

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
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**INPUT OF MIGRANTS RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL AND THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEE RIGHTS TO THE
TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

Migrants Rights International (MRI)
The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

Migrants Rights International and the National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

Migrants Rights International (MRI)

Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development organized by the office of the President of the General Assembly. Related to that, we co-hosted a side event on *Migration, Development and Human Rights: A Civil Society Perspective and View to 2013* as well as a debrief for New York immigrant communities.

Contributions to the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2012

Towards the 2012 GFMD, MRI and NNIRR have already been actively engaged with ICMC and the Mauritian Chair-in-office. MRI Secretary and NNIRR Program Director, Colin Rajah, recently participated in the Brainstorm Meeting for the 2012 GFMD held in Mauritius this past January. Following that, we are supporting the efforts by the Pan-African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights to organize a regional preparatory process, beginning with a convening in Accra, Ghana in coming months. Similarly, MRI members in every region will organize respective regional preparatory processes as in previous years, including in the U.S. where NNIRR will co-organize a series of national civil society briefing sessions with U.S. government representatives from the U.S. State Department.

Next month, alongside the *United Methodist Women*

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and with NGOs to develop these modalities.

We urge the Secretariat, the office of the President of the General Assembly and member states to construct an HLD that fully engages all stakeholders in interactive dialogue, enabling creative exchanges and bold outcomes. There are several models of interactive inter-governmental engagement that has also included stakeholders including UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector. These include the *Financing for Development Roundtable* model; the *IV United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries* model; and the *Commission on Sustainable Development* “stakeholder” model, among others. We invite the Secretariat and the office of the President of the General Assembly to explore these models and to adopt a creative, interactive approach to the 2013 HLD that seeks real dialogue and engagement. We suggest an outcome document with real implementable commitments, drawn from “Chairs’ Summaries” of interactive round-tables that fully include civil society.

Both MRI and NNIRR are committed to this process, and would be pleased to be part of ongoing preparations regarding both modalities and agenda for the 2013 HLD.

New Initiatives in the Area of International Migration

The United Nations is a critical institutional arena for addressing global migration. Migration is a crosscutting concern that links human rights, sustainable development and peacemaking concerns of the UN. Thus, we welcome the HLD as a key opportunity to explore the intersections of these concerns and to address not only the outcomes, but the root causes of migration.

MRI and NNIRR, as well as our members and other partners, have co-founded the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), an international civil society alliance that brings together the largest regional, international and sectoral networks working around migration. The GCM and its members will actively collaborate to promote greater civil society engagement in all levels of global governance on migration.

1. We urge that discussions of “Development” in the Migration and Development nexus focus on **root causes of migration, communities’ right to development** and the fulfillment of global development commitments, going beyond current concerns on how migrants contribute to development. What policies must be implemented and commitments fulfilled so that migrants are not forced to leave their homes in the first place? How can governments shift policy focus away from how migrants can contribute to economic development (especially through remittances) to how governments can fulfill their national development obligations in order to prevent communities’ need to migrate for a more sustainable living.
2. The *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* continues to be the most comprehensive framework for global and national migration policy. As such, it should serve as a framework and guide deliberations at the HLD and future inter-governmental discussions. We suggest that an assessment of the **current status of the human rights of migrants** be a theme of the High Level Dialogue. This should include specific attention to migrant women, oppressed racial and ethnic groups and undocumented migrants.
3. The *Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families (CMW)* is a critical independent body of experts which monitors

4. We urge the HLD to urgently address current violations of migration enforcement, including those in border enforcement, detention and deportation policies, from a human rights perspective.