



RE: Invitation to Civil Society Consultation in preparation for the September 19<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Mayoral Forum

Dear Friends,

In preparation for the September 19 UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants and the third Global Mayoral Forum, which will be hosted in Quezon City in September 2016, KNOMAD of the World Bank, the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), the Joint Migration & Development Initiative (JMDI), and UNITAR invite you to participate in a **civil society consultation**—a daylong meeting that will be held **July 19<sup>th</sup> in New York City at the Church Center for the United Nations (CUNN) – United Nations Plaza located at 777 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (at East 44<sup>th</sup> Street) across from the UN, New York, NY.**

This meeting will be held in two sessions: the morning will concentrate on civil society consultation and preparation for engagement in the UN High Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants; the afternoon will focus on civil society engagement in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Mayoral Forum. At the end of the day, we will introduce an online platform for continued consultation in the lead-up to the Mayoral Forum.

The UN High Level Meeting will focus on developing “a more humane and coordinated approach” to addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, concentrating on “safe, orderly, and regular migration.” We will dedicate the morning following the civil society informal hearings to discuss implications for global migration governance and the urgent need for a rights-based approach, and strategies for engagement during the Summit.

We will dedicate the afternoon of the consultation to preparations for the third Global Mayoral Forum, which will be hosted in Quezon City, Philippines this coming September. This annual gathering brings together mayors and city leaders from around the world to engage in policy dialogue, exchange experiences, and strategize on how to work collectively. This year, the forum will focus on the theme “**Human Mobility, Migration, and Development**,” providing an opportunity for progressive city leaders to share and develop innovative approaches to migration governance at the local level. Specifically, this year’s Forum will focus on the role of diaspora in furthering development in communities of origin and destination, and the inclusion and protection of migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations within urban centres. See more here: <http://www.migration4development.org/en/events/third-global-mayoral-forum-quezon-city-philippines>

Plans are underway for a specific **interactive civil society session** during the Mayoral Forum at which **inputs from the New York and online consultations will be presented**. We hope that you will be able to participate in this consultative process in New York to share your expertise and insights to inform our efforts to engage city leaders to adopt progressive views on human mobility, to understand the practical challenges and opportunities for people on the move, and to think creatively about how to make cities welcoming, inclusive, and just for all newcomers.

The full concept note and program for the consultation are attached for your review. If you are interested in participating in this consultation, please register by July 18th by contacting Irma Carrasquero at the World Bank: [icarrasquero@worldbank.org](mailto:icarrasquero@worldbank.org) or 202-473-0110 or to [info@gcmigration.org](mailto:info@gcmigration.org).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dilip Ratha". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dilip Ratha  
Head of KNOMAD  
Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances  
Development Economics  
World Bank

# Civil Society Consultation in Preparation for the September 19 UN Summit and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Mayoral Forum



Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY  
19 July 2016

## BACKGROUND

This year, 2016, has become an important year for the refugee and migration agenda. On July 18, several of you will participate in the informal hearings between stakeholder and UN Member States to discuss the **September 19 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly**.

In September 2016, the global community will have several important events including: UN Summit on September 19 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Global Mayoral Forum** that will be hosted in Quezon City, Philippines on September 29-30. Given the importance of the issues of governance of migration as well as the local agenda and migration, it will be key to have a space to share ideas and propose actions that could serve as inputs to the global compact on migration as well as to the Global Mayoral Forum.

The zero draft outcome document for 19 September 2016 High-Level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants calls for “developing more opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration, including labor mobility at all skill levels, family reunification and education-related opportunities.... In line with our commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we will pay particular attention to the ethical recruitment of migrants, the reduction of recruitment and other migration-related costs, the facilitation of remittance flows and enhanced transfer of skills and knowledge.”

Several of the elements of the proposed outcome document will need implementation at the local level. When people migrate, cities are often their main entry points to their country of destination. Cities are at the frontlines of welcoming migrant workers, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and are tasked with supporting these newcomers in accessing services and supports as they adjust to their new context. Their role in the migration process is often overlooked, as city governments do not control national labour or migration policies. Unlike crossing a national border, cities are built to automatically accept migrants as residents without a selection process, and as such must work towards inclusive and welcoming environments in the interests of building peaceful societies to which everyone can contribute.

The new Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the international community in September 2015, recognize the important role of cities in this domain; SDG 11 calls for governments to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.” Globally, we see many cases in which city governments are developing innovative and practical approaches to migration governance, working to foster connections between new migrants and city residents who have been settled for a longer time and to quell anxieties over larger inflows of international migrants and refugees. However, racist and xenophobic discourses continue to colour much of the public conversation on human mobility, and city administrations often lack the required technical and human resources capacity to respond effectively to the demands of greater diversity. Indeed, cities vary in size and scope for action, and the issues they grapple with differ depending on their region and level of development.

We need to consider the role of cities, not only as implementers of integration policies for newcomers, but also, if the right local policies are put in place, as actors harnessing the development potential of migration. This entails that cities have a role in mobilizing diasporas to activate development linkages with the territories where they came from. City-to-city links are often created or maintained due to the presence of large migrant populations connecting them. If they can share a common vision and establish peer-to-peer cooperation, this represents a formidable development opportunity. Whilst cities are at the heart of decentralized partnerships for development, migrant and diaspora communities can play an important role in supporting these partnerships and in facilitating or undertaking some of the related activities.

Knowledge sharing across cities and different levels of migration governance, as well as direct and ongoing dialogue with migrant communities, civil society, diaspora and trade unions, will help cities to better understand migrants’ needs, the broader context of human mobility, and to think innovatively about inclusivity. Recognizing this need, KNOMAD, JDMI, UNITAR and UNDP created the Mayoral Forum which is an annual gathering that brings together mayors and city leaders from around the world to engage in policy dialogue, exchange experiences, and strategize on how to work collectively. This year, the Third Global Mayoral Forum, will be hosted in Quezon City, Philippines on 29-30 September 2016. The forum will focus on the theme of Human Mobility, Migration, & Development. This Forum will provide an important opportunity for city leaders to share and develop innovative approaches to migration governance at the local level, with a view to promoting inclusive, welcoming, and prosperous cities through rights-based initiatives rooted in principles of justice and equality for all.

In preparation for **both events — the September 19<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting** and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Global Mayoral Forum**, the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), the Joint Migration & Development Initiative (JMIDI), Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) of the World Bank, and UNITAR will host a preparatory **civil society consultation** — a day-long meeting that will be held **July 19<sup>th</sup> in New York City**. At this meeting, we will gather inputs from civil society in preparation for both events. An online platform for continued consultation in the lead-up to the Mayoral Forum will also be announced. The hope is that the outcome of the consultation will inform the September 19 UN Summit as well as the Mayoral Forum and specify CSO priorities on governance of

migration and the role of the civil society on migration at the local level collaborating with local governments.

## **CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide an space for civil society that amplifies the voices of civil society discussing the issues of global migration governance of migration at the global, regional, country and local level and the need for enhanced policy coherence at all levels
2. To explore current thinking about the Global Compact for Safe, Regularly and Orderly Migration including possible synergies between the civil society and local governments and relevant stakeholders addressing global migration governance
3. To offer a platform to discuss the role of cities in promoting rights-based, progressive, and practical strategies to build welcoming, inclusive, and just communities for all.
4. To solicit the views of civil society leaders on prospects for partnerships between civil society and cities in order to address key areas of concern — e.g., economic inclusion; responding to racism, xenophobia, violence, discrimination; building community responses to large migration flows
5. To solicit the views of civil society leaders on diaspora engagement and connections between cities in origin and destination countries
6. To provide information to civil society, especially migrant communities and their representatives, about the plans and expectations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayoral Forum

## **CONSULTATION ORGANIZERS**

### **Global Coalition on Migration (GCM)**

The GCM is a global coalition of civil society organizations collaborating on international migration policy and practice. The GCM members represent international and regional networks of migrant associations, migrants' rights organizations and advocates, trade unions, faith groups, and academia from every region of the world.

### **Joint Migration & Development Initiative (JMIDI)**

The JMIDI is funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The programme is implemented by UNDP, and six agencies, IOM, ITC-ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNITAR, and UN Women, contribute to the programme with their institutional knowledge, expertise and extensive networks to ensure its success. ITC-ILO and IOM have an important role in the conceptualization, design and implementation of the training material that the JMIDI will develop along the way.

### **Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration & Development (KNOMAD) of the World Bank**

KNOMAD is a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues. It draws on experts from all parts of the world to synthesize existing knowledge and generate new knowledge for use by policy makers in sending and receiving countries. KNOMAD works in close coordination with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Migration Group (GMG). Within the World Bank, KNOMAD is located in the Development Prospects Group of the Development Economics Vice-Presidency (DEC).

### **United Nations institute for Training & Research (UNITAR)**

UNITAR is a principal training arm of the United Nations, working in every region of the world. We empower individuals, governments and organizations through knowledge and learning to effectively overcome contemporary global challenges. Our training targets two key groups of beneficiaries: the delegates to the United Nations and others who develop intergovernmental agreements establishing global norms, policies, and programmes, and the key national change agents who turn the global agreements into action at the national level.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The outcome will be a summary of the sessions of the morning and afternoon, which will be circulated before and leading up to the deliberations at the September 19 meeting and in the Third Mayoral Forum as well as to different stakeholders.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The 30 to 40 civil society participants will include civil society representatives that are actively engaged in issues related with migration. Participants will be drawn from a variety of civil society groups that are working to influence the September 19 UN Summit outcome as well as the Mayoral Forum. The Global Coalition on Migration, JDMI, KNOMAD and UNITAR are currently consulting with the relevant networks on participants and speakers.

### **VENUE**

Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

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19 July 2016

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## CONSULTATION PROGRAM

### MORNING SESSIONS: Global Governance & Engagement in the 9/19 Summit

- 9:00am      **Welcome & Introductions**  
GCM, KNOMAD
- Purpose & objectives of the meeting
  - Expected Outcomes
- 9:20am      **Setting the context: Importance of discussing migration governance**
- GCM
- 9:40am      **Working Paper Presentation: “Strengthening the Migration-Development Nexus through Improved Policy & Institutional Coherence”**  
KNOMAD
- 10:40am     **Coffee/Tea Break**
- 11:00am     **Working Paper Presentation: “Global Migration Governance”**  
GCM
- 12:00pm     **Lunch Break**

## **AFTERNOON SESSIONS: Civil Society Engagement in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Mayoral Forum**

### **1:30pm      Setting the scene: Presentation of the Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, & Development**

UNITAR, JMDI

- Genesis of the Forum and its rationale
- Outcomes of the two previous editions in Barcelona and Quito
- Presentation of the third edition in Quezon City (stakeholders and themes covered)

### **2:00pm      Civil society input into the Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, & Development (2 sessions)**

*Open discussions organized by themes: participants share their experiences and recommendations for increased partnerships between CSOs and cities.*

#### **Session 1: On Inclusion, Opportunities and Participation off/for Migrants and Refugees within Urban Centres**

(Moderator: GCM and UNITAR, Rapporteur: CSO Participant)

- Partnership between civil society and cities to facilitate inclusion of newcomers (economic inclusion, access to local services, migrants' participation in civic life)
- Partnership between civil society and cities for reducing xenophobia, violence, and discrimination against migrants
- Partnership between civil society and cities for building resilience within local communities faced with large flows of refugees

### **3:00pm      Coffee/Tea Break**

### **3:20pm      Civil society input continues**

#### **Session 2: On Engaging and Supporting Diasporas in Furthering Development in Communities of Origin and Destination**

(Moderator: KNOMAD and JMDI, Rapporteur: CSO Participant)

- Partnership between civil society and cities to unlock the potential of diaspora engagement (mapping diaspora skills and expertise, cross-cultural communication, use of technologies)
- Connecting diaspora engagement with local development priorities and planning in origin and destination communities, including leveraging diaspora engagement in decentralized cooperation frameworks
- Creating local matching grants and other incentives to facilitate investment contributions by diasporas and returning migrants

- 4:20pm **Reports of the civil society input sessions and recommendations**
- Report-back by Rapporteurs
  - Additional inputs from the floor
- 5:00pm **Launch of online platform for civil society consultations towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayoral Forum**
- 5:20pm **Next steps and meeting close**  
GCM, JMDI, KNOMAD, UNITAR