

**Open letter from Civil Society to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
and President of the UN General Assembly Sam Kutesa  
on the occasion of International Migrants Day**

- for including migrants and migration in the new Sustainable Development Goals

18 December 2014

Honourable Mr. Ban Ki-moon,  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Honourable Mr. Sam Kutesa,  
President of the UN General Assembly

Dear Mr. Secretary-General, dear Mr. President,

On this occasion of International Migrants Day, we present you the attached page of goals and targets that reflect migrants and migration—including refugees and displaced persons—as transformative actors in human and economic development. We do so with appreciation that indeed your advance *Synthesis Report* as well as the *Outcome Document* of the states' Open Working Group point directly to several of these goals and targets.

309 civil society organizations and networks around the world have signed this "*Stockholm Agenda*", which emerged from the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and parallel civil society processes in Sweden in 2014, and has since been taken forward by the civil society Migration and Development Network (MADE).

We 309 are migrant-led and diaspora associations, human rights and development NGOs, faith-based and workers organizations, academics and private sector businesses and organizations. We are advocates but also practitioners—often partners with governments and UN agencies, active on the ground, at grass roots, in rural areas and cities, at national, regional and international levels.

We believe it is time that universal and national development goals refer explicitly to migrants and migration. The "case" and connection of human mobility to development is made in so many ways:

- *Demographically*, as paragraph #30 of your Synthesis Report observes, a billion people live and work outside the place of their birth. Migrants in a mobile world, we are everywhere, move everywhere, contribute in manifold ways to development everywhere.
- *Economically*, migrants of all kinds and the diaspora work and create jobs: starting some 1 in 7 companies currently in the US and UK for example. Migrants send half a *trillion* dollars *a year* in remittances to their families and communities of origin—more than three times official development assistance. The Outcome Document and #117 of your Synthesis Report are wise to call to boost development by reducing transfer costs for these remittances. But further notable for development: migrants spend and save another four times that amount in their countries of residence.

- *Socially*, the evidence is clear that rights and diversity are not only positive in themselves but overwhelmingly positive for sustainable human development.

You will see in the Stockholm Agenda—as in #72 of your Synthesis Report: civil society’s first emphasis on decent work and social protection, importantly in countries of origin as well as in countries where migrants work. This is essential for migration to be a choice, not forced for lack of livelihood and survival possibilities at home, and for development to be truly full and fair. You will also see civil society pressing for safe, orderly and regular migration—as does the Outcome Document, and insisting on human and labour rights every step and job along the way, as does your Synthesis Report. These are key to sustainable human and economic development, for refugees, migrants and all of society.

We were grateful to see you with us at the GFMD Mr. Secretary General. As then, and as you repeat in #'s 51 and 68 of the Synthesis Report, we ask you to really leave no one behind in the new Sustainable Development Goals.

Respectfully yours, with and on behalf of the organizations signing the *Stockholm Agenda*,



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NB. Further background information about the Civil Society Stockholm Agenda is available on [www.gfmdcivilsociety.org](http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org)

Attachment: Civil society *Stockholm Agenda*, with signatories

## Civil Society

# "Stockholm Agenda"

## on migrant and migration-related goals and targets

### in post-2015 global and national development agendas

Point 1 of the "5-year 8-point Plan of Action" that global civil society presented to the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013 (HLD) calls for the integration of migrants and migration into the post-2015 development agenda "to address not only the contributions that migrants make to development in countries of origin and destination, but also the possibilities for better policy planning and coherence that can make migration more genuinely a choice and not a necessity, and greater gain than drain."

Before, within and in follow-up to the 2014 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Stockholm, civil society came together to assert the following framework and a set of goals and targets that connect migrants and migration with human and economic development that is decent, sustainable and transformative.

Many of these goals and targets match and take forward important emphases of the consensus Declaration of Member States at the HLD and the work of a range of post-2015 processes, including the UN member states' Open Working Group and the April 2014 Dhaka recommendations.

Civil society proposes to collaborate with UN member states to ensure that the forthcoming post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development agendas reflect these goals and targets, and to together achieve, monitor and measure progress on them over the 15 years through 2030.

### I. Over-arching framework

Migrants and migration belong in international and national post-2015 development agendas, as both actors and subjects of human and economic development that is sustainable.

As a first matter, SDGs must address root causes and conditions that force people to migrate, especially surging global inequalities driven by current development and economic paradigms. We must move towards people and nature-centered, rights-based development. This is an urgent practical matter, but also a clear moral imperative, not least so that migration can be a choice, not a necessity. In this direction, the SDGs must include strong goals for:

- decent work for all, with labour rights, as a goal for all countries but with explicit reference to protection of migrant workers regardless of status
- universal publicly-funded and delivered social protection in critical areas of community well-being

Migrant earnings and remittances are important contributors to family and community development. Remittances however, are private transfers: they should not be diverted or used as the "answer" or substitute for development policy or assistance.

The SDGs must point to and incorporate full participation of migrants and diaspora as partners in public policy planning and implementation, development and data collection.

As described on the next page, a number of migrant and migration-related targets may fit either under broader SDGs (such as ending poverty; fair, accessible and adequate healthcare, education and governance; empowering girls and women, etc.) or together as a logical set for transformative human and economic development, including:

- decreasing remittance transfer costs
- reducing risks to migrants on the move, in particular: recruitment costs; lack of fair, regular and orderly channels of migration; criminalization of migrants; and risks to women and to children in contexts of human trafficking, transit and crisis
- portability of social security, pension and skills, including recognition of qualifications

## II. Targets under goals similar to the current MDGs or focus areas of the Open Working Group.

### GOAL 1

#### **Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth**

- Create and preserve decent work opportunities in countries of origin which make migration and re-migration an option instead of a necessity and mitigate brain drain
- Ensure that migrants enjoy decent working conditions and social protection that conform to international human rights and labour standards
- Ensure portability of skills and benefits

### GOAL 2

#### **End poverty**

- Reduce costs of labour migration, with priority to abolishing debt bondage and recruitment charges to migrant workers
- Reduce the cost of sending remittances
- Protect and promote the private use of remittances for family and community development

### GOAL 3

#### **Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality**

- Provide access to social and legal protection and decent work to migrant women and girls, including domestic workers

### GOAL 4

#### **Provide quality education and lifelong learning**

- Ensure migrants' access to education, particularly for children who are migrants themselves or the children of migrants

### GOAL 5

#### **Ensure healthy lives**

- Ensure that all migrants have access to adequate and quality healthcare

### GOAL 6

#### **Ensure good governance and effective institutions**

- Ensure that all migrants have access to justice and due process equal to nationals
- End policies and practices that criminalize and detain migrants based upon their migration status
- Increase participation and contribution of migrants in public policy planning and implementation
- Ratify and implement core UN and ILO instruments

### GOAL 7

#### **Ensure stable and peaceful societies**

- Increase public awareness of cultural, social and economic contributions of migrants and diaspora
- Institutionalize mechanisms that embrace and integrate or reintegrate migrants and their families into their countries of origin, heritage and destination

### GOAL 8

#### **Create a global enabling environment for development with new partnerships**

- Ensure that migrants and diaspora are fully engaged as partners in development
- Expand collaboration on and access to migration and development data

## III. Targets under a stand-alone goal for multi-actor global and national collaboration.

Civil society believes that this goal uniquely frames four targets to remedy inefficiencies and obstacles that block migrants and migration from achieving greater human and economic development.

### GOAL 9

#### **Enlarge human security and human development benefits of migration**

- Prevent and address international human trafficking and violence against migrants
- Improve systemic responses to forced migration, including migrants uprooted by crisis and climate change
- Facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, through enhanced international cooperation
- Reduce inefficiencies that generate large numbers of migrants lacking proper documentation

## IV. Measurable indicators for all of the above targets are being developed separately.

# Civil Society Stockholm Agenda Signatories

- 11.11.11 Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement
- Action Aides aux Familles Demunies
- Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)
- ADAP-INTERNATIONAL/USA
- Adrian Dominican Sisters
- ADYNE
- AFFORD
- Africa America Higher Education Partnerships (AAHEP)
- Africa Centre, Ireland
- African Diaspora Policy Centre
- African Migration and Development Policy Centre
- African Sky
- Agisra e.V./ Information and Counseling Center for Female Migrants and Refugees
- Agrani Bank limited
- Alianza por la Solidaridad (APS)
- Alliance against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN)
- Alliance for Brain Gain and Innovative Development (ABIDE)
- Annulliamo La Distanza onlus
- Antenne pour la Reconnaissance de l' Environnement au Congo (AREC)
- Artemisszio Foundation
- Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation
- Agenzia Scalabriniana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ASCS)
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
- Asociación de Mexicanos en Carolina del Norte, Inc. (AMEXCAN)
- Asociación PortiMujer
- Association Aide aux Familles et Victimes des Migrations Clandestines (AFVMC)
- Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD)
- Association pour la promotion des droits humains (APDH)
- Association Sénégalaise pour la Promotion des Energies Renouvelables
- Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII
- Associazione Noi per Loro
- AUXFIN International
- Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication
- Baptist Seminary of Mexico
- BASUG – Diaspora and Development
- Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla
- BRAC
- Burundian Women for Peace and Development (BWPD)
- CADI (Comitato Antirazzista Durban Italia)
- Cambia la historia
- Campaign2015+ International
- Canadian Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph
- CARE
- Caritas Internationalis
- Caritas Sweden
- CBO COMUNITARIAS INC.
- CEFIR
- CEFOREC International Network
- Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines
- Center for Migration Studies of New York
- Centre for the Study of Forced Migration
- Centre Guide pour la Migration (CGTM)
- Centre Social Jacques Brel
- Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)
- Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. (CDM)
- CFERD
- Childlink Foundation
- CHRD
- CIBAI Migrações
- Centro Internacional para los Derechos Humanos de los Migrantes (CIDEHUM)
- Club Migrante Cheran Southern Illinois/St. Louis
- CO-HABITER
- Colectivo de Apoyo para personas Migrantes (COAMI)
- Commission Episcopale pour la pastorale des migrants et des réfugiés / Burkina Faso -Niger
- Community Development Services (CDS)
- Computers for Development
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation
- Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Congrégation Romaine de Saint Dominique
- Congregations of Saint Joseph
- Conseil des Beninois de France
- Conseil des Migrants Subsahariens au Maroc
- Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
- Construisons Ensemble le Monde
- Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud
- Coordination SUD
- Cordaid
- Corporación Anne Frank Colombia
- COSIM Bretagne
- COSIM-Languedoc-Roussillon
- Countryside Community Church – A United Methodist Community
- C'Pro G
- CRID
- Curia Generalizia Agostiniana – Augustinians International
- Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)
- Development Fund/Utviklingsfondet
- Diaspora for African Development (DfAD)
- Dominicaines Missionnaires Adoratrices
- Dominicaines Notre Dame de Grace
- Dominican Leadership Conference/Dominican Sisters International
- Dominican Sisters
- Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration
- Dominican Sisters International
- Dominican Sisters of Bethany
- Dominican Sisters of Blessed Imelda
- Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and Solomon Islands
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Dominican Sisters of Houston, Texas USA
- Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
- Dominican Sisters of Springfield
- Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena
- Dominican Sisters of Western Australia
- Dominican Sisters- Sparkill
- Dominicans
- Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order Of Preachers)

# Civil Society Stockholm Agenda Signatories

107. Dutch Consortium Migrant Organizations (DCMO)
108. Ecodel pour le développement équitable
109. Edmund Rice International
110. El Amel Association For Social Development
111. Emmaüs International
112. ENERGIES 2050
113. ERCMOVE
114. Ethnic Supplies
115. Fairwatch
116. Federación de Clubes Zacatecanos de Santa Ana Ca. USA
117. Federación Zacatecana A.C.
118. Fédération des Associations FrancoAfricaines par l'Appui économique
119. Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR)
120. Fedyc Inc.
121. Femmes et Contributions au Développement (FECODEV)
122. FIMM
123. Finnish African Diaspora Platform for Development -FADP
124. Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, Kehys
125. Finnish Refugee Council
126. FOCSIV
127. Fonds pour l'avancement des droits humains des femmes d'Afrique Francophone (FADHAF).
128. Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issue des Migrations (FORIM)
129. Forum Syd
130. France Libertés
131. Fraternite Solidarite Jeunesse Cote D'Ivoire
132. Fundación BBVA Bancomer
133. Fundación CEPAIM
134. FUNDACION ETNICA INTEGRAL
135. Fundación Scalabrini Chile
136. Georgian Diaspora Foundation
137. Gray Panthers
138. Greek Forum of Refugees
139. Habagat Foundation
140. Health Services Workers' Union of TUC, Ghana
141. Healthnet TPO
142. Hellenic Platform Development
143. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
144. HIRDA
145. Hope Medical Enterprises
146. Hsinchu Catholic Diocese Migrants & Immigrants Service Center (HMISC)
147. Human Rights Journalists Association (HURJA), Nepal
148. INEDIM
149. INHURED International
150. Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Sociales y Desarrollo INCEDES
151. International Catholic Migration Commission
152. International Council of Psychologists
153. International Council of Women (ICW-CIF)
154. International Detention Coalition
155. International Federation of Business and Professional Women
156. International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers
157. International Forum for the Rights of Black People
158. International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI)
159. International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
160. International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences
161. International Young Christian Workers
162. International Youth Association TIP
163. Irmãs Dominicanas de Monteils
164. Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (Iima)
165. Istituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione Acli (IPSIA)
166. İzmir Balkan Göçmenleri Kültür ve Dayanışma Derneği
167. Justice Team of the Congregation of St. Joseph
168. Kamerun4AfrikaClub e. V.
169. Kapo Seba Sangha KSS
170. Kathak Academy Bangladesh (KAB)
171. KEJIB AUS
172. Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA)
173. Kongregacia sestier dominikanok bl. Imeldy
174. Krokula
175. La Brique
176. La Federation des Associations de Migrants (FAM) L.D.H. Charleroi
177. Lanka Migrant Rights & Development Syndicate
178. Latin American Women Initiative For Development (LAWID)
179. Le Collectif des Femmes Africaines du Hainaut
180. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
181. Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons
182. Loretto Community
183. Maailmankauppahdistys Sikitiko ry
184. Markets4Development Ltd.
185. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
186. Maryknoll Sisters, CenterCerns
187. Maryknoll, ICR- Rome
188. Medimmigrant
189. Mekong Migration Network
190. MIGRAF
191. Migrant CARE
192. Migrant Forum in Asia
193. MIGRANTE AUSTRALIA
194. Migration and Sustainable Development Alliance
195. Migration Working Group
196. Mindanao Migrants Center for Empowering Actions, Inc.
197. MISIONES SALESIANAS
198. Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit
199. Maison d'Oeuvres pour le Développement Economique et du Leadership pour la Côte d'Ivoire (MODELCI)
200. Multicultural Women's Association MONIKA, Finland
201. Mujeres United for Justice and Equality towards Responsive and Empowered Society (MUJERES)
202. Mutuelle d'Epargne et de Crédit des Sénégalais de France
203. National Council of Women of USA
204. Nchekoua Business Consulting
205. Network of Migration Research on Africa (NOMRA)
206. NEXUS Solidarietà Internazionale Emilia Romagna
207. NGO Committee on Migration
208. Nigerian Diaspora Youths Movement for Peace and Development International Organization (NDYMPDIO)- Cameroon
209. Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Germany

# Civil Society Stockholm Agenda Signatories

210. ONG Fawzi Wanadiaty
211. ONG Mouvement d'Action pour le Renouveau Social (MARS)
212. ONG Un Monde Avenir
213. Organisation pour une Citoyennete Universelle
214. Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization
215. Pax Romana
216. PHALS
217. Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW)
218. Philippine Diaspora Network for Integration and Development Cooperation (PHILNETZ e.V.)
219. Phuong Dong Magazine for Vietnamese Communities in EU
220. Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD)
221. Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
222. Plateforme Euromarocaine Migration Développement Citoyenneté Démocratie
223. PNCC
224. Positive Runway
225. POURAKHI, Nepal
226. Presentation Congregation Queensland
227. Presentation Justice Network Ireland
228. Presentation Sisters
229. Presentation Sisters, Western Australia
230. Presentation Sisters, Victoria, Australia
231. Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga Australia
232. Presentation Sisters, Zambia
233. Presentation Sisters, Northern Province, Ireland
234. Presentation Sisters, San Francisco, California
235. Psychology Coalition at the United Nations, New York
236. Puntland Community ry
237. Racine Dominican Leadership Team
238. Recherches et Documentation Juridiques Africaines asbl
239. Red Casas del Migrante Scalabrini
240. Red Jesuita con Migrantes República Dominicana
241. Red Mexicana de Lideres y Organizaciones Migrantes
242. RED-UK
243. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, RMMRU
244. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
245. Representative Council of Ghanaian Organisations in the Netherlands (RECOGIN)
246. Research and Development Centre, Nepal
247. Research and Enterprise for Diaspora – UK (RED-UK)
248. Réseau de Compétences Solidaires
249. Réseau Marocain Transnational Migration & Développement (RMTMD)
250. Salesian Missions
251. Samenwerkende Moslims Hulpororganisaties (SMHO)
252. Save the Climat
253. Scalabrini International Migration Network – SIMN
254. Service International d'Appui au Développement
255. Serviço Pastoral dos Migrantes – Goiania
256. Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre
257. Shelter of Migrants Gonzalez and Martínez
258. Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters
259. Sisters of Charity Federation
260. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
261. Sisters of St Dominic or Blauvelt, NY
262. Sisters of St Joseph
263. Sisters of St. Dominic
264. Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ
265. Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma
266. Sisters of St. Dominic, Amityville, NY
267. Sisters of St. Joseph-Baden, PA
268. Social Development Cooperative
269. Society Development Institute, Slovakia
270. Society for Labour and Development
271. Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
272. SOLIDAR
273. Solidarité Agissante pour le Developpement Familial [SADF]
274. Somali National Association in Sweden
275. Somalia International Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC)
276. Soroptimist Club of Port Louis
277. South Asian Regional Trade Union Council (SARTUC)
278. Stichting SMHO
279. Syndicate of Kadischa
280. Tamkeen Fields for Aid
281. TCR Development Organization
282. Terre des Hommes International Federation
283. The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration (THP)
284. Tich Touch Ltd
285. TitanE Foundation
286. TOFRES
287. Together To Palestine
288. Tomorrow's Women Development Organization
289. Touiza Solidarité
290. Tour Operation et Initiatives Ecosoc
291. Transcode Programme
292. Turkevi Research Centre
293. UN Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons
294. UNANIMA International
295. Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M., US Province
296. Verité
297. Vifi Deutsche e.V
298. VIVAT International
299. WARBE Development Foundation
300. Women Lawyers without Frontiers
301. World Christian Life Community
302. World Council of Churches
303. World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
304. World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)
305. World Vision Finland
306. World Welfare Association
307. Women Worldwide Advancing Freedom & Equality (WWAFE)
308. Youth Advocacy Nepal(YAN)
309. YSEA Foundation