

Migration indicators for post-2015: A civil society perspective  
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Good afternoon and thanks to all of you who planned this very helpful discussion. In my remarks today on behalf of Civil Society I would like to address the following items:

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1. The process that has brought us to this good energy around indicators
  2. The importance of disaggregated data for advocacy on migration issues
  3. indicators for the 17 OWG goals, including means of implementation and the FFD process
  4. Indicators for goals and targets derived from the Stockholm Agenda

## **1. PROCESS**

The process of transition from the Millennium Development Goals to formulating the Sustainable Development Goals fortunately has been accompanied by a process of wide and diverse input. As migrants, practitioners, activists, academics, and advocates for human rights and policy development, we are encouraged by the efforts of the international community to make the formulation of the SDGs an inclusive process in which a wide range of stakeholders are invited to participate. It is in this spirit that we are here today.

## **2. DISAGGREGATED DATA**

Disaggregating data is critical to the inclusion of all persons in what we call “people centered development”. This fact is acknowledged in paragraph #4 of the introduction to the Open Working Group Proposal,, where reference is made to the SDGs benefiting all and proceeds to list 10 diverse categories of persons.. It is also vital to ensure broad data disaggregation in the document itself.

In Open Working Group Target # 4:1, for example, which calls for equitable and quality education (primary and secondary school), how will we measure the achievement of these goals for migrant and refugee children, for whom such data is often missing? How will we know that the situation is improving?

The enthusiasm with which countries are embracing regional initiatives and country-led open data resourcing seems to be opening the door to broader and more transparent data collection. This will allow us to measure migration data more adequately and improve civil society and other stakeholder collaboration.

We are encouraged by efforts such as the Paris 21 Project which has already begun “country- led data revolution” pilot projects in seven

developing countries. We look forward to the capacity building which will generate needed data. This effort could benefit migrants by more complete information, for example, disaggregation by age and gender which is currently incomplete.

### **3. Civil Society Indicators for Open Working Group Goals: two examples**

- Target # 8.8 of Goal #8 is to promote, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Indicator ideas that we have developed for Goal 8, target # 8.8 speak to the following:
  - equal pay for equal work
  - freedom to change employers
  - due process for complaints, and penalties in cases of exploitation
  - employer responsibility for recruitment fees
  - recruitment of foreign workers by registered recruiters, who observe ethical methods of negotiating for needed workers
  - the right to participate in trade unions
  - human rights based circular migration
- Goal #17 the “means of implementation” goal is intrinsically linked to the development that migration fosters. We need to consider that migrants contribute to the economies of their countries of origin more than official development assistance and foreign direct investment, combined. This is not the responsibility of migrants, but if migrants are forced to migrate or choose to do so, their access to decent work should be facilitated and their contributions acknowledged. Furthermore, migrants give tremendous assistance to their “host” countries in the form of new businesses, taxes (yes!), and purchasing power. When they are enabled to do so, refugees make the same types of significant contributions. Migrants in the diaspora do a large amount of skill sharing and give monetary support to the communities in their countries of origin.

### **4 A Few Other Civil Society Indicator ideas derived from the Stockholm Agenda are these:**

- measuring financial support given by diaspora and return migrants for development initiatives
- measuring the progress of the portability of skills and benefits
- tracking the ratification of relevant UN and ILO conventions
- achieving the policy of no detention for children because of their or their parents immigration status
- Migrants (diasporas) involved in decision-making that affects them
- Increased regularization processes

*Demographically*, a billion people live and work outside the place of their birth. Migrants in a mobile world are everywhere, move everywhere, contributing in manifold ways to development everywhere.

*Economically*, migrants and the diaspora work and create jobs. For example migrants start 1 in 7 companies currently in the US and UK. And migrants spend and save another four times that amount in their countries of residence.

*Socially*, human rights and diversity are not only positive in themselves but overwhelmingly positive for sustainable human development.

Finally, as we work on indicators that are necessary to address not only the sustainable development goals but beyond them, into the future, we look at what orderly, safe and regular migration means to us. Migration can only be orderly if laws correspond with reality. Migration can only be safe if migrant rights are protected by law - *de jure* and *de facto*. Migration can only be regular if it is possible to secure visas to do work for which they have been recruited. In order that migrants be free to continue avenues of development, we need orderly, safe, and regular migration – that is the link between what we see as protection and rights based movement for human development within and between countries. Human rights, civil rights, and labor rights belong to every migrant. They are not "given"; they are intrinsic to human beings. They are listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Migrant Worker Convention, and in numerous ILO Conventions. Migrants make tremendous contributions to development. They and their families should be appreciated, supported, protected and counted,

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