



Global Forum on
MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

GFMD Philippines 2008



Civil Society Days: Results and Recommendations



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GFMD Philippines 2008



- Civil Society Days of the GFMD 2008 was held last October 27-28
- The event was attended by 220 delegates, more than 50 resource persons and facilitators, and close to 100 observers.

Some statistics

- Delegates' profiles
 - 41% - Asia Pacific and Middle East (including the 30 delegates from the Philippines)
 - 17% - North and Central America and the Caribbean
 - 6% - South America
 - 27% - Europe
 - 9% - Africa



Some statistics

- Delegates' profiles



- 55% - represented NGOs or Civil Society Organizations
- 17% - represented trade unions
- 8% - from Diaspora organizations
- 7% - from faith based organizations
- 7% - from research and academic institutions
- 5% - from the business sector



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- Two-day format an improvement from Belgium's one-day in 2007, giving more time for discussion
- Agenda of the conference mirrored the government meeting with 3 round table themes
- Over-all theme of "Protecting and empowering migrants for development."



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- Introduced 4 new sessions:
 - Voices from the regions
 - Best practices in the business and professional world
 - Beyond GFMD: From Advocacy to Policy to Action
 - Interface between civil society and the government
- Incorporated the global financial crisis and its implications in the discussion



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- In the process of finalizing a full report on the CS Days consisting of 6 parts:
 - Over-all summary report
 - Report on each of the 7 sessions
 - Report on each of the Voices from the Regions workshops
 - Report on the session on business and professional sectors
 - Report on the Beyond GFMD session
- Management report being prepared to share with CS Days convenor for next year's GFMD in Greece

Key recommendations

- Session 1.1 – Protecting the rights of migrants – a shared responsibility
 - Ratify and enforce UN human rights treaties for equal treatment and protection of migrants, International Convention on the Protection of Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, ILO conventions 97 and 143
 - Harmonize national laws and migration policies with existing human rights and international labor standards

- Develop a standard language concerning rights and protection of migrants for bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Combat criminalization of undocumented migrants, specific attention to women migrants, including trafficking.
- Take responsibility of investing in long term development and creation of opportunities to promote migration by choice than necessity



Key recommendations

- Session 1.2 Empowering Migrants and the Diaspora to contribute to Development
 - Recognize the voice and contribution of migrant organizations and the diaspora in their development of policies
 - Allocate funds to enable migrant organizations and the diaspora to contribute more effectively



- Facilitate transfer and reduce cost of remittances of migrants through formal channels
- Increase access to information for countries of origin with regard to skills contribution of its migrants and Diaspora
- Revise immigration policies and laws in countries of destination to allow migrants to return temporarily to their countries of origin so they can use their skills to benefit country of origin and destination

Key recommendations

- Sessions 2.1 and 2.2 Fostering more opportunities for legal migration and Managing Migration and Minimizing the Negative Impacts of Irregular Migration
 - Migration and Development agenda should shift from national security issues and should re-center on or be put in the context of development issues and fundamental rights
 - Governments and society as a whole should recognize and promote the contributions of migrants to destination countries

- Government should expand channels for regular migration and recognize own workforce shortages and accommodate demand of migrants desperately seeking employment
- Ongoing regularization programs for undocumented citizens with fair and transparent criteria
- All migration should lead to steps to full citizenship in destination countries if desired
- All migrant workers have the right to labor law protection and should be given access and seek redress to any transgression



Key recommendations

- Session 3.1 Strengthening Data and Research Tools on Migration and Development
 - Governments should accept primary responsibility for data collection but recognize the valuable role that civil society organizations can play: filling in data gaps and offering constructive critiques of government data
 - Maintain and share data to create a comprehensive picture of migration and development issues



- Facilitate data collection in both countries origin and destination including sex-disaggregated data with international organizations
- Increase access to data
- Ensure civil society is more engaged in data collection
- Address data gaps on “difficult” issues – deaths/racism occurring at the border, specific migrant groups

Key recommendations

- Session 3.2 Policy and Institutional Coherence in Migration and Development within Government
 - Discussion of migration-development nexus must be put into context
 - Nations must recognize that migration is a product of *underdevelopment* and should address basic problem of creating economic opportunities for its people



- Institutional coordination and coherence requires governments to ensure structured dialogue between different government entities dealing with migration
- Ensure that national laws, bilateral agreements, and multilateral agreements are brought into accordance with human and labor rights standards

Key recommendations

- Session 3.3 Regional Consultative Processes at the interface of migration and development
 - Work with CSOs to develop better models of participation in the RCPs; models that recognize and respect diversity
 - Apply these models at the national and global levels. The challenge now is in how to link these different levels



Additional Recommendations

- Voices from the Regions
 - European Union should repeal the EU Return Directive or reconsider provisions that conflict with basic human rights of migrants and their children
 - Adopt policies aimed at extending social security and ensuring portability of entitlements of migrant workers through bilateral agreements

- Avoid detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants; consider and pursue alternatives to detention and never place certain groups (pregnant/lactating women, children, etc) in detention
- Reform temporary labor migration programs and ensure they are in a rights based approach
- Pay attention to social dislocation and frequent incidence of human and trade union rights' violation in relation to temporary labor programs. Temporary labor workers should enjoy equal treatment and opportunity as migrant workers

Additional recommendations

- **Business Practices: International migration for the benefit of workers and business – Best practices from the business and professional world**
 - Consider the structure of global governance in the shipping industry as a model for development in other sectors
 - Start regulating the recruitment industry by licensing, meaningful sanctions, and the prohibition of fees to migrant workers. Policy should also be in place mandating information sessions for migrant workers, which include cultural preparation, expectations, rights, and protections.

Beyond GFMD: From Advocacy to Policy to Action

- Recommendations for governments:
 - Consider the benefits of migration and resist the temptation to cut migrant numbers in the current economic circumstances
 - Recognize the need for the development of a global architecture to ensure rights-based approach to migration. UN urged to bring the GFMD back within its formal mandate
 - Re-affirm their commitment to development through realizing the MDGs, full employment and decent work as the priorities for development

Beyond GFMD: From Advocacy to Policy to Action



- For Civil Society organizations
 - Do more research to come up with concrete recommendations and programs for next year
 - Create a website that will feature an inventory of initiatives on migration work, and an e-group where exchange of ideas may continue

Consultation process among Philippine CSOs

- GFMD 2008 Philippine Organizing Committee (POC) organized a national consultation process to generate inputs from the civil society organizations in the Philippines.
- POC organized a subcommittee on national consultation. The subcommittee organized 4 consultation workshops in NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao
- Each workshop was attended by 40-50 NGO representatives

- Regional workshops served as a venue for participants to select among themselves the 30 delegates to represent the Philippines in the GFMD
- Two-day national assembly gathered the 30 delegates and served as venue to synthesize all their recommendations and dialogue with reps from government
- Dialogue served as an occasion for CSO delegates to present their recommendations to government
- Agreed to continue dialogue starting with post GFMD meeting to be convened by the government

Conclusion

From Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chairman of Ayala Corporation and Member of GFMD Philippine Organizing Committee

- A world where individuals have full knowledge on all worldwide opportunities to use their skills, their knowledge, and their expertise; in order to achieve their full potential as productive and empowered citizens of the world
- A world where entrepreneurs looking for talent, and individuals seeking employment, can easily find each other and freely and fairly negotiate the terms and conditions of their engagement

Conclusion

- A world where governments can craft laws, policies, and programs that will protect any, and all, citizens as they protect their own
- A world where migrants, given the full and unstinting support and protection of their home country and their country of destination, can contribute to development, not only of their families and hometowns, but also to the larger community of both sending and receiving countries



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Thank you