

# Diaspora Report on Post GFMD 2012 Civil Society Days 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012 Port Louis, Mauritius

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## Background to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) emerged as an outcome of the UN General Assembly's *High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development* in 2006. It is a state-led, voluntary process dedicated to informal, non-binding and outcomes-oriented dialogue. Civil society partners, including, migrant and Diaspora organisations, human rights and development groups are also involved in the process through the two civil society days held prior to the annual meeting of state representatives. This year, over 800 representatives from civil society and governments from some 160 countries attended.

Each year the GFMD is organised by a different host government. In 2012, the Chair is held by the Republic of Mauritius. It was the first GFMD to be held in an African country.

The themes for this year were:

**Theme 1: Operationalising a Rights-based Approach to Labour Mobility, Markets and Matching** - to enhance human development potential in countries of origin, transit and destination through migrant skills and job-matching strategies and support to Diaspora.

- Working Session 1.A.: Regulating and Monitoring Recruitment, Placement and Employment Practices
- Working Session 1.B.: Improving Jobs, Skills and Education Matching

**Theme 2: Operationalising Human Development in International Migration** – to sharpen the practical tools for policy makers to link migration and development; and address South-South migration and development issues.

- Working Session 2.A.: Engaging Diaspora as Entrepreneurs, Social Investors and Policy Advocates
- Working Session 2.B.: Rights-based Development Solutions and Migration

**Theme 3: Operationalising the Protection of Migrants and their Families** - to ensure migration management policies protect migrants in vulnerable and/or irregular situations, and protect migrant domestic workers; and to foster more informed, balanced public debate about migrants and migration.

- Working Session 3.A.: Protecting Vulnerable Migrant Workers
- Working Session 3.B.: Protecting Migrants in Dire Humanitarian Situations

## **Diaspora representation at the GFMD civil society days**

Comic Relief, as part of the Africa-UK initiative, funded two Diaspora organisations to attend the 2012 GFMD civil society days in Mauritius to enable greater Diaspora contribution to the debates which directly affect them. MIFUMI UK and Zambia Diaspora Development Network (ZDDN) were selected to participate.

### **1. Organisation profile - MIFUMI UK**

MIFUMI UK is a diaspora-led women's rights and development organisation which has its roots in Tororo, Eastern Uganda. From its initial aim to provide education to children in Mifumi village in the late 1980s, MIFUMI has grown into a leading organisation tackling socio-cultural practices such as bride price and polygamy which further marginalise women and girls across Africa.

MIFUMI UK's mission is to work with communities in Africa and Diaspora groups in the UK to end violence arising from socio-cultural practices which limit the lives of women and girls across the African continent and within diaspora communities in the UK. MIFUMI UK works closely with her sister organisation, MIFUMI Uganda, towards achieving this mission in Africa. MIFUMI envisions a world where women and children live free from violence and can realise their full potential. To this end, MIFUMI collaborates with partners in Africa and the UK to champion women and girls' rights.

### **2. Organisation Profile – Zambia Diaspora Development Network (ZDDN)**

Zambia Diaspora Development Network (ZDDN) is a dynamic UK Diaspora-led non-profit organisation, which was established to provide a platform, network and forum to facilitate the effective and cohesive engagement of the UK's African Diaspora communities with international development issues. Their focus is to create successful cooperation and

learning networks between the UK African Diaspora, and other relevant stakeholders, and the communities in Africa.

ZDDN is committed to engaging individuals, communities, civil society, private sector and public institutions in collaborative and capacity building efforts in order to cohesively contribute to Africa's sustainable social and economic development. They do not only seek to engage, unveil and boost the capacity of the Diaspora, but also to establish a network of key stakeholders. In this way, assets, skills and expertise will be transferred to Africa, while strong connections will be forged between the communities. The ZDDN platform helps to enhance African Diaspora's involvement and participation in shaping development policy and delivering processes in the UK and Africa.

## Themes Attended by MIFUMI and ZDDN

Both UK Diaspora representatives attended:

**Theme 2: Operationalising Human Development in International Migration** – to sharpen the practical tools for policy makers to link migration and development; and address South-South migration and development issues.

- Working Session 2.A.: Engaging Diaspora as Entrepreneurs, Social Investors and Policy Advocates
- Working Session 2.B.: Rights-based Development Solutions and Migration

## Conference Outputs

### Theme 2: Operationalising Human Development in International Migration

The discussion points under Working Session 2.A. and 2.B. were as follows;

#### **Working Session 2.A.: Engaging Diaspora as Entrepreneurs, Social Investors and Policy Advocates**

##### **Part 1 – Changes needed**

**Changes** identified during the session as most urgently needed:

- 1 Mandating migrant participation in migration-and-development policy making bodies in origin and destination countries.
- 2 Including diasporas' priorities and Diaspora investments in development and human security plans and policies in origin countries.

- 3 Support migrants' / diasporas' investments, entrepreneurial endeavors and social remittances / knowledge transfers through funds (grants, matching grants, loans, guarantees, etc.), capacity building, business networking and legal protection.
- 4 Enact migrant-friendly laws, policies and units that protect the status of migrants / dual nationality/ citizenship and that respect migrants' / diasporas' skills and immigration statuses.

## **Part 2 – Tools and mechanism**

**Tools and mechanisms** discussed during the session, whether existing or needed, that can help in bringing about these changes:

- 1 Consultative policy-making mechanisms in which migrants / diasporas are included.
- 2 Development and human security plans that include Diaspora priorities and Diaspora investments.
- 3 Funds (grants, matching grants, loans, guarantees, etc.), capacity building, business networking and legal protection for migrant / Diaspora entrepreneurs and investors.
- 4 Dual citizenship / nationality law in origin countries.
- 5 Laws in host countries on mutual recognition of skills.

## **Part 3 – Recommendations for Action**

**Recommendations** put forward by the session for **concrete follow-up actions**, to be taken by civil society, governments, and other stakeholders:

- 1 Forming migration-and-development consultative policy making mechanisms in origin and destination countries, and mandating migrant / Diaspora participation.
- 2 Including diasporas' priorities and Diaspora investments in development and human security plans and policies in origin countries.
- 3 Support migrants' / diasporas' investments and entrepreneurial endeavours through funds (grants, guarantees), capacity building, business networking and legal protection.
- 4 Enacting dual nationality / citizenship laws.
- 5 Formulating laws on mutual recognition of migrants'/diasporas' skills.

## **Part 4 – Benchmarks**

**Benchmarks** against which success can be measured in the next years:

- 1 At least 30 countries have migration-and-development policy-making consultative mechanisms that explicitly include migrants / Diasporas.

- 2 At least 30 countries' development and human security plans have included diasporas' priorities and Diaspora investments.
- 3 At least 30 countries have programs / services / funds that support migrant / Diaspora investments (e.g Business grants / loans / guarantees; Business advisory services; Business networking; Financial literacy/education; Brain gain).
- 4 At least ten countries have enacted dual nationality / citizenship laws.
- 5 At least five host countries have laws on mutual recognition of skills of migrants/diasporas.

## **Working Session 2.B.: Rights-based Development Solutions and Migration**

### **Part 1 –Changes needed**

**Changes** identified during the session as most urgently needed:

- 1 Formulating national-level, bilateral policies on migration *and* development, considering the promotion of human and migrant rights and achieving human development objectives.
- 2 Forming and institutionalizing multi-stakeholder partnerships on migration and development —covering efforts to set global visions and sharing practices on migration and development, to address the social costs of migration, and to harness the development potentials of remittances and migrants' knowledge.
- 3 Origin and host countries should generate, produce and disseminate migration and development data. Then produce empirical policy studies on migration *and* development, and then feed into or inform migration and development policies especially at the national level.
- 4 Governments should initiate global, regional, national, and stakeholder-level policy advocacy efforts in relation to migration and development.

### **Part 2 –Tools and mechanism**

**Tools and mechanisms** discussed during the session, whether existing or needed, that can help in bringing about these changes:

- 1 Policies (e.g. national) on migration and development, including migrants' rights, cross recognition of migrants' skills, skills matching, and return migration.
- 2 Multi-stakeholder processes convening government, civil society, diasporas, and other stakeholders. Working group to analyse migration's impact on development, and development's impact on migration.
- 3 Migration and development databases by countries. Empirical policy studies on migration, remittances and human development. Migration and development indicators by origin countries.

- 4 Policy papers on migration and development, and then feeding into a process or consultation to engage migration into the post-MDG discussions / Regional consultative processes (RCPs), e.g. Inter-African.

### **Part 3 –Recommendations for Action**

**Recommendations** put forward by the session for **concrete follow-up actions**, to be taken by civil society, governments, and other stakeholders:

- 1 Origin countries to formulate migration and development policies/laws/strategies.
- 2 Set up multi-stakeholder processes/consultative mechanisms on migration and development.
- 3 Create relevant databases, studies and analyses on migration and development. Develop national-level indicators on migration and development for monitoring purposes.
- 4 Engaging in the post-2015 MDG discussions at national, regional and international levels.

### **Part 4 –Benchmarks**

**Benchmarks** against which success can be measured in the next years:

1. At least 30 origin countries to formulate migration and development policies/laws/strategies.
2. At least 30 countries set up multi-stakeholder processes/consultative mechanisms on migration and development.
3. At least 10 ten origin and destination countries create relevant databases, studies and analyses on migration and development. At least 10 origin countries develop national-level indicators on migration and development for monitoring purposes.
4. By 2013, a policy paper on migration and the MDGs is done and becomes an input into the post-2015 MDG discussions at national, regional and international levels. By 2013, a global/regional/national conference on migration and the MDGs is or are convened.

### **Part 5 –UN High Level Dialogue**

One priority recommendation and/or benchmark to be taken up by the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013:

1. Migration and development needs to be included in a new policy framework of sustainable development goals, agreed by all nations.

## Key Learning from the Conference

1. Civil society organisations called for full and active participation in the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development. In addition they called for opportunities for civil society to speak at plenary sessions and for funds to be made available for preparatory meetings and participation in the HLD.
2. There was a strong push for more meaningful dialogue and interaction between civil society and governments especially on the issues of migration and Diaspora engagement.
3. There need to be greater opportunities for civil society and in particular diaspora organisations to be involved in this type of international conference. Due to limited funding GFMD organisers were unable to offer many funded places leading to many civil society organisations being unable to participate in the event.
4. The role of the Diaspora in development goes far beyond remittances. Governments could harness this further through the creation of investment opportunities and policies which made setting up businesses easier, particularly for returning diasporans.
5. The incoming chair of the GFMD, Sweden, noted that unlocking the potential of migration was essential for inclusive development. Governments, migrants, migrant rights organisations and Diaspora organisations all have a role to play. Sweden takes over the leadership of the GFMD in 2013.

## Recommendations from the Conference

The following recommendations for concrete follow-up actions were put forward by civil society, governments and other stakeholders:

### Recommendations from theme 2A: Engaging Diaspora as Entrepreneurs, Social Investors and Policy Advocates

- Forming migration-and-development consultative policy making mechanisms in origin and destination countries, and mandating migrant / Diaspora participation.
- Including diasporas' priorities and Diaspora investments in development and human security plans and policies in origin countries.
- Support migrants'/Diasporas' investments and entrepreneurial endeavours through funds (grants, guarantees), capacity building, business networking and legal protection.
- Enacting dual nationality/citizenship laws.
- Formulating laws on mutual recognition of migrants'/Diasporas' skills.

## Recommendations from theme 2B: Rights-based development solutions and migration

- Countries of origin to formulate migration and development policies/laws/strategies.
- Set up multi-stakeholder processes/consultative mechanisms on migration and development.
- Create relevant databases, studies and analyses on migration and development. Develop national-level indicators on migration and development for monitoring purposes.
- Engaging in the post-2015 MDG discussions at national, regional and international levels.

## Moving Forward

From January 2013 to June 2014, Sweden will take over Chairmanship of the Global Forum. This will be an unusually long 18 month Chairmanship. This longer term in office is due to the fact that no GFMD meeting will take place in 2013 as all stakeholders are preparing for the UN HLD in New York on 3-4<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Sweden is looking to focus on three key objectives concerning the substance, process and impact of the GFMD:

1. **Substance** – to redouble the efforts to strengthen the development perspective.
2. **Process** - to reenergise the involvement and ownership by states and seek better outreach to other stakeholders.
3. **Forum's Sustainable Impact** - they hope that the Forum's sustainable impact on the global debate can be achieved by more stable and predictable funding, and by ensuring that the accumulated knowledge and good practice is shared and implemented more broadly.

The Forum's substantive outcomes could in particular feed into the High-level Dialogue in 2013, into the 2014 follow-up of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, and into the debate that has started regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

Turkey has offered to take over the GFMD Chairmanship after Sweden.



## Key Action Points for MIFUMI UK and ZDDN

### Key Action Points for MIFUMI UK

- Identify, engage and collaborate with key African-led networks – e.g. Pan African Network to add our voice to key debates
- Continue active involvement in key UK networks such as BOND and Africa-UK – MIFUMI UK has been selected as one of the partners to work with AFFORD to deliver the Africa-UK programme in 2013
- Strengthen advocacy efforts through increased engagement of policy-makers and governments
- MIFUMI UK could act as a hub linking UK-based Diaspora organisations with partners in Africa
- Increase awareness of the GFMD and the UN HLD to other diaspora organisation to increase diaspora involvement
- Learn from existing programmes such as Diaspora Business Centre which implements highly successful diaspora training and investment programmes

### Key Action Points for ZDDN

- Identify, engage and collaborate with key African-led networks – e.g. Pan African Network to add our voice to key debates
- Continue active involvement in key UK networks such as Africa-UK and Diaspora Volunteering Alliance (DVA) – ZDDN is also part of the Enough Food for Everyone IF Campaign, a huge coalition of UK-based organisations who share the vision of a world where everyone has enough to eat.
- Strengthen advocacy efforts through increased engagement of policy-makers and governments
- ZDDN could collaborate with other Diaspora organisations that are involved with GFMD Civil Society Days 2012 or whose works is linked to the focus areas of the conference.
- Increase awareness of the GFMD and the UN HLD to other Diaspora organisation to increase Diaspora involvement
- Learn from existing tools and programmes such as MITOS (Migration Tools – Options for Sustainability) and the Diaspora Business Centre in The Netherlands which implements highly successful Diaspora training and investment programmes

## Recommendations for Diaspora organisations

- Make ourselves unavoidable – Diaspora organisations should not just fade into the background but rather they should stand up as a united, visible and unavoidable force
- Learn the tools for engaging governments and policymakers
- Invite ourselves to the debate – Diaspora organisations should be proactive rather than reactive
- Create awareness of GFMD to further increase participation by Diaspora and non-Diaspora organisations
- Engage and collaborate with international organisations such as the Pan-African Network – creating greater strength in numbers and opportunities for learning / exchange
- Civil Society organisations should seek UN accreditation where appropriate
- Link up and share knowledge with other Diaspora organisation in the EU

## Recommendations for Other Stakeholders

- More partnership working between Governments and Diaspora organisations is needed
- Both Governments from Countries of Origin (CoO) and Country of Destination (CoD) to help in creating an enabling environment for Diaspora engagement
- CoO and CoD to actively assist in dispelling the negative image perception of the Diaspora
- Media in CoO and CoD to desist from constantly portraying the Diaspora in a negative manner
- Policy coherence is key when mainstreaming migration into development policy and vice versa
- Policy frameworks must be adapted to take full advantage of the potential of migrants to contribute to development.
- Remittances, labour migration and circular forms of mobility, labour market matching, and the Diaspora networks that stimulate entrepreneurship, trade and investments, can all contribute to positive development outcomes.

- The GFMD can only continue as a consolidated and sustainable process if it has stable and predictable funding.

## GFMD Resources

<http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org/Pages/Program.html>

<http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org/downloads/2012/programme/results/GFMD%202012%20CSD%20Statement%20%28final%29%20-%20EN.pdf>

<http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org/downloads/2012/programme/HLD/HLD%202013%20-%20Civil%20Society%20proposal%20for%205%20year%20plan%20as%20Negotiated%20Outcome.pdf>

<http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org/downloads/2012/programme/HLD/Civil%20Society%20Proposal%20for%20HLD%20-%20Nov%2030.pdf>

[http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/statement\\_by\\_the\\_incoming\\_chair\\_sweden\\_amb\\_akerman-borje.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/statement_by_the_incoming_chair_sweden_amb_akerman-borje.pdf)

[http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/opening\\_speech\\_of\\_acp\\_sg\\_chambas.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/opening_speech_of_acp_sg_chambas.pdf)

[http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/statement\\_by\\_the\\_african\\_union\\_com\\_kaloko.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/statement_by_the_african_union_com_kaloko.pdf)

[http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/opening\\_speech\\_of\\_unsrsg\\_sutherland.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/opening_speech_of_unsrsg_sutherland.pdf)

<http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org/downloads/2012/programme/results/GFMD%202012%20CSD%20Statement%20%28final%29%20-%20EN.pdf>

[http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/closing\\_remarks\\_of\\_permanent\\_sec\\_s\\_ragen.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/closing_remarks_of_permanent_sec_s_ragen.pdf)

