January 2019

Civil-Society Action Committee 2019

Civil Society action around the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Terms of Reference
January 2019 – December 2019

1. Background

Action Committee phase 1

On 19 September 2016, the UN General Assembly hosted a high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants. On the day of the Summit, 193 Member States unanimously adopted the New York Declaration, a common plan for addressing large-scale movements of refugees and migrants, and more.

Civil society actors engaged in this process both individually and also collectively, through the UN-led civil society Steering Committee and the self-organized civil society Action Committee. The Action Committee drove global communications, organizing and collective advocacy as an extra level of civil society advocacy towards Summit outcomes and implementation thereof.

ICMC, ICVA and the NGO Committee convened the Action Committee specifically for this work on Migration/New York under Terms of Reference approved by Action Committee members in May 2016. The Action Committee brought together 11 NGOs active in refugee protection, identified through the ICVA network, and 11 NGOs active in migrant rights, identified through ICMC’s Global Forum on Migration and Development network, with several active in both. Day-to-day leadership and support was assumed by ICMC, who posted a full-time coordinator in New York. Among the resources created for this work was the dedicated website refugees-migrants-civilsociety.org, which contains ten newsletters produced during the period, joint and individual civil society statements and other documents related to the Summit processes.¹ This Action Committee would serve towards the Summit and cease to exist at the end of 2016.

Action Committee phase 2

In three meetings of the Action Committee between September and October 2016, its members voiced strong interest in continuing the Action Committee to bridge civil society follow-up on the range of commitments in the New York Declaration through the two-year period it set for developing a Global Compact for Refugees and a Global Compact on Migration. Members agreed for the purpose

¹ http://refugees-migrants-civilsociety.org/
of the Action Committee in the period 2017-2018 to bridge—in order to connect, not control—civil society efforts in follow-up to commitments of the New York Declaration. This emphasis on a connecting role would lighten but broaden the Action Committee’s remit.

For particular follow-up, Action Committee members decided to focus on the four major commitments that Member States made in the New York Declaration:

1. Global campaign to counter xenophobia
2. Guidelines on the treatment of non-refugee migrants in vulnerable situations
3. Global Compact on Refugees
4. Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration

As in 2016, the three co-conveners remained committed in that role in this new period, and ICMC committed to fundraising for a full time staff person for the work of the Committee itself. This person was based in New York the first half of 2018 to continue the AC work around the Global Compact for Migration negotiations. In the course of 2018, its membership was extended to the 7 regional civil society focal points and the Mixed Migration Centre. In addition a number of observers were added to the AC mailing list for their specific work and expertise in the Global Compact negotiations.

2. Action Committee 2019

In 2019 the Action Committee 2019 will move from a follow-up of the different commitments of the New York Declaration in 2016 – 2018 to a space for civil society collective strategy around the global governance of migration and states’ responsibilities for protecting the human rights of all people on the move, particularly in view of the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Migration. It will maintain a ‘bridging’ function with civil society groups working on the Global Compact for Refugees and the Internally Displaced People Work Programme 2020 (IDP WP 2020). This Action Committee 2019 will conduct 3 main activities:

I. Action Committee calls

As before the Action Committee secretariat will continue to set up regular calls with the aim to connect civil society initiatives and discuss collective strategy around the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, with a pragmatic bridge to civil society action around the Global Compact for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through dedicated space on the Action Committee calls for updates on the Global Compact for Refugees and IDPs GP20.

In doing so, this working stream maintains a focus on the “6 C’s”:

- **Communication**: share-information, analyses and update on progress of implementation, policy and political developments, as well as on key meetings, briefings and hearings;
- **Capacity Building and knowledge management**: to facilitate effective engagement on the part of members and broader Civil Society at a variety of levels including national and regional level through specific actions.

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2 For more, see the UN’s website on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants [here.](#)
• **Complement**, rather than replace, or assert a coordinating role over individual action by Action Committee members; emphasis on facilitation rather than coordination.

• **Connect**: to actively reach out beyond Action Committee members to ensure dissemination, dialogue and linking to broader civil society. This can be done through newsletters, webinars, info tools etc.

• **Collective organizing**: where relevant, work closely with members to organize common messages and key joint civil society advocacy pieces building onto specific on-the-ground contexts; to inspire and mutually encourage whilst at the same time recognising the diversity of civil society actors and their perspectives;

• **Convene**: join forces strategically, e.g., when it comes to discussing modalities, participating in consultations, briefings, negotiations or UN processes, organizing webinars with cross-cutting relevance, etc.

**Working method:**
- The calls will meet through conference calls of approx. 90 minutes. Co-conveners will organize the meeting schedule and agendas, documents and reports. Usually these calls take place once a month.
- The Secretariat will strive to hold the calls at 2pm CET (8am ET, 11pm GMT +11) hereby acknowledging the different time zones of members.
- These calls are open to all members of the Action Committee.
- Members will have equal voice in Action Committee discussions and recommendations.
- Members will further exchange views and follow up by email.

Aside from regular Action Committee calls, the Action Committee members agree that the Action Committee 2019 would have two working streams. These working streams will consist of smaller working groups, who will give briefings on progress during the regular Action Committee calls.

II. **Working stream – Development of ‘Collective Civil Society priorities’**

**Objective:**
To develop a collective and global **civil society priority framework** in the new era of migration governance. The Action Committee members have expressed the need for collective thinking around key issues civil society want to collectively accomplish. The objective of this working stream would be to guide the Secretariat on the development of such a framework, including on how this can be accomplished in a way that is transparent and inclusive.

**Expected deliverables and timeline:**
- Work and provide input towards draft priority framework
- Establish process to consult, consolidate and conduct outreach on the draft framework
  Expected timeline for final framework: June 2019

**Working method:**
- The AC Secretariat will open a call for interest early 2019. Members will also be encouraged to recommend organizations that are not part of the Action Committee membership. This
group will consist of **maximum 10 organisations** to maintain an action-oriented and effective discussion group.

- This working stream will meet through conference calls of approx. 60 minutes. Co-conveners will organize the meeting schedule and agendas, documents and reports. Frequency of these calls will be defined during the first call of this working group early 2019.
- On the Action Committee calls – one of the members of this working stream will provide an update on the discussions.
- The Action Committee secretariat will ensure dissemination and communication of the discussions beyond Action Committee calls and membership.
- Note taking in these calls will be done on a rotational basis.

### III. Working stream: ‘Structures and Reform’

**Objective:**
To provide a platform to define and consolidate how civil society engagement can be structured going forward. The work of this working stream will focus on defining process and mechanisms.

The Action Committee’s new mandate also marks the start of the Global Compact implementation. This means important ‘homework’ for civil society: civil society will need to think of how it will organise itself and how it will foster collective action going forward. This is an exercise that needs time, consultation and extensive dialogue with civil society across different actors, sectors, regions and themes, and will need **action through 2019**.

The role of this working stream will be to discuss and decide on next steps to further consult on and consolidate civil society collective thinking around a future model of engagement, and to lead to a pilot model to be implemented mid 2019. Its role includes discussing how to broaden outreach, in particular to groups, regions and organisations that have been under-represented in the past and to reach grassroots organisations and migrants themselves.

**Expected deliverables and timeline:**
- Building onto conclusions from work conducted in 2018 (‘phase 1’): to define next steps to ensure outreach and consolidation of model of engagement by June 2019.

**Working method:**
- The Action Committee secretariat will open a call for interest early 2019. Members will also be encouraged to recommend organizations that are not part of the Action Committee membership. This group will consist of **maximum 10 organisations** to maintain an action-oriented and effective discussion group.
- This working stream will meet through conference calls of approx. 60 minutes. Co-conveners will organize the meeting schedule and agendas, documents and reports. Frequency of these calls will be defined during the first call of this working group early 2019.
- On the Action Committee calls – one of the members of this working stream will provide an update on the discussions.
  The Action Committee secretariat will ensure dissemination and communication of the discussions beyond Action Committee calls and membership.
3. Co-Conveners

As in 2016 - 2018, the Civil Society Action Committee will continue throughout 2019 to be co-convened by:

- The **International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)**, which has since 2011 organized global civil society participation meetings and activities connected to the yearly, States-led, Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and the 2013 UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), working closely with a diverse group of some 25-35 civil society organizations worldwide convened as an International Steering Committee (ISC) for that purpose and who has posted a staff member in New York to strengthen the work of the Action Committee during the NYD and GCM Negotiations.

- The **International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)**, which has long organized global NGO participation and voice in meetings of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), including annual NGO Consultations and the GCR Consultations.

- The **NGO Committee on Migration (New York)**, which has since 2006 organized its membership principally around UN processes in New York but also in relation to UNHCR and IOM meetings and who has actively ensured direct advocacy with NY based missions throughout the GCM process.

Responsibilities of the Co-Conveners will be to assist the Action Committee Secretariat with strategic leadership and management of the Secretariat.

4. Action Committee Secretariat

There will be fundraising for 2 full time staff persons for an Action Committee Secretariat to support the Action Committee. Its responsibilities will include:

- Convening and coordinating Action Committee calls
- Facilitate collective advocacy activities
- Set up joint communications and other activities
- Coordinate the development of a resource mobilisation plan for 2019. The existing funding model will be revised in the course of 2019. A **2019 resource mobilisation plan** will be developed by the co-convenors for info and feedback by the AC members. This plan will also consider the possibility of AC members making symbolic contributions towards the Secretariat’s budget.

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3 The ISC for the GFMDs and 2013 HLD has comprised a mix of civil society organizations active in migration and development at global, regional, national and grassroots levels—with broad sectoral, geographic and gender balance. ISC members are principally non-governmental rights, development and faith-based organizations, migrant and diaspora associations, trade unions and worker organizations, academics and private sector actors.
5. Membership

Ahead of the first Action Committee call in January 2019, the three co-conveners will formally request existing members to renew their membership via email.

In addition to existing members, a number of new organisations might be invited to the Action Committee 2019 in order to adequately represent key areas identified under 2. In order to keep the calls and communication manageable and efficient, the membership will be limited to a maximum of 30 civil society representatives. Organisations will mandate one person per organisation to join the calls, but multiple staff per organisation can be added to the Action Committee mailing list.

Membership in the Action Committee is based on the original 22 member NGOs of 2016 + regional focal points, but has been reassessed under these new ToRs, ensuring it includes members:

- From the migrant rights community of NGOs: members of the ISC ‘Core Group’ or their designates; and members of regional or thematic networks that have been engaged throughout the Global Compact for Migration process.
- Dedicated bridging roles for representatives from the refugee protection community and IDPs.

This will achieve important:

- Balance of migration, human rights, gender and diversity-inclusion expertise;
- Mix of civil society sectors, international-regional-national levels of engagement and gender;
- Contributions of staff time and, where possible resources to achieve the proposed described objectives.

The following NGOs are invited to continue as members of the Action Committee, to be joined by others, as described earlier, to a maximum of 30 [* = co-convener]:

1. ACT Alliance
2. Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform
3. Amnesty International
4. Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
5. Asylum Access
6. Bloque Latino Americano
7. Building and Wood Workers’ International
8. CARE-International
9. Caritas Internationalis
10. Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants
11. Global Coalition on Migration
12. International Catholic Migration Commission*
13. International Council of Voluntary Agencies*
14. International Detention Coalition
15. International Rescue Committee
16. l’Institut de recherche et de promotion des alternatives en développement
17. Lutheran World Federation
18. Migrant Forum in Asia
19. Mixed Migration Centre
20. National Network on Immigrant and Refugee Rights
21. NGO Committee on Migration*
22. Norwegian Refugee Council
23. Oxfam International (tbc)
24. Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
25. Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
26. Quakers United Nations Office (Geneva)
27. Refugees International
28. Save the Children
29. Scalabrini International Migration Network
30. Terre des Hommes
31. United Nations Mayor Group on Children and Youth (MGCY)

**Responsibilities of Action Committee members:**

- Service on the Action Committee is strictly voluntary. Since membership is limited to 30 organisations, members are invited and strongly encouraged to actively participate in the calls and activities of the Action Committee and to share information from the Action Committee calls and communications to their wider networks and constituencies, this will not be the responsibility of the Action Committee Secretariat (except in monthly newsletters and frequent webinars – see 6. below).
- The Secretariat will propose a 2019 work plan for input, feedback and active participation by members.

6. **Term and work plan**

The Action Committee will have a term of 1 January 2019 through 31 December 2019. It is expected that by then there will be a new model proposed to coordinate and facilitate civil society collective action. Should a new model be agreed upon before the end of 2019, the Action Committee 2019 can end its mandate sooner.

The Action Committee members will agree on a work plan, which can be revised upon request by any of the members. This work plan will be a planning tool for the Secretariat and all Action Committee members to coordinate and agree on specific actions. Such a work plan would include priorities and main activities for both working streams. The first draft work plan will be circulated to the AC members by February 2019.

7. **Broader Civil-Society Outreach**

In order to broaden civil-society outreach in these efforts of follow-up and implementation of the different pieces of the New York Declaration, participation by non-members of the Action Committee will be welcomed in these joint efforts through:

- Open calls and webinars
• Communications, including newsletters on a regular basis for updates and consultations
• Participation in collective advocacy convenings