Executive Summary

In the last two years the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) has encouraged various networks and organisations around the world to implement actions based on the agreements coming out of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and its Civil Society Days. An issue we came to recognise during this period is the lack of mechanisms associated with the GFMD that would oblige states to create or implement policies with the vision, criteria and best practices that are shared there – that is to say in colloquial terms, these mechanisms lack “teeth”. The main reason for this is the informal, voluntary and non-binding nature of the dialogue.

This obliges us, as civil society networks and organisations, working within that space, to find new ways to integrate these discussions into our advocacy strategies. Firstly, to identify how these discussions relate to other multilateral and/or regional processes that discuss issues relating to migration or the rights of migrants, families and communities or which provide findings that impact this population group. Secondly, to link these global and regional discussions with national advocacy processes. So, for example, to use the space for citizen participation to pressure the government to implement policies with a human rights approach, such as Citizen Advisory Councils; as well as the processes of dialogue with the legislative and judicial branches based on the attribution of each of them.

In September 2015 we co-convened a Regional Meeting to advance in this direction, resuming the debate we had a total of 253 people working in 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014. With the intention of grounding the discussions, five strategic areas of discussion were identified: 1) Structural causes of migration, 2) social inclusion of migrants, 3) irregular borders; and two cross-cutting approaches: 4) gender and women in migration and 5) migrant children. This report organises these discussions, identifying major challenges migrants are facing, possible approaches or solutions, organisations that have an interest in promoting actions in this regard, other possible partners and relevant international and/or regional areas to expand this work.

This report contains the main agreements coming out of the Meeting, and indeed tries to go a step further: it shows how various networks have made progress in implementing the agreements of the Regional Meeting. This, by fostering an alliance with the UN Women office in Mexico to start linking the various commitments acquired by the States in the processes that are of a binding nature, such as the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families (CMW) and the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and those that are not, such as the GFMD. This kind of link is of special interest in the case of Mexico, which has been one of the main
promoters of the GFMD and has signed and ratified international conventions that give rise to these Committees. Moreover, taking advantage of the window of opportunity that opens as the Mexican government must show progress to both committees in the period 2016-2017.

What we seek to show is how we can relate more clearly what is discussed in the non-binding dialogue processes that increasingly arise with those that are an obligation for ratifying states. Non-binding dialogues include those around the Sustainable Development Goals, the agreements achieved in the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration as well as more recent ones that have emerged from the GFMD, such as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC). Binding obligations, on the other hand, include those towards UN Committees, the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) or the Central American Integration System etc. The long-term goal of this work is to propose new working methods that allow us to have more impact on the defense and protection of the rights of individuals, families and migrant communities in Mexico and the world.

The Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) Project stems from the collaboration of a series of civil society organizations in the context of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). It aims to enhance the capacity of and strengthen already existing networks and organizations, to promote a better articulation, exchange and analysis of proposals; as well as to support future joint advocacy and awareness efforts. MADE is structured around global Working Groups and regional networks that offer mutual support for their endeavors. There are three groups that focus on: the global governance of migration, the role of diaspora for sustainable development, and the rights of migrant workers and the reform of labor recruitment. Alongside these, there are four geographical networks: Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Africa, Asia, and Europe. A Global Coordinating Office in Brussels coordinates their activities. In the LAC region, the International Network on Migration and the Scalabrini International Migration Network, with the assistance of the Scalabrini Foundation, lead the activities in a coordinated and complementary way.

1 This initiative is co-chaired by the governments of the United States and the Philippines. For more information on this see: MICIC FAQs: [http://micicinitiative.iom.int/about-micic/faq](http://micicinitiative.iom.int/about-micic/faq) (last seen April 11, 2016)