



Welcome Note to Participants of the Fifth Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Days

Dear Participant,

PSI welcomes you to the Fifth Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Days (GFMD CSD) that will be held on 29-30 November 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. We are proud to have you as part of the delegation of the trade union movement.

I. Background

The GFMD is an informal, voluntary and non-binding annual dialogue among States to discuss the relation between migration and development in view of forging cooperation. The GFMD came about in 2006 as a result of the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development at the UN General Assembly. States were not prepared to commit to an international conference to tackle the governance of international migration. So the best compromise was to create the GFMD, which is outside of the UN system and is voluntarily organized by States. The State that Chairs the GFMD hosts it. The following were the previous GFMDs:

- 2007 - Brussels, Belgium
- 2008 - Manila, Philippines
- 2009 - Athens, Greece
- 2010 - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

This year's GFMD is chaired and hosted by the Government of Switzerland. Every GFMD has a Civil Society Days (CSD) component that provides a venue for civil society to come together, discuss and make recommendations to governments. However, our strong criticism of the CSD is that it has no real influence on the GFMD process. In fact, the trade union movement is highly critical of the GFMD. Even though it is voluntary and non-binding, a lot of binding cooperation on migration, such as bilateral and multilateral labour agreements and migration management initiatives, have been forged under the auspices of the GFMD through its technical secretariat, the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In all these processes, there was the lack of transparency, democracy and involvement of trade unions, civil society and migrant stakeholders.

Nevertheless, the trade union movement continues to engage in the GFMD in order to advocate for a gender and rights-based approach to migration and development. Increasingly over the years, the discourse on migration and development is focusing at labour migration. Of the 214 million international migrants, (UN, 2010) almost half of them are economically active, or are engaged in the world of work (ILO, 2010).

In 2013, the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development will again be convened at the UN General Assembly in New York. At this UN HLD, States will evaluate the GFMD process in order to

determine its future. It is therefore critical for us in the trade union movement to use this GFMD to amplify our call for the GFMD to be brought back into the UN system. In this call, we highlight the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as the competent authority within the UN system that can deal with labour migration from the normative framework of rights and protection and within the agenda of decent work.

You will find attached 2 important documents to guide us in our lobbying and engagement:

1. Global Unions Statement to the GMFD
2. PSI Policy on Migration, Development and Quality Public Services

For Other background information, see:

Global Forum on Migration and Development: www.gfmd.org

GFMD Civil Society Days: www.gfmdcivilsociety.org

Peoples Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights:
<http://migrantwatch.org/pgs2011/>

II. Logistics

We are about 28 trade unionists out of the 200 Civil Society Delegates of the GFMD. Of the trade union delegates (see attached list), the following are from PSI and affiliates:

1. Peter Waldorff, PSI General Secretary
2. Genevieve Gencianos, PSI Migration Programme Coordinator
3. Annie Geron, PLINK/PSI Vice-President (Philippines)
4. Jillian Roque, PSLINK (Philippines)
5. Monica Neches, FSC-Comisiones Obreras (Spain)
6. Milka Isinta, KUDHEIHA (Kenya)
7. Tom Odege, UKCS (Kenya)
8. Franklin Ansah, HSWU (Ghana)
9. Shannon Lederer, AFT (USA)
10. Carol Adams, BCGEU/NUPGE (Canada)
11. Sofi Taylor, Overseas Nurses Network/UNISON (UK)

Most of the trade union delegates are booked at:

Hotel Lido, Genève
Rue Chantepoulet 8
1201 Genève
Tél. +41 22 731 55 30
Fax +41 22 731 65 01
Email: info@hotel-lido.ch

Hotel Lido is conveniently located near the Cornavin Central Train Station where you have access to trains, buses, trams and taxis that go around Geneva. The Palexpo Conference Centre, which is the venue of the GFMD CSD, is located beside the Geneva airport. All the practical information can be found at <http://www.gfmdcivilsociety.org/Pages/Logistics.html>.

Information on Hotel Lido at http://www.hotel-lido.ch/index_en.html.

For developing country participants, PSI will cover the hotel and per diem that cannot be covered from the sponsorship allowance provided by the GFMD CSD Organizing Committee.

III. Trade Union Schedule

Below is the trade union schedule (as of 21/11/2011). Should there be changes, I shall notify you by email or at the Trade Union Delegation Dinner at Alfredo Restaurant-Pizzeria, rue Chantepoulet, next to Hotel Lido on 28 November, 7pm.

28 November, Mon

Delegation Arrival

19.00 (7pm) – Delegation Dinner, Alfredo Restaurant-Pizzeria (next to Hotel Lido)

29 November, Tues - GFMD Civil Society Days, Palexpo Conference Centre¹

8.00 – 9.00 – Registration and Welcome

9.00 – 18.00 – Sessions

18.00 – 22.00 – Cultural Evening, Salle Communale de Plainpalais, Geneva

30 November, Wed – GFMD Civil Society Days, Palexpo Conference Centre

8.00 – 19.00 – Sessions

19.00 – 21.00 – Joint Civil Society – Government Cocktail Reception, at the foyer of the Palexpo Congress Centre

1 December, Thu – GFMD Common Space / Global Unions Forum on Migration

8.00 – 9.00 – Registration at Palais des Nations (United Nations at Geneva)

9.00 – 10.00 – Opening Session of Government GFMD (with Civil Society Delegates)

10.00 – 13.00 – Common Space (Government and Civil Society Delegates)

This will be a panel discussion “Looking at the Big Picture: Demographics, Youth and Unemployment, Development and Migration.”

¹ Download full schedule from www.gfmdcivilsociety.org.

14.30 – 17.30 – Global Unions Forum on Migration, ILO Rm IX (Chair: Peter Waldorff)

2 December – Fri – Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Human Rights and Development²

Venue: Maisons des Associations, Plainpalais, Geneva

10.00 – 12.00 – Workshops

12.00 – Public Action (Venue : Broken Chair, Palais des Nations, Geneva)

15.30 – 17.30 – Workshops

19.00 – PGA Closing Plenary

IV. Trade Union Desk

PSI, BWI and ITUC have arranged for an exhibit corner (table and poster panel) at the Palexpo Conference Centre during the days of the GFMD CSD. This will also serve as our meeting point during the days of the conference. Feel free to bring materials that you would like to distribute. We also need volunteers to help us set up the desk in the morning of 29th November at 8am before the start of the Opening Sessions.

V. Other Information

If you have other questions, please contact Genevieve Gencianos, genevieve.gencianos@world-psi.org, Phone: +33 450401214, Mobile +33 617462606.

Attachments:

1. Global Unions Statement at the GFMD (English and Spanish)
2. PSI Policy on Migration, Development and Quality Public Services
3. PSI Press Release, 28 November 2011
4. Global Unions Forum on Migration Agenda
5. List of Trade Union Delegates to the GFMD

² See full schedule on <http://migrantwatch.org/pgs2011/>