprehensive recommendations on migration and development despite being denied access to the official government conference.

There is also the need for building alliance with organizations that certify good practices. Research organizations and NGOs also have a major role. In the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN)'s experience, alliance building of academics to do collaborative research on sensitive issues of migration in South Asia has been a positive experience. Research provides solid evidence to build advocacy campaigns and learn from each other. SAMReN's collaboration on recruitment industry, securitization of migration are good examples of partnership. Now such collaboration has led to an agreed text on moving the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to collaborate on outbound migrant workers of the region.

Recommendations

One of the major problems with trade unions is that they do not always accept migrants. It was suggested to highlight the membership fold of unions that accept migrant workers. On the other hand, civil society organizations ignore trade unions. These lead to the gaps in alliance building and information-sharing. This is an issue that needs further discussion in Mexico.

December 18 is a great achievement. To build on this alliance, there is need for a global radio marathon centering around the International Migrants Day celebrations. Video productions and tool kits may also help in furthering the December 18 agenda.

Exposure Visits

Part of the activities for this year's PGA was visiting migrants' and migrant support groups in Athens. The delegates were divided into different teams. Following are the reports of those visits:

1. Athens Intercultural Centre

Upon arrival at the Intercultural Centre of the Municipality of Athens, in an area buzzing with migrant life and activity, the PGA group was given a friendly welcome by Ms. Karra and Ms. Giannouli of the Intercultural Centre. The two toured the group around.

Many activities have taken place since the Centre was founded two years ago, when the Municipality of Athens, with a migrant population of 20%, was given the authority to work towards the integration of migrants into the community of Athens. Activities cover various aspects, from information about health problems, integrating children into scouting and organizing theatre weekends



Ms. Karra in the computer training classroom

for them, to a range of cultural events where migrant artists presented their work. While visiting the classrooms, the group was told about the ongoing computer seminars, which lead to an internationally recognized qualification on computers. There is even a program on the computer called "Mummy learns Greek". The insight that migrant mothers are the pillars of a successful education within the Greek environment is the basis for offering them lessons in Greek. While their children take part in creative activities, the mothers obtain education. More than a thousand mothers have already attended these language courses. The Intercultural Centre also promotes migrants who have their own businesses by organizing information events and giving awards to those who are most successful in various fields. It also cooperates with migrant organizations, especially in the field of communication. The Center is also working on the establishment of a Council for Immigration where immigrants will have a voice.

The group was very impressed by the Intercultural Center. The Center even employs an adviser for the huge problem of asylum seekers and pamphlets are issued in many languages. All these efforts are encouraging to see in the community.

For more information, contact: athens@intercultural.ondsl.gr

2. Bangladeshi Doel Cultural Organization

In 2004, the Bangladeshi Doel Cultural Organization was established and legalized in 2008. The desire of the founders was to create a place where Bangladeshi migrants can meet and keep a close connection with their language and culture. It was also important to provide a place for the children of Bangladeshi migrants to be among their own

people, speak their language and learn about their culture. The result is a strong sense of identity as Bangladeshis.

At present, a preschool is in operation, and the organization is seeking the right for the children to attend a Greek school that could offer a strong Bangladeshi program. From the beginning, the emphasis was on creating a cultural, rather than a religious or political center, where members can develop social links and enjoy opportunities of cultural exchange with their adopted country. The Centre boasts a spacious hall, with a stage where rehearsals or performances take place regularly, and a comfortable office.



Bangladeshi musicians perform for the PGA group

Farouk Hossain, the President, hosted a small group of delegates at the Centre and spoke about the situation of Bangladeshi migrants in Greece and the issues which concern them. Farouk has made submissions on behalf of members who are having difficulty with their papers. Through close connections with local groups of lawyers, among other groups, the Center is attempting to ease the problems faced by migrants in Greece. One problem is the lack of a Greek Embassy in Bangladesh, with the result that any petitions, e.g., for one's families to join one in Greece, have to go through New Delhi.

The visitors were then entertained to traditional Bangladeshi music performed by those members of the music group. The warmth of the welcome and the enthusiasm of the hosts for the work they are doing, with limited funds and great vision was an inspiration to all those present.

3. *Doctors of the World (Mdm) Polyclinic and Shelter,*

The Centre is located at the centre of Athens, in an area where large numbers of migrants live and hang out. Ms Christina Psarra received the group and spoke about the work of Mdm. The group toured around the two buildings to get a grasp of the scope of work that is carried out at Mdm, and of the people making use of the facilities.

The 'Open Polyclinic' has been operating in Athens since 1997 with volunteer doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists providing free medical and pharmaceutical care and psychosocial support to people with no access to the National Health Care System, to the poor, to people without insurance, to the homeless, to Romans, to refugees and to immigrants.

The Polyclinic's teams support 14,000 patients a year, asking only that people keep to the same name for each visit. Volunteers also offer training in preventive medicine. The main countries of origin for foreigners who use the facilities are Iraq, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Bulgaria, Poland, Ukraine, Albania, and a myriad of African countries. The organization provides a shelter for about 30 refugees, where they may stay for a year, during which time they receive food and lodging, benefit from the medical support in the adjoining building, and offered language and computer lessons. Gradually the refugees become familiar with, and make connections with, the outside world. Greek and English are taught to about 150 adults and children a week. There is a play and study room for the children of the hostel, who attend the local school. The group was informed that the former inhabitants often keep a close link with the Centre after they leave, sometimes helping with interpreting and assisting new arrivals.

The group saw the clean, but rather crowded dormitories, of the refugee shelter and admired the classrooms and the nicely appointed play-cum-study rooms. The group then made their way through the next-door clinic which was full of people waiting to be seen, even though this was, we were told, not a busy day.

For more information, see www.mdmgreece.gr

4. *ELIAMEP Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy. www.eliamep.gr*

The group that toured ELIAMEP Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy was given a presentation by Dr Thanos Maroukis (thmaroukis@eliamep.gr). The research project, *Clandestino*, studied flows of undocumented migrants in Europe. Reports from each European country

were analyzed and data on irregular migration assessed; estimates are produced, where appropriate, using different methods. It also analyzed pathways into irregularity and tried to establish which are the most relevant in each country; discussed the causes of such pathways, which are often policies or the lack of them; and, lastly, formulated policy recommendations that follow from the above.

A database is also being developed, with the intention of giving a more reliable picture, in order that informed policy decisions are taken on undocumented migration. Constantly changing regulations are difficult to follow. The complex legislation with strict conditions placed on work permits and/or residence permits, and with many conditions attached increase the likelihood of migrants losing hope of ever acquiring the necessary documents. Informal economies providing ample employment opportunities for migrants who remain irregular may prevent migrants from finding regular jobs (which could maintain or regularize their status) add to the problem.

There was great interest in the presentation, especially because Dr Maroukis displayed deep awareness of the difficulties faced by migrants in the various European countries. He highlighted, as mechanisms contributing to irregular migration, the lack of legal migration channels, complex bureaucracy and inefficient procedures in applying for immigration, employment or the extension of permits, in some countries.

The Clandestino website is <http://clandestino.eliamep.gr/>.

5. The Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)

Mr. Petromelides, the Director of the GCR, had agreed to a short midday visit when he would have more time to talk to us. Just before the group arrived, the GCR had received 50 refugees from Mytilene, where the detention centre they were held in was closed for renovation. The Greek Council for Refugees was asked to take care of them and feed them, even though they are not equipped or funded for this kind of work.

For the tour, Mr. Petromelides was joined by his Coordinators for Legal and for Social Services, Spyros Kouloheris and Alexandros Anastasiou. They each spoke about their work and the dire situation for refugees in Greece, where only a very few of the thousands who apply are ever granted asylum. This dedicated group spoke with humor but also deep frustration about the difficulties of supporting

refugees when government ministries are often at odds with each other over migrant issues, and where the police are responsible for processing refugee petitions for asylum. According to the coordinators, Greece is the only country in Europe where this is the case. It was mentioned that this is to change under the new government.

The GCR has been operating since 1989 and is the only Greek NGO that deals exclusively with people who seek asylum in Greece and those who have been recognized as refugees. It focuses its services on refugees and asylum seekers and aims to combat discrimination and xenophobia. They try and ensure access to all fundamental rights for the refugees - particularly the right to asylum - and the provision of basic social service for asylum seekers and refugees.

For more information, see <http://www.gcr.gr/en/node/52>

6. Greek Forum for Migrants, www.migrant.gr

Delegates from NGOs in the Middle East, Asia and Europe were met by Anwar Iqbal who guided the group through Athens to the Georgian Cultural Organization. The Georgian Cultural Organization is currently being used by members of the Greek Forum for Migrants as a temporary meeting place. The visitors were given a brief history of the forum by Anwar and informed about the problems of migrants in Greece: legalization, integration, family reunification, second generation migrants, loss of permits for street hawkers and problems of undocumented migrants and refugees.

The group also met with members of the Georgian organization, asking about their activities (such as free classes in dance, piano, yoga, computer and Greek language for all immigrants). The group was shown a video of traditional dances by Georgian migrants and presented with a CD of the program. The visitors also asked if the Greek public sector offers facilities, support and information for migrant organizations in general, and for women migrants in particular.

Anwar then took the group to Victoria Square, where many African and Bangladeshi migrant hawkers were selling their wares. They witnessed policemen trying to remove the hawkers from the area and were informed by Anwar that the former Greek government cancelled all migrant hawkers permits; a discriminatory act which is in contradiction to European directives and which prevents this group of migrants from operating legally in Greek society.

7. Konstantina Kuneva

A small group from the PGA went to Evangelismos Hospital to visit Konstantina Kuneva, a Bulgarian migrant who was brutally attacked outside her home, in Athens, on the night of December 22, 2008.



As a result, she has lost total vision in one eye and has severely limited vision in the other. She has undergone extensive surgery to reconstruct her face, esophagus and nose, and has been in hospital since the attack. She has at least 15 more surgical interventions ahead of her.

Konstantina is the general secretary of the Union of Housekeepers and Cleaners, in Athens, which is perhaps the most active union of marginalized workers in Greece. This Union has fought heroically, both to support workers who face the harshest abuse and terrorization from employers, and to organize both Greek and migrant workers, most of whom are women. It is believed that her attacker was hired by employers who have been terrorizing union members in an attempt to control cleaning services. As a migrant, Konstantina was seen as more vulnerable and therefore an easier target.

Initially, Konstantina asked us questions about ourselves, our work and the PGA. She was a warm and generous hostess, showing real interest in us as individuals. Eventually, she began a detailed "report" of her life in Greece up to the attack on her, then through her hospitalization and treatments. Her political awareness - combined with her compassion for the workers of the world, especially women, and their rights as workers/ migrant workers - is impressive.

PGA organizers in Athens will stay in touch with Konstantina and keep the other participants informed. Hopefully we will be able to inform the world of her plight and her courage.

For more information, please visit:

- <http://www.euranet.eu/eng/Media/Audio/English-Audio/Solidarity-for-Constantina-Kouneva>
- <http://balkans.puscii.nl/?q=content/statement-press-release-25122008e-condemn-murder-attempt-against-constantina-kouneva-general>
- <http://libcom.org/news/konstantina-kunevas-case-buried-political-legal-manouvres-14112009>

8. Pakistani Association of Greece (PAG) *pakassgr@live.com*

A group of seven delegates, from the Middle East, Europe, Asia and South America, were guided by Hussain Mirza, the General Secretary of PAG, to the area of central Athens in which the PAG offices are. On the way, they visited a new mosque (Dar ul Aman) built by Pakistanis and the group learnt about the lack of appropriate places in Athens for Muslims to meet and pray. The group was treated to lunch, and was told about the activities for Pakistanis in Athens.

One painful issue for the Muslim community is the fact that, because there is no Muslim graveyard, or even a law allowing them to be buried in Greece, when a Pakistani dies, the body is sent back to Pakistan at great cost (2-2,500 euros). Contributions are made by Pakistani businessmen living in Greece but, with the economic downturn, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the funds for this.

Another huge problem is that Pakistanis are not being granted asylum, or being given the pink cards which grants temporary asylum. With many Pakistanis being arrested by the police due to their illegal status, there are now two lawyers working at PAG, twice a week, to deal with all those cases coming before the court and to assist with the paper work for their residency.

The group was impressed by the efforts of PAG to offer this degree of support to the Pakistani community, free of charge. The group was then shown the many shops run by migrants in the area, including restaurants run by Pakistani and Bangladeshi immigrants. The guides for the visit were Mssrs Nazim and Rifaqat; Mssrs Wawar and Humayoun recorded the visit in photos.

9. Munting Nayon Cultural School

A group of three Filipinos from Switzerland, and two Mexican women visited Munting Nayon (The Little Village), the nursery school and kindergarten for migrant children, run by Filipinos. Munting Nayon is a project of KASAPI, and started as a daycare center about 14 years ago. Gradually, the daycare expanded and kindergarten through to grade 6 was added. Several years ago, when the local authorities insisted that the school did not meet the structural criteria for an elementary school, they were forced to close the program. Since then the authorities have come to the school on a regular basis threatening to close it. In spite of this, the city of Athens provides the children with a generous meal, free of charge, on a daily basis.

This past year a group of young engineers, from the NGO Engineers of the Earth, communicated with the local authorities on behalf of the school, and managed to obtain an agreement for it to function without harassment while they attempt to bring the building up to code. [Update: the week after the PGA Conference, Debbie Valencia, the Head, was called to justify to an official from the Prefecture the numbers of pupils and the suitability of the building.]

The teachers are all Filipinas with teaching credentials from the Philippines. The school functions in English and Filipino and follows the official Filipino curriculum. The enrollment is now approximately 50% Filipino with the other 50% made up of children from Africa, Albania, Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Due to the economic crisis the enrollment has decreased seriously, which is another threat to its existence.



The teachers were gracious, offering information, answering questions and providing a short program by the children. The children performed enthusiastically for their appreciative audience. The reaction of the visitors emphasized just what significant contributions the Filipinos have achieved for their community while living in Greece as migrants.

10. Somali Community of Greece

Delegates to the PGA conference expressed great interest in the actual situation of refugees and migrants living in Greece. As a result, a relatively large number (mostly members of NGOs from the US, Europe and Asia) signed up for this visit. They were guided by Erwin Gonesh, the General Secretary to the Community Centre in the heart of Athens. Elias Ali Hassan, the President, gave information on Somalia and on the situation of Somali refugees in Greece: why they

are in Greece, how they got there and what problems they are encountering there. Initially, in 1999 and on, when the first refugees began arriving in Greece from Somalia, the refugees intended to move on to other countries in Europe. Now, because fingerprints are taken on their arrival, it is much more difficult to leave Greece. The Somali Community was founded only at the beginning of 2009 and, with limited means, they are trying to establish an organization to help and protect Somalis living in Greece. The hope is that they will manage to find national or local government support.

One huge difficulty encountered by the refugees is the fact that of the over 2,000 Somali refugees in Greece, only about 150 of them have been issued with the pink card, the legal paper showing that they have applied for refugee status. This card is valid for 6 months and can be repeatedly renewed for up to 3 years when, if the application is rejected, the refugee has to start the process again. There are many non-Somali African migrants in Greece who have applied for refugee status as Somali refugees, thus reducing the chances of bone fide Somalis from acquiring the pink card.

Another hurdle facing the Somali Community is that of shelter for the refugees. 300 Somalis who are living in a large building in the vicinity of the Centre are being evicted by the owner. This has put enormous pressure on the Somali organization to find alternative accommodation in smaller buildings scattered around the centre of town. There are many children - some without their parents - and many women living in this building who now have no electricity and water from only one tap on the ground floor. The Mayor of Athens has promised housing outside Athens, but, so far, nothing has eventuated.

The group visited the buildings where refugees are staying and saw how they are living in extreme conditions. They expressed deep concern for this terrible situation and promised to make known the situation of the refugees in Greece. One visitor remarked, on returning to Gazi, "we should have been taking food, not photographs" Another commented that, "Although we were prepared to see a bad situation, the actual visit to the buildings came as a shock to most of us. It was very sad to see how entire families lived in a small room, on the ground, without electricity or heating. A shame for Europe..."

For more information, email scmgr@gmail.com.



PGA Rally
November 4, 2009

Closing Plenary Session

“Future of the Forum: Shifting the Discourse on Migration”

Colin Rajah
Migrants Rights International

Rajah began the closing plenary by mentioning the advocacy and knowledge-sharing that occurred during the PGA, especially with regards to the Filipino seafarers and Konstantina Kuneva. He recalled the facts of the case of the Filipino seafarers, mentioning again that the Greek Shipping Companies are the biggest employer of Filipino seafarers. However, even before the economic crisis, the sailors were not paid well, and were also denied wages. Currently, the 12 seafarers, receive little food and rusty water. They are not allowed to go home even though they have finished their contract as they want to get paid. They are in what is called a ‘floating ‘prison’. In August, through the Philippine Embassy, one worker was paid 9 months of his salary, and another was paid 5 months. This is a small achievement.



Bringing their plight to light in the international stage is one concrete accomplishment of this PGA.

Cathi Tactaquin
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Tactaquin read a part of the declaration that was written over the course of the People's Global Action. The delegates at the PGA were asked if the declaration was in line with their organization's efforts and if they would be willing to endorse the declaration. The declaration is general, and does not go into detail with specification about certain areas or issues. Although this became a lengthy discussion as to what to write in the declaration, it was agreed upon that the declaration is an initial step to many campaigns, and that having too many in-depth recommendations would be too critical and counter-productive towards improving the GMFD and CSD. Some recommendations to include in later declarations would be an increased discussion on the CEDAW+GR, the European Directive, and the sponsorship of the GFMD. This year Western Union sponsored the GFMD. It was suggested that corporate social responsibility be a part of the GFMD agenda. A two-minute silence was also offered for all those who died in the fight for human rights.

Kristen Greer Love
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante

Love pointed out that we, as civil society organizations, had to continue our collaboration and intensify our efforts in preparation for next year's GFMD in Mexico. Some observations and suggestions on the PGA:

- The Manila PGA was much more substantial in

participation, and the Athens PGA did not have as many delegates and organizations as in Manila. Love noted however, how difficult it was for everyone to come to Greece for reasons of distance and resources.

- A pattern in the organizing is the increasing difficulty to find a venue. Unlike the Manila GFMD, the voice of civil society is “slightly eliminated” as a result.
- Civil society continues to garner support from trade unions thru the PGA process. Through this collaboration we can duplicate this coalition with unions from across the globe. She suggested continuous activity leading up to, and after the event. She further suggested that, for the Mexico PGA, NGOs bring reports to PGA to see how to further intensify and collaborate on campaigns. A more intensive collaboration will create a greater understanding between all civil society organizations and only CSOs can create this.

Love also emphasized the need for society to view migrants as people first, and to resist those who do not see migrants as people. She observed a crisis response as cover to reign in the rights of newcomers and those of color. Similarly, the GFMD is politely engaged but only on government terms. Full engagement will build strong allies with civil society that will hold a presence at the GFMD and those who will be present at the PGA.



Oscar Chacon (NALACC)

“Migrants have become the most important social force... challenging everything we know so far about democracy.” With these words, Oscar Chacon emphasized how very important it is that everyone understands the most important force in challenging long existing assumptions of who is modern, forwards or backwards.

He said that in many ways, migrants are challenging the way citizens work in both the countries of origin and destination. Countries of destination are now realizing the past century of cross border activities with the realities back in the countries

of origin. In the GFMD, CSOs can see how the forum comes into process.

Despite this, however, Chacon notes a fundamental problem in how migrants are perceived. The message that is presented is that immigrant communities are a great threat in political, social, and economical areas. Thus he enjoins CSOs to understand “for as long as there is a message that present migrants as threat, as a danger...that migrants are a menace, it will be very hard to bring respect for migrant communities.” He gave as particular example of this battle Lou Dobbs program at CNN. Dobbs, on a nightly basis finds a way to disrespect and conjure racism and xenophobia against migrants and immigrants living the US. To counteract CNN and Lou Dobbs, a website, www.bastarddobbs.org, was created.

Chacon proceeded to the preparations for the next GFMD in Mexico, citing as well the World Social Forum on Migration happening in October 2010 in Ecuador. Chacon stressed that CSOs need to ensure that migrant and civil society voices are present in these events.

As this will be the first GFMD to be held in the Americas, Chacon said that the nature and character of the event will change significantly because of the migratory circulation for the Americas. “The power of the migration circuit for Latin America and Canada will play an important role in migration.

The migration circuit will also be related to Europe, and especially to Spain, Italy and France. Mexico has become the primary territory of transit from the south to enter the US. Over the past nine years, Mexico has become, in many ways, the US frontier, almost like an extension to the US immigration policy. These policies that extend the US migration policy do not only extend to the US immigrant policy, but also to those in the areas of control in the way immigration is articulated. For example, the Immigration Policy in Mexico is not set out in any branch of the government. It is set out from the interior ministry. It is usually the voice of the foreign ministry that is heard. In this respect, this sublet of who decides and who advocates for the migrants is a concession that will continue to occur.”

Chacon noted that in the future GFMD, there will be strong CSO participation despite "an under-arching push that reduces migration to temporary worker programs". He added that CSOs will continue to question what development means, to change not only the physical, but the definition of terms of migration itself. Moreover, he stressed it is important to focus on really investing in the human development for all migrants.

Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

Ambassador Gomez and a colleague from the Interior Ministry attended the closing plenary. He shared two points about Mexico and CSOs in Mexico:

- The role that Mexico sees and the role that Mexico seeks from civil society; and that
- Mexico has decided to turn to its foreign policy on human rights and democracy, and to use it as a tool to strengthen its domestic process. Since "Mexico's foreign policy was going to be a result of a more democratic country, [Mexico] decided to engage the civil society.

He added that Mexico decided to engage civil society not only to have a dialogue but also to seek inputs, criticisms, and questions. He shared that Mexico is experimenting in implementing foreign policy like domestic policy because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign policy in the US basically had somewhat different views and somewhat different perspectives. He said there are now mechanisms in place to join together the foreign and domestic policies. "We are demanding with our neighbor in the north, the rules and the policies that the people in the US enjoy, to ensure that those are also applicable to Mexicans."

Ambassador Gomez made reference to the Migrant Workers' Convention in the struggle to protect and promote migrants' rights – how it was achieved and the hope it brought to migrant communities. He noted, however, that no countries in the North have ratified the Convention. He also made note that December 18 is recognized as International Migrants Day and that there is a shift in the language, including for example "how migrants can contribute to development, and how to 'manage' migration'.

In closing, Ambassador Gomez reiterated that Mexico wants to promote the rights of migrant workers both inside and outside of the country. He assured the PGA that Mexico is

going to be as transparent as possible, and that there would be civil society engagement.

"What shape that engagement will take, we don't know yet. What I can offer you is that we will engage you very soon, and have a meaningful dialogue very soon. We will negotiate [and]...will have very important conversations with our partners. We can make the most of civil society participations."

Developments Post-GFMD

November 4th, 2009

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stressed the need for a climate agreement to prevent migration and forced migration. Due to extreme weather, prolonged drought and intense storms and wildfires, more people are on the move and becoming climate refugee. Currently, Ban estimates greater than "214 million people living outside their country of birth." The financial crisis then further exasperated the migration flow as migrants are the first to be hit by the layoffs. (Hadoulis, 2009)

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also expressed hope that Greece will address its poor migrant asylum system, and align it in accordance with human rights laws. Ban told journalists that "as the host organizer, Greece may have the moral and political responsibility in seeking a settlement of the issues." Greece has become a main transit point for migrants seeking entry into the European Union. Only 1 percent who applied for asylum in Greece were successful, which is far lower than the 18 percent in Germany, 11 percent in Italy, and 4 percent in Spain. (Manchanda, 2009)

November 17th, 2009

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou addressed delegates at the GFMD on November 4th, 2009. He stressed that the goal in Greece is to "combat inequality and fear in society." Papandreou urged the "need ways of thought and policy on regulating this phenomenon that will allow us to avert extreme problems that we frequently encounter, such as racism, human trafficking, barbarous exploitation of women and children." He acknowledges that migration has filled empty work positions, and creating additional jobs to the native population. In the past 20 years Greece has undergone a fundamental demographic transformation. Papandreou stresses that his government has committed to boosting participation of migrants in Greece, and giving the

ability to acquire Greek nationality, “chiefly for the so-called second generation.” (Athens News Agency, 2009)

Prime Minister George Papandreou also met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to discuss migration and climate change. Papandreou emphasized with Ban the need for development in both sending and receiving countries, so when migrants return to their home country, knowledge and experience can be transferred for development. Papandreou also stressed the need to protect workers and the poorer side of society from the financial crisis. Ban responded to Papandreou and hoped that “Greece, as a destination country, will continue to defend and promote the rights of migrants.” (Athens News Agency, 2009)

Programs Initiated

November 3rd, 2009

The international Catholic Migration Committee launches the Conversations on the Global Governance of Migration (GGM). The GGM will engage high level national and international leaders of migration and management in examining the next best steps to take towards improved collaboration and integration of migration initiatives. (Ryan, 2009)

November 6th, 2009

Radio1812 launches new website and programming with a 2009 edition that includes Voices from the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens. This program will be available in French, Spanish, and English. The audio programs will report on what happened in Athens. Please visit www.radio1812.net. (December 18, 2009)

Annexes

ANNEX A

JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*Submitted to Governments Attending
The 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
Athens, Greece -- November 4 - 5, 2009*

We, the undersigned participants of the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA) and other organizations, submit this joint declaration to inform discussions on migration and development policy at the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). We also submit recommendations to contribute to the development of the civil society process and its constructive relationship to the intergovernmental process.

We represent a diverse cross-section of organizations including diaspora organizations, migrants' associations, migrants' rights NGOs, human rights NGOs, development organizations, trade unions and workers' organizations, women's groups, faith-based organizations, peasant organizations, anti-poverty groups, indigenous peoples and a variety of other social movements. We are joined by a commitment to the human rights of migrants and other vulnerable groups.

States have the obligation and responsibility to protect the fundamental rights of all human beings within their jurisdiction, including all migrants. As governments from all over the world meet in Athens to discuss migration and development policies, we urge governments to demonstrate their commitment to universal human rights, by affirming the human dignity of all migrants and ensuring that migrants' human rights are at the forefront of deliberations.

Civil society and migrants' organizations from around the world have displayed enormous ingenuity in increasing the scope available for their voices to be heard on issues concerning migration and development at the global level. Engaging in structured contributions since 2005 in consultations by the Global Commission on International Migration and subsequent UN High Level Dialogue in 2006, non-governmental organizations have dedicated valuable time and resources to participate in official fora, despite growing concern that much of their knowledge and expertise remains at the margin of the official debates.

Stepping up to this challenge, civil society groups are engaging in discussions that are centered on human and labor rights as the basis for development and are exploring the full range of issues involved in migration, including the underlying problems of poverty and injustice, fully recognizing and enriching the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in addressing these issues.

The Realities of Migration

There are over 250 million migrants in the world today. By no means a new phenomenon, migration is a feature that has fundamentally shaped the world in which we live.

There are many root causes of migration, including armed conflict, persecution, discrimination, poverty, deficits in decent work, underdevelopment, forced displacement and environmental destruction. Migration also occurs due to marriage, a search for family unity, and a desire to seek a better life, educational opportunity, learning or personal growth. In recent decades, migration flows have intensified as a result of economic globalization, market deregulation and trade agreements developed to serve powerful multinational corporations; features which have consistently widened the gap between rich and poor, creating wealth for economic elites and deepening vulnerabilities of individuals and communities.

While profiting tremendously from migrant labor, many national governments have adopted xenophobic and discriminatory policies that scapegoat migrants for social ills and present them as a threat to national security. Policies that simultaneously "open" low-wage and poorly protected jobs but "close" possibilities for regularized migration or protection of fundamental rights, have increased migrants' vulnerability to abuse and exploitation by employers, recruiters, organized criminals and corrupt officials. We are reminded of the plight of migrants by the example here in Greece, of the case of the seafarers from the boat, the M/V Aetia Sierra. They are waiting for their long-due salaries from their Greek employer, and are segregated on the boat while their families have little to eat. In addition, the right of migrant workers to join unions and benefit from collective agreements is routinely undermined, and attempts to unionize can place organizers in jeopardy, demonstrated by the familiar case of Konstantina Kuneva, a migrant trade unionist who has risked her life defending the right to decent work, and after eleven months, is still waiting for justice. Female migrants, including migrant domestic workers, are particularly at risk, as are the children of migrants.

States have tightened border controls and implemented harsh anti-immigrant policies in the name of state-centered national security, often in the context of the global "war on terror". Some states have implemented regimes to detect and intercept "undesirable" migrants even before they reach borders. In this way, "developed" countries have sharpened territorial divisions, especially between the "North" and "South", and further secured their economic privilege. The human rights situation of migrants is of equal concern regarding migration among developing countries. Many governments of countries experiencing both immigration and emigration maintain an ambiguous and contradictory discourse, calling for protection of their own nationals migrating abroad, while increasing control and repression of migrants in their own territory, often failing to provide sufficient protections for asylum seekers and refugees. These issues have fuelled tensions and divisions amongst workers across the globe, amplified racial discrimination and heightened insecurity for all migrants, especially those with a vulnerable migration status such as undocumented migrants, women on a spouse-dependent visa, various categories of migrant children as well as refugees and asylum seekers.

Migration, Development and Human Rights

The GFMD's current "migration and development" paradigm does not squarely address the root causes of migration. Nor does it sufficiently affirm the human dignity of migrants and places their human rights concerns on the periphery of development processes. The failure to address the specific needs and entitlements of women risks aggravating existing gender inequalities, which increase their susceptibility to poverty and hunger, illiteracy, HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, employment abuse and exclusion from the political domain.

Through participation in the GFMD, many states are seeking to develop an international migration regime that "manages" temporary workers for the benefit of global production and profit, while institutionalizing highly coercive and restrictive migration policies that penalize so-called "unskilled" migrants who are often times undocumented. Restrictive migration policies that criminalize migrants, combined with a failure to provide equal labor protections for migrant workers who sustain many national economies, perpetuate and increase vulnerability, abuse and exploitation of migrant workers.

The very limited opportunities available for civil society organizations (including diaspora groups, migrants' organizations, trade unions, women's organizations, and others) to contribute to debates and exchange with governments within the current structure of the GFMD present a major obstacle to the development of migration and development policies that adhere to international human rights principles. Their participation is severely restricted while the role of banks, financial intermediaries, private agencies and the corporate sector is steadily enhancing.

With regard to the governmental forum, the GFMD must ensure that all governments contribute to policy development with an equal voice. The GFMD must create an effective global system based on migration and development policies that guarantee the human and labor rights of migrants. The GFMD must also provide for equitable participation of developed and developing countries both in the preparation of the Forum's agenda and the ensuing debates.

Our Recommendations to Governments:

Acknowledging the urgent need to address the myriad of factors which constitute the root causes of migration.

Concerned that the global financial crisis is exacerbating the underlying causes of migration, including unemployment and extreme poverty, as well as the emerging issue of displacement due to climate change.

Upholding the principles embodied in core UN and ILO instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of Their Families, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration and ILO Conventions 97 and 143.

Recognizing that these treaties oblige governments to ensure that migrants enjoy equality of rights and non-discrimination in the places where they live and work.

Reaffirming that the principle of non-discrimination obliges governments to recognize and respect the rights of all migrants whether or not they are in 'regular' or 'irregular' status.

Encouraging states to cease the design and implementation of migration policies that constitute or cause violations of human rights.

Emphasizing that governments should not deviate from but rather should build upon the normative rights-based framework approach to development.

Encouraging governments to enable migrants' participation in policy making.

Realizing the important need for governments to protect and uphold the human rights of particularly vulnerable migrants including women, children and trafficked people.

Governments have the obligation to guarantee the fundamental rights of all migrants. Therefore, they must establish migration and development policies that respect, protect, fulfill and promote the human rights of migrants and promote sustainable, rights-based development.

Our Recommendations for organizers of the GFMD - Civil Society Days:

Recognizing that the GFMD is an evolving process which will reach completion with the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

Appreciative that it is a state driven process, largely determined by the Friends of the Forum, the Steering Committee, and the Troika, and that the respective host countries and Foundations responsible for organizing the Civil Society Days (CSD) have many challenges to surmount in order to bring about progressive changes.

Considering that the GFMD provides a valuable opportunity to further the implementation of states human rights obligations towards migrants.

Concerned that while civil society organizations have played a proactive part in the process, their role remains relatively weak.

The legitimacy and effectiveness of the GFMD relies on respecting the principles laid out in its declaration. It is urgent that the organizers increase communication with civil society organizations, commit to a genuine sharing of information and allow for clear and decisive input.

Further concerned that the GFMD receives support for the Civil Society Days from corporations that do harm to immigrants.

Convinced that in its present form, the GFMD cannot contribute to the development of policies which address the vulnerabilities of migrants and increase their protection, nor will it produce a coherent, effective international migration regime with a capacity to address the many complexities involved in the migration process.

We, the signatories of this declaration, call on governments and the organizers of the GFMD process to respond to these challenges and contribute to the creation of a global mechanism and process which is genuinely democratic, transparent and accountable, and which will meaningfully contribute to the human rights, fundamental freedoms and sustainable development for the most vulnerable populations of the globe.

We propose the following:

1. That governments recommit their support to a UN Global Conference on Migration and Development; this is a 1993 standing resolution of the UN General Assembly which has yet to come to fruition.
2. The Civil Society Days become more 'process oriented' in order to ensure continuity of leadership and development, just as the Friends of the Forum, the Steering Committee and the Troika have ensured continuity on the part of the States.
3. National and regional consultations should be held in advance of the GFMD to facilitate civil society deliberation, reinforce their participation and enable the self-selection of delegates. The deliberations of these events should form essential background and preparatory material for State and CSO representatives to the GFMD.
4. The civil society days should be held at-least 4 days prior to the government deliberations to enable civil society to gather and create the environment in which an organic process linked to the GFMD procedure could be developed. Representatives should be able to engage in a frank dialogue with the steering committee of the GFMD, the Troika and other governments who may wish to join.
5. Government representatives who liaise with civil society groups should take co-responsibility for bringing these concerns, insights and recommendations raised by these groups into the governmental plenary and roundtable sessions.
6. Furthermore, civil society representatives should be granted access to governmental deliberations in the plenary and roundtable sessions, thereby enabling viable participation.
7. CSOs should be consulted in determining the core themes of the GFMD Roundtable discussions.
8. The International Advisory Committee (IAC) should consist of members who have been involved in and committed to the GFMD process, and the selection of the IAC should be made by a consortium of equal partners for which sufficient resources are allocated. The selection of a Chair for the CSD should be made in consultation with the IAC, and the IAC should have a key role in determining the paper writers, resource persons as well as the moderators, chairs and facilitators of the round table sessions during the CSD. Finally, IAC members should be provided with the full list of applicants to the CSO days of the GFMD and should make a selection on the basis of selected criteria.
9. Serious efforts need to be made to increase the participation of CSO representatives from typical migration flow regions which are largely unrepresented in the GFMD process, including the Middle East, the Pacific and Central Asia.
10. GFMD and CSD sponsorships should be accepted based on corporate responsibility standards that protect migrants.

This declaration and recommendations are endorsed and respectfully submitted by the following organizations or their representatives:

ABRACO-ASBL (Brazil)
ANWA (Nepal)

Asian Migrant Centre (Hong Kong)
 Asociacion Red COMIFAH (Honduras)
 Babaylan (Europe)
 Black Alliance for Just Immigration (US)
 Bour Council Human Rights Committee (Malaysia)
 Building and Woodworkers International
 Centre for Studies in Social Justice (Canada)
 Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (Mexico)
 CFMW/RESPECT Netherlands
 Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement 11.11.11
 Colectivo de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores sin Estatus Legal (Switzerland)
 Comitato Antirazzista Durban Italia (Italy)
 CTH (Argentina)
 DIWATA (Greece)
 EMCEMO (Netherlands)
 Feminist Group of Thessaloniki
 FKPU (South Korea)
 Geneva Forum of Philippine Concerns (Switzerland)
 Greek Forum of Immigrants
 Humanitarian Organization for Micro Economics – HUME (Singapore)
 International Center for Human Rights (Palestine)
 International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
 Ionian University of Corfu
 Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea (South Korea)
 KASAPI – Hellas (Greece)
 La Liga Global
 Migrant Forum Asia
 Migrants Rights International
 Migrant Workers Center (South Korea)
 National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (US)
 NUM (South Africa)
 Peace Foundation
 Platform for Cooperation on Undocumented Migration (PICUM)
 Priority Africa Network (US)
 Public Services International
 Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (Bangladesh)
 RESF (France)
 RESPECT Network – Europe
 Servicio ecuménico de apoyo y orientación a migrantes y refugiad@s- CAREF (Argentina)
 SMS/Global Society Foundation
 SUTGDF (Mexico)
 The National Human Rights Society – HAKAM (Malaysia)
 Transnational Institute (TNI)
 United African Women (Greece)
 United Methodist Women, Immigrant and Civil Rights Division (US)
 Unlad Kabayan (Philippines)
 Women Migrants Human Rights Center of Korea

ANNEX B

**REPORT
ON THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS
OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

***INTEGRATING MIGRATION POLICIES INTO DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL***

ATHENS, 3 NOVEMBER 2009

Roundtable I

How to make the migration-development nexus work for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Synthesis of sessions

- 1.1. Mainstreaming migration in development planning – Key actors, key strategies, key actions.
- 1.2. Engaging diasporas and migration in development policies and programs – Their role? Their constraints?
- 1.3. Addressing the root causes of migration through development, specifically in light of the current global economic crisis

Short Summary and Key Recommendations for Action

Each session took place against the background of a shared conviction that migration does contribute to development (although it is not a substitute for a comprehensive development policy), that migrants should be seen as active participants in development, and that migration policy and development planning should benefit migrants as well as countries of origin and destination. The participants noted the inequality and differential benefits of development that characterize the world economy, along with violent conflict, as fundamental causes of migration, and noted that migrants' contributions alone cannot overcome either structural factors or poor governance. Participants accepted as fundamental to development the rigorous observance of migrants' human and labour rights. Many advocated for ratification and implementation of international conventions relevant to the rights of migrants, including the ILO conventions, the core human rights conventions, and, in particular, the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families.

1. Take more assertive action, in collaboration with civil



society organizations, to regulate and monitor recruitment practices, and enforce the applicable laws: cap permissible fees, establish as good practice that employers pay recruitment fees; establish whistle-blower protections and reporting mechanisms for abuses.

2. Extend a 'grace period' to migrants who lose their jobs as a result of the recession and with it their permission to remain in the country of destination, so that they have the opportunity to find another job. Allow migrants who return to their home countries to do so safely and with dignity.

3. Reduce the transaction costs of migration: simplify document requirements (applications for admission often run to great length and are practically impossible for a lay person to complete without a lawyer), reduce fees and simplify procedures for obtaining official documents such as passports, make information on migration procedures more easily available to reduce dependence on intermediaries; professionalizing and monitoring consular practices of visa issuance, to reduce arbitrariness and bad practices such as bribe-seeking. Take strong initiatives to counter misinformation about migrants and the impact of migration that inflames public opinion against migrants.

5. Engage all ministries or departments involved in migration issues in regular intragovernmental policy discussions of migration and development (on policy formulation and implementation)—including for example, ministries of health, education, labor, social security and especially development/foreign assistance. Coordination should also work "vertically," across levels of government—national, state/provincial, and municipal. Establish regular consultations between the coordinating bodies of governments and civil society organizations (including diaspora organizations).

6. Consider simplified and transparent demand-based

systems for labour admissions, with strong protection for protection of wage levels and working conditions.

7. Establish codes of conduct for ethical recruitment in a way that does not restrict freedom of movement and avoids discrimination on the grounds of national origin.

8. Incorporate protections for domestic workers into national law, and cooperate with civil society organizations to monitor and promote compliance.

9. Reduce the barriers to establishing diaspora organizations, build their capacities, and include diaspora members in developing planning and implementation on a routine basis. Solicit and pay attention to the voices of migrants, migrants associations and members of diaspora on issues of governance deficits and development obstacles.

10. Address the loss of human resources from the health sector by investing in that sector in countries of origin, increase the supply of skilled health care personnel, and strengthen the public health system so that it can offer improved wages and working conditions to an adequate number of health care workers.

11. Send a clear message from the GFMD to the Copenhagen Conference on climatechange that the threats to and interests of migrants and potential migrants should be high on the policy agenda of the conference.

Roundtable 2

Migrant integration, reintegration and circulation for development

Synthesis of sessions

2.1. Inclusion, protection and acceptance of migrants in society; linking human rights and migrant empowerment for development

2.2. Reintegration and circulate migration – effective for development?

Short Summary & Key recommendations for action:

The sessions focused on three core sets of issues: rights, circular migration and reintegration.

RIGHTS

All migrant workers have the right to basic labour rights including non discrimination (i.e., the same treatment,

working conditions, and wages as comparable native workers). This protects both the rights and working conditions of migrant workers, as well as the native workers. These rights are enshrined in both UN and ILO conventions and treaties.

1. These conventions should be ratified and implemented and civil society can help monitor their implementation.

2. We would like to stress the following recommendations as a minimal set of conditions for both temporary and long term migrants:

- Flexibility of stay permits: changing from short term to long term.
- Employee portability and freedom of movement.
- Portability of benefits (pension and insurance, health coverage, accumulation of benefits).
- Portability of justice.
- When out of employment having a reasonable period of time to find a new job.
- Universal education and preventive health coverage for all.

3. Governments must understand the costs of non action can be higher than the costs of providing these services.

4. Particular attention should be paid to particularly the vulnerable status of domestic workers.

CIRCULAR MIGRATION

Circular migration has to be approached as fundamentally different from temporary migration programs and the concept of circular migration needs to be clarified in policy terms. In all cases.

5. Governments should reform visa regimes to allow for multi-entry visas and “test” programs for those who are thinking of return.

6. Employers should pay the costs of recruitment, but training and skills development or language training are public goods that governments should pay for. We do recognise that these are goods that developing countries may be unable to provide in their totality.

7. The duration of circular migration programs have to be long enough for migrants to accumulate skills and savings.

8. Circular migration programmes should not separate families for long periods of time and they should allow for benefits portability.

REINTEGRATION

9. There is a need for bilateral/multi-lateral agreements for the designation and implementation of policies for reintegration.

10. The role of local government and civil society ought to be valorized

Roundtable 3

Policy and Institutional Coherence and Partnerships

Synthesis of sessions

3.1. Policy and institutional coherence: latest data and research findings

3.2. Regional and inter-regional processes and for a

Short Summary & Key recommendations for action:

The Roundtable discussed on the basis and conclusions of the background papers. The challenge of understanding coherence was raised as an important one: What and who needs to be coherent for which aim? The global economic crisis has put into question some of the previous concepts of coherence, and the role of the state and the need to protect migrants and their rights need to be addressed, contrary to the criminalisation of migrants currently being observed. Development should be understood in broad terms as in the concept of human development and also take into consideration social costs and benefits, and not merely focus on economic growth. Similarly, for policy coherence to make sense, all forms of migration need to be considered. This includes temporary, permanent and irregular migration, as well as circular and return migration, but also the need for protection of refugees and displaced persons.

The roundtable underlined the need for a solid rights framework based on international conventions. The rights of individuals and their families was seen as a potential rallying point for civil society at local, regional, national and international fora.

At the same time, it is necessary to break down silos which have been formed between migration and development, but also other relevant areas such as trade. Climate change must increasingly be taken into consideration in the context of both migration and development.

There is a need to improve the evidence base, but it is also necessary to get policy makers to use available evidence and

research. Civil society organisations need to be brought into the research and policy processes and discourse in a more inclusive manner and with meaningful consultations; this is particularly relevant for migrant associations and diaspora organisations that have to find ways to lobby governments in a feasible, yet principled manner. There is thus a need for transparency regarding available data and research, and the sharing of available data.

Recommendations:

1. A link between migration profiles and poverty reduction strategies could serve as a useful instrument to link broader definitions and identify needs for programmes and cooperation.

2. Analyses of remittances and their impact need to be more robust. The analysis should not be limited just to topline numbers, but should also consider the benefits and costs for individuals and their families and communities. Here, as in other topics of the research agenda, quantitative and qualitative methodologies ought to complement each other to understand both the scope and scale, as well as the processes.

3. Research areas that would be useful to prioritise include: the migration-development nexus areas and the respective impact on social and human costs; measuring the qualifications of skilled workers; interdisciplinary research which involves other actors; the effect on children of migration. The allocation of funding by governments for migration control versus migration development areas, as well as the impact of the funding ought to be researched better. There is a need for research on the impact of migration on receiving countries in a more nuanced way, and it is necessary to encourage sharing of research findings with migrants themselves. The 2010 census/surveys should include migration specific issues, it was felt that this opportunity should not be missed.

4. As the health sector is significant for development and migration, in countries of origin and destination, and as information from diaspora organisations is available, this sector may be particularly highlighted as a pilot research area through which to understand the links between migration and consequences for societies; the specificities of the distinction between high and low skill, high and low paid migration; and how skills are used (including recognition of qualifications, etc); as well as the issue of 'de-skilling'.

5. A clearing house for sharing available data and research

was seen as appropriate - which could be started on the basis of bilateral pilot agreements between countries.

6. Capacity building and training, preferably in cooperation between government officials and civil society, on issues of human rights, diversity, understanding migration and development priorities was regarded as important. It was regarded as desirable to develop tripartite structures as they exist in the ILO and other UN bodies to come to achieve results, however, they would need to include migrants and diaspora associations. This model would be useful and can be started at all levels, local, national, regional as well as global. It is necessary to build capacity within civil society (CS) and migrants' and diaspora organisations to be able to engage in policy formulation. The need to develop concepts concerning the integration of return migrants in countries of origin was raised.

7. Time, human and financial resources for civil society engagement as well as for research, and for governmental cooperation need to be invested to achieve necessary improvements for the benefit of all, countries of origin, transit and destination, but first and foremost, for migrants and their families.

Roundtable 4

Synthesis of sessions

- 4.1. Building Alliances: Business
- 4.2. The Future of the Forum

Short Summary & Key recommendations for action:

The first session of this roundtable focused on Building Alliances: Business Engaging with other Civil Society Actors and concluded that the status quo is not working. Alliances among civil society, business and government are necessary in order to:

1. Improve the regulatory environment

a. We already have a set of ILO treaties and conventions (97, 143, 181). Governments are urged to ratify and enforce them.

b. We need to seek greater transparency and clarity

i. There needs to be clear information about the treaties and conventions impacting migration that exist on a bilateral level. Civil society needs to be aware of these agreements in order to properly advise migrant workers.

ii. National immigration laws and regulations should

be easy to understand, the number of categories should be limited, and changes should be made only when necessary.

iii. Immigration procedures should be straightforward and processing should be quick, consistent and inexpensive.

2. Protect migrant workers by

a. Granting all workers human rights and labour rights regardless of their migration status.

b. Informing all parties involved of their responsibilities.

c. Holding all employers to the same standards for worker protections (migrants can sometimes exploit other migrants).

d. Establishing cooperation between civil society and government and seeking better data (how many migrants, who are they?)

e. Communicating clear, coherent and trustworthy information about issues of importance to migrants including healthcare and legal advice.

i. Choose the most appropriate manner according to context and literacy levels of migrants. This could be a readily-accessible, easy to use brochure or pamphlet "charter of migrant rights."

ii. As an example, in Los Angeles NGOs, government officials in charge of labour matters, churches, labour unions, regional chambers of commerce and Mexican consular officers work together to inform migrant workers about their rights.

3. Improve the image of migrants by communicating the real facts

a. Migrants should be seen as business actors and entrepreneurs that shape a new economy, not just as "migrant workers".

b. Business should use its marketing expertise to make the business case for migrant workers and to help improve the public perception of immigrants.

c. Studies should be done and publicized about the favourable impact of immigrants on an economy.

4. Share best practices across all sectors.

a. A virtual forum or platform should be created to share what works well and what does not work well.

b. Business and other members of civil society should have regular meetings.

The second session that was held in parallel explored the Future of the Forum and critically evaluated it concentrating on four key issues:

- Civil society has its own mission, but it is not disconnected to the Government Forum.
- Civil society calls for more accountability on the Government Forum recommendations.
- Civil society looks at its own accountability.
- The CSDs of the Global Forum are a unique opportunity to dialogue at global level. This however, has to be grounded on democratic and transparent processes and structures in order to have more impact, improve learning and focus.

ANNEX C

The FUTURE OF THE FORUM *A Position Paper of Migrants' Rights International*



As early as 2004 in the preparations for the Regional Consultations of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), and the UN High Level Dialogue On Migration and Development (HLD on M&D) MRI has been involved in the deliberations in the above mentioned fora. More importantly MRI has not only participated in the same, but has also played a key role in creating awareness about the events which have followed through as the GFMD process.

MRI has been engaged in shoring up CSO interest through a pro-active agenda of critical engagement with the GCIM, UN HLD on M&D, GFMD 1, 2, and 3, through mobilizing interest, concern, and participation in the above and also by convening an alternative space in the Parallel Events (called People's Global Action (PGA) since 2008) which date back to the UN HLD on M&D in 2006, for CSO actors who for many reasons were not accommodated in the State/ Foundation led process.

We understand that the GFMD process is one that is evolving and that a full cycle will come to a completion in the UN HLD on M&D in 2013. We appreciate that is a state driven process that is largely determined by the Friends of the Forum, the Steering Committee, and the Troika, and that the host country and the Foundation responsible for the organizing of the Civil Society Days (CSD) have many

challenges to surmount in bringing about progressive changes.

We commend the willingness of the Mexican government to step into the shoes of Argentinean Government which declined from the hosting of the 4th GFMD in 2010. Given all the limitations, and in the interest of establishing a framework of programme and action that would most effectively bring about meaningful and sustainable CSO participation in the GFMD deliberation, while reflecting on what we have observed, facilitated, and accomplished since 2006, we propose the following model, which is being suggested by MFA after having some discussions on the same at the regional and global level with a significant number of its members and partners. The model is being suggested knowing that the ideal situation of stakeholders talking together without distinction is not yet possible but could possibly evolve to that stage. The model is also being put forward as one possible model knowing that no precedent has been set yet as we continue to see what is best workable. The above has its own limitations and could definitely be enhanced should we conduct a wider consultation which we in MRI would be happy to process.

We propose the following model:

- 1) That Mexico as host of the GFMD call for this process to culminate in a UN Global Conference on Migration and Development which is a standing resolution of the UN General Assembly that has yet to see the light of day.
 - 2) That the CSO days be immediately brought out of the 'Event Mode' and be one that is 'Process Oriented,' and in place from the final day of each GFMD. The States have the FOF, the SC, and the Troika that ensure continuity whereas CSO actors are left in the blind as to who would be responsible for organizing the next CSO days in the GFMD, and more problematically to a selection process that only determines a few months prior to the GFMD as to who has been 'selected' to fully and actively engage in the GFMD process.
 - 3) That 'Observer Status' be granted to CSO representatives to attend the FOF and the SC meetings of the GFMD, and that this schedule be put out well in advance. Observer status would allow CSO representatives to give feed back to the larger constituency information that would be helpful in CSO deliberations, programming, and preparations on the ground in relation to the Migration and Development. Observer status would lend towards the CSO days being more 'Process' oriented. It is in-sufficient that the Foundation organizing the CSO be given the opportunity to participate in the FOF and SC meetings, as their stake, intervention, and commitment to continuity, falls far short of what is expected as has been demonstrated in the past two and current GFMD process.
 - 4) That national consultations be held prior to the GFMD which shore up civil society participation and deliberations, and possible self-selection of delegations. MRI/ MFA have an existing practice that much could be learnt from in terms of establishing a sustainable practice.
 - 5) That regional consultations held as a preparatory process to the GFMD and its parallel event be taken into deliberations as essential background and preparatory material for State and CSO representatives to the GFMD.
 - 6) That State delegations should have at least one member of Civil Society who is a member of the delegation.
 - 7) That the civil society day be held at-least 4 days prior to the days allocated for government deliberation.
 - a) Civil society meets for the first two of the four days (this suggestion is being made in light of the fact that one day for global civil society to meet is not enough and that it would be important for us to have a stab at a process that would help in the building of an organic civil society process that would link up with the GFMD process)
 - b) On the third day (after the report of the CSO has been finalized, a cross section of civil society meet up with the steering committee of the governments of the GFMD, the Troika, and other governments that may wish to join, (Essentially only the SC and the Troika). The dialogue will be informal Chatham House rules applying.
 - c) It would be the co-responsibility of the government representatives who met up with civil society to bring to the government discussions the concerns, insights, and recommendations of civil society to the government plenary and roundtable sessions.
 - d) A representation of civil society be present in the government deliberations in both the plenary and the roundtables with overall observer status, but participation in either one form i.e. plenary or roundtable (New York allowed roundtables only, Brussels allowed plenary only with room for questions and clarification, Manila allowed presentation at plenary only. The ideal would be participation in plenary and roundtables).
 - 8) That the rest of civil society at their own cost may continue to stay on to follow the government deliberation through overflow rooms with closed circuit TV (New York model).
 - 9) Some process of feedback to be adopted wherein the government representatives that participated in the dialogue with civil society representatives, on how the civil society inputs were accepted/adopted/appreciated, and what could be possible next steps in preparations for the succeeding GFMD.
 - 10) That CSOs be consulted in determining the themes of the Roundtable discussion of the GFMD where important subjects like 'Migration and Detention,' 'The Gender Dimensions / Challenges of Migration Policy,' 'Children and Migration and Child Migrants,' etc. are taken up as they are so substantially linked to the Migration and Development discourse.
 - 11) That the International Advisory Committee (IAC) constitute of members who have been involved in the GFMD process and are willing to give time and commitment to the responsibilities as the IAC.
- That the hosting of the next GFMD (Mexico) be not the responsibility of a Foundation that selects an IAC, but that it be of a consortium (which includes the Foundation), in which all consortium members are equal partners and resources are allocated for the optimum / effective functioning of the consortium.
- 12) That the selection of the Chair for the CSO days be a decision that is made in consultation with the IAC and that

the IAC and the CSO Chair have opportunities to share thoughts / insights on how best to work towards the effective output/impact of the CSO days of the GFMD.

13) That the IAC have a key role in determining the paper writers, resource persons, moderators/chair/ facilitators of round table sessions of the CSO days.

14) That IAC members be given the full list of applicants to the CSO days of the GFMD and that they be allowed to rank all based on criteria set.

15) That serious effort be made to draw into participation CSO representatives from typical migration flow areas that are largely unrepresented in the GFMD process, e.g. the Gulf and the Middle East, the Pacific, and Central Asia.

16) As a process that ensures Civil Society continuity in the deliberations of the GFMD we call upon the Mexican Government to recognize the Parallel Event process (PGA) as one that brings out the limitations of the GFMD process by due recognition of the efforts put into a self-organizing process in relation to the GFMD, and by deliberating for implementation its outcomes.

Through the Parallel Event (PGA) MRI has been able to do an outreach to the under-represented migration flow areas, and has in a limited manner (due to resources) ensured participation.

In convening the Parallel Event (PGA), MRI and its Co-Conveners have been able to mobilize the broadest network of multi-level stakeholders which have in fact not only enriched the participation in the CSD of the GFMD, but helped supplement the gaps and short comings of the GFMD process. The PGA brings about a broader discussion, allows for more depth (since it is an ongoing process and often stretches beyond just 2 days (10 days in Manila, 5 days in Athens etc.). The self-organizing process of the PGA has drawn stakeholders over the last 3 years to the point that the participants at the PGA have out-numbered those at the GFMD -CSD. Substantively it is would be therefore important to reflect upon how the process can be essentially linked to the GFMD.

ANNEX D

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Mon ***Remarks to the Third Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (as delivered)*** ***Athens, Greece*** ***4 November 2009***

On behalf of the United Nations and all of its Member States here, I would like to thank the Government of Greece for hosting this third Global Forum on Migration and Development.

What a fitting place for us to meet. Greece is a crossroads. One of the most beautiful words in the Greek lexicon is philoxenia – friendship towards strangers. For thousands of years, the sons and daughters of Greece have been venturing to all reaches of our planet. Today, Hellenes can be found almost everywhere in the world contributing in countless ways to the societies of which they are now an integral part.

Meanwhile, the economic success of Greece has transformed this country into a magnet for migrants, both returning nationals and many others as well. They, too, are becoming an integral part of your country, contributing to your economy and enriching your culture.

This dual experience of yours?as a country of both emigration and immigration?has endowed Greece with a more profound understanding of the opportunities and challenges posed by migration. Thank you for your contribution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is only the third Global Forum on Migration and Development, but it is already shaping the debate in important ways. Participation remains extraordinarily strong. As a result of the Forum, practices on the ground are changing. Migrants, diaspora organizations, and other civil society leaders are enriching the conversation.

Together, our goal is to harness the power of migration to reduce poverty and inequality – to help more people share in the world's prosperity?and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We are here to ensure that migration and development policies are founded on evidence, not fuelled by prejudice.

We meet in what I call an age of mobility. An era where people cross borders in growing numbers in pursuit of opportunity and hope for a better life. Today, the number of international migrants is greater than at anytime in history,

with 214 million people living outside their country of birth. Thanks to the work of the Forum and others, there is a growing understanding about the good that such mobility can generate.

When managed well, international migration greatly improves human welfare and development. That message was at the heart of this year's UN Human Development Report. In countries of origin, migrants contribute to development by transferring remittances and transmitting new ideas and technologies. In countries of destination, migrants fill gaps in labour demand and skills to make the economy more productive.

But we have work ahead of us. Around the world, migration is often the subject of shrill debate – a wedge to provoke social tensions, drive political extremes, fan the flames of discrimination and hatred. We cannot yet say that the development potential of international migration is being fully realized. We cannot yet declare that the rights of migrants are being fully respected.

The conditions in which many migrants move and live continue to be treacherous. Human trafficking and sexual exploitation are disturbing realities. Many migrants still face high costs in migrating and lack vital information. Every year, thousands put their lives into the hands of smugglers or unlicensed recruiters. In many parts of the world, migrant workers still face appalling working conditions.

And in every part of the world, more can be done to build places where natives and newcomers join together for a common purpose; places where migrants and their families have assured access to education and health and other vital services.

Like so many of today's global challenges, migration cannot be addressed unilaterally. We must work together. United in purpose. United in action. I would like to highlight three challenges that add to the urgency for action.

Three issues that underscore how and why more countries have a stake in managing migration well.

First, the economic crisis. The global recession has highlighted the vulnerability of migrants, particularly recent migrants. Unemployment rates are usually higher among migrants and foreigners. They are often concentrated in sectors hit hardest by the crisis, such as construction, manufacturing and tourism. Migrants often lack safety nets. And many cannot afford to return home which makes them vulnerable to predatory practices.

The crisis has also soured public perceptions of migrants.

They become easy scapegoats for job losses or lower wages. Yet, the facts paint a different picture. Migrants tend to complement, rather than displace, national workers. They generate additional demand. They often perform jobs that nationals do not want, even in times of economic crisis. We must work together to expand that development potential and uphold the basic human rights of all people.

There is added urgency. Remittance flows -- the most tangible development benefit of migration -- are being affected. By the last quarter of 2008, there were signs that flows were slowing down. The World Bank projects that remittance flows are likely to fall 7 to 10 per cent in 2009. As a result of all these developments, more countries have a stake in better managing migration flows.

The second challenge is climate change. The effects of global warming will be far-reaching. At least 10 per cent of the world population lives in low-elevation coastal zones that would be the first to suffer from rising sea levels. Forecasts of migration caused by climate change and environmental degradation vary widely.

Yet even the lower range would mean major population movements. Already, we are painfully aware of how the devastation of a modern city like New Orleans forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands. In poor countries, such as Bangladesh, perennial floods temporarily displace millions. In Africa, expanding desertification is affecting the migratory patterns of pastoralists and prompting more people to leave rural areas.

So far these movements have occurred mostly within countries. But that could very well change over time.

We are in a critical period, just weeks away from the climate change conference in Copenhagen. Negotiations have recognized that migration is a likely consequence of climate impacts. Populations will relocate due to more extreme weather including prolonged droughts, intensive storms, wildfires. In some cases, as with small island nations, whole countries are under threat. Protecting vulnerable communities must be a priority in both national and international adaptation efforts.

We need action and agreement in Copenhagen. We will continue to push for the most ambitious targets and agreement possible.

Third, we must devote special attention to the most vulnerable migrants of all – victims of human trafficking, especially women and girls. Human trafficking injures, traumatizes and kills. It devastates families and threatens global security. And it involves abhorrent practices, including debt bondage,

forced labour, torture, organ removal, sexual exploitation and slavery-like conditions.

Traffickers deny victims their fundamental rights, including freedom of movement and freedom from abuse as well as access to health, education and decent work.

There are still many countries that are not yet parties to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. There is still much to do to boost international cooperation in combating such heinous practices.

That is why I have launched a global campaign to prevent all forms of violence against women. I ask you to join with me in making this commitment: no tolerance for trafficking in women and girls.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we look to these challenges, we recognize that in many ways, migration is not just a journey of people – it is a journey of policy. Our destination is a global system of mobility that allows people to move in legal, safe and orderly ways with full respect for their dignity and human rights.

Together we seek a transformation of the conditions in which people move across borders, forge fulfilling livelihoods in their adopted societies and, in the process, expand their freedoms. The evolving system must respond to the new realities of our globalized world.

Too many migration policies assume migrants will behave in ways that most people do not. For instance, policies might assume that migrants would willingly go home after a short time abroad even if they lack a legal pathway to migrate again. Policies might assume that highly skilled people would accept working abroad for long periods without their families. We must work to develop supportive policies that do not go against human aspirations, subvert our development goals or complicate inter-State relations. This year's Human Development Report proposes a policy package that includes access to migration opportunities, better treatment of migrants and sensible measures to optimize migration's contribution to development. The package is politically feasible, responsive and adaptable to the changing nature of the global economy and the global environment.

The United Nations system is reaching out to a broad range of stakeholders. The EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative, for example, is playing an important role in forging the supportive system needed to realize the benefits of migration. Many Governments are working to realize their commitment to safeguard the rights of migrants.

But there is more work ahead. Let us never forget that in the end, policies and laws are really about people and values. We are here to deepen our commitment to the common values of inclusion and social acceptance, education and understanding.

Here in Athens, let us take inspiration from the ancient Greek term of "philoxenia" – and let us work together to make it a modern and global reality in every corner of our world.

Thank you for your commitment.

Migrant-led People's Forum Challenges Governments on Human Rights Abuses

NNIRR / MRI

by Colin Rajah

For Immediate Release
Thursday, 29 October 2009

Contact:

Joe Valencia; +30-6942879368, balita_jv@imn.gr
William Gois; +30-6988848604, mfa@pacific.net.hk
Colin Rajah; +30-6985564495, crajah@nnirr.org

Migrant-led Peoples' Forum Challenges Governments
on Human Rights Abuses against Migrants

(Athens, Greece, 1 November 2009) On the eve of a global summit on migration, migrant communities from around Greece and the world, converge into Athens to launch their own "Peoples' Forum" and challenge the policies being deliberated. The 4th Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA) – organized by an international coalition of migrant groups in Athens alongside migrant groups from around the world, human rights organizations, trade unions, development NGOs and other civil society – criticized the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for not heeding the critical conditions migrants face, and exacerbating ongoing abuses against them.

In conjunction with the 3rd GFMD hosted this year by the government of Greece, the PGA kicks off on Sunday to denounce ongoing government policies to criminalize immigrants and use them as scape-goats for the crippling global financial crisis. This year's GFMD convenes in the midst of a worldwide economic recession that has witnessed increasing crackdowns against immigrant communities who have already been deeply impacted with loss of jobs in their home countries and countries of destination.

"The governments must not consider migrants as disposable commodities – developing policies that use and dispose of us according to their economic whims", declared William Gois, President of Migrants Rights International (MRI), Coordinator of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and a lead organizer of the PGA. "After some progress last year in Manila to affirm the dignity and human rights of migrants, this year's GFMD has regressed into exploring how migration can benefit the economic growth and development of countries, without considering the ongoing abuses and violations of migrants' rights."