Putting Words into ACTion:
Concrete Policies and Practices for the Implementation of a
Civil Society Vision for the Global Compact

The NGO Committee on Migration has actively contributed to and strongly supports the vision set forth in *Now and How: TEN ACTS for the Global Compact: A civil society vision for a transformative agenda for human mobility, migration and development*.

As we prepare for the stocktaking and negotiation phases for the adoption of the Global Compact on Human Mobility and Migration, we urge Member States to incorporate the *TEN ACTS* into a comprehensive, actionable Compact that will save lives and be of direct benefit to migrants, refugees, and societies.

Our Committee believes that the time is **NOW** to propose concrete policies and practices to ensure that the Compact is a practical instrument for migration governance.

To promote this critical endeavor, the NGO Committee on Migration proposes numerous **policies and practices** below to concretize several of the *TEN ACTS* which are specifically related to our Committee’s priorities: **protection and assistance for migrants in vulnerable situations across the migration cycle, especially women and children**, particularly for those migrants experiencing abuses in transit and at borders; those forced to migrate due to **climate change and environmental degradation**, and those encountering **xenophobia and lack of access to services** in countries of transit and destination. For each ACT we emphasize below, we offer several frameworks and models of good practices that support the achievement of the corresponding ACTIONS.

**ACT 2: Act to enhance safe, regular and affordable pathways and opportunities for human mobility that comply with human rights**

*Action 2.1: Mobility channels for all*
- **Sutherland Report**: Commitments of States towards migrants include the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular migration, p.8, #18
- Canada’s [private sponsorship program for refugees](#) is part of a planned national migration system that includes diversified pathways to migration for work, study, family reunification and humanitarian purposes
- Italy and France’s [Humanitarian Corridor Programs](#) are innovative private-public initiatives that open up legal pathways for refugees

*ACT 3: Act to meet the needs and respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all migrants and refugees in distress, in transit, at borders and at destination, and end their criminalization and detention*

*Action 3.2: Rights-based border policies, Action 3.3: Principles and guidelines for migrants in vulnerable situations, and Action 3.6: End child immigration detention*
- **Sutherland Report**: Protection must translate into actual assistance, especially for unaccompanied children, p. 9, #22
- GMG’s [Principles and Guidelines on Protecting Migrants in Vulnerable Situations](#)
• Costa Rica and Panama’s regulations prohibiting the detention of child migrants.
• Almost all European Union countries’ legislation requiring alternatives to detention be pursued prior to any decision to detain.
• Scalabrinì International Migration Network’s life-saving services, including protection and shelter, to forced migrants in transit in Latin America and other world regions, p. 81.

**ACT 9:** Act to develop global principles on the governance of return, reintegration and alternatives to return that guarantee the rights, safety and dignity of all migrants and refugees in these contexts.

**Action 9.6:** Principles on governance of return, reintegration and alternatives to return

• **Sutherland Report:** Commitments of States to protect migrants must clarify the protections available to vulnerable migrants who are not covered by the Refugee Convention, p. 8, #19.
• **Crepeau:** *2035 Agenda for Human Mobility* proposes targets and indicators to ensure respect for human rights at border controls, including return, Target 3.9 Indicator h, pp. 14-15.
• **GMG’s Principles and Guidelines for Protecting Migrants in Vulnerable Situations.**
• Romania’s “Tolerated Status” for persons who cannot leave its territory but would otherwise have no legal basis to remain.

**Act in the best interest of migrant children as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts.**

**ACT 5:** Act to ensure safe and decent living conditions and access to social services and justice for all migrants and refugees.

**Action 5.1:** Access to legal and civil documentation [birth certificates]

• Damak Municipality in Jhapa’s issuance of birth certificates to children born to Bhutanese refugees while living inside refugee camps in eastern Nepal.
• Norwegian Refugee Council’s birth registration program in Bekaa Valley and Lebanon.
• Ethiopia’s civil registration program for refugees (2017).

**Action 5.2:** Access to services, social protection, and portable benefits [health care]

• Chilean Minister of Health’s 2014 establishment of task force to develop a migrant-responsive health policy.
• Swiss Red Cross health centers for undocumented migrants in Bern and Zurich.
• Italian Parliament’s March 2014 passage of “Zampa” law for the Protection of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors, which enhances support and protection for unaccompanied and separated children arriving in the country.
• Bangladeshi government’s partnership with WHO to develop a National Strategic Action Plan on Migration and Health 2015-2018.
• **Association Salud y Familia**’s (Health and Family) several programs to improve access to health services for undocumented migrants in Barcelona region.
• UNHCR and UNICEF’s Blue Dot child and family support hubs along the most frequently used migration routes in Europe that offer services, recreational activities, protection and counseling in a single location.

**ACT 6:** Act to provide quality education and developmental care for all children, and improve student mobility, learning opportunities and recognition of skills and qualifications.

**Action 6.1:** Education and developmental care for all

• Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Italy, Spain, Thailand, the Netherlands, Uruguay, and France’s policies recognizing the fundamental right to education for all children.
• Thailand’s Minister of Education’s 2005 instruction of school directors to enroll all children, including children born abroad and those lacking identification
• Ecuador’s Human Mobility Law, passed in January 2017, guaranteeing to migrants and returnees the right to recognition of degrees and studies carried out abroad
• Syria, Bangladesh, Uganda, Myanmar and India’s Children on the Edge partnership with local communities to provide basic needs, including education and ECD
• Mama Learns Greek program for migrant mothers
• Lebanon’s Arab Resource Collective pilot project addressing the particular needs of young refugee children under five and their parents, utilizing the potential of early intervention to mediate the negative effects associated with families’ refugee situations, and promoting communication and understanding between refugee parents and parents in host communities

Address the impact of environmental degradation on forced migration and protect the human rights of those affected

ACT 1: Act to end the drivers of forced displacement and normalize and facilitate migration by choice

Action 1.1: Responsibility-sharing to tackle the drivers of precarious and forced migration [rapid- and slow-onset, natural and man-made environmental degradation]
• Lessons learned by 14 UN Member States in their pursuits of land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets as prescribed by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
• Workplan of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, which emerged from the Nansen Initiative
• Reporting and accountability mechanisms for the environmental impact of multinational corporations based in-State on communities abroad (e.g. incentives for regular demonstration “human rights due diligence” as outlined by the OHCHR Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, German legal hearings of damage claims from foreign nationals)
• Investment in Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, UN, and national agencies’ collection of data illustrating relationships between environmental degradation and displacement, between environmental and other known drivers of displacement, and between internal and cross-border displacement
• National plans to gradually eliminate food and other waste
• International trade agreement reform for explicit protection of States’ rights to legislate course corrections for environmental conservation or protection of human rights (e.g. nuclear phase-outs, fracking bans, offshore drilling bans)

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Action 3.4: [Protection of those affected by] disaster and climate change-induced displacement
• New Zealand’s Pacific Access Category Resident Visa program
• Initiatives emerging from the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and UNFCCC Green Climate Fund
• Regional collaboration of the Latin American and Caribbean States that have continually expanded the legal bases for asylum through the 1984 Cartagena Agreement, 1994 San José Declaration, 2004 Mexico Declaration, and 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action
• Schengen Area’s no-cost application for humanitarian visas
• Australia’s annual civil society consultations conducted by the government to gather feedback and recommendations on their Refugee and Humanitarian Program
• US’ Temporary Protected Status allowance for stateless persons to seek protection
• Canada’s pathway to permanent residence on the “humanitarian and compassionate grounds”
Counter xenophobia and foster social inclusion to promote harmonious and peaceful societies on international, regional, national and local levels

**ACT 7: Act to promote social cohesion and inclusion of migrants and refugees into societies and combat all forms of xenophobia, racism and discrimination**

**Action 7.1: Inclusion and Integration**
- **Syrian Volunteers in the Netherlands**: an organization comprised of migrants and native Dutch who volunteer together on local initiatives
- *The European Commission’s collection of data on the successful integration of migrant women and children* with natives of respective countries throughout Europe through sports
- **International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR)** initiative launched by UNESCO in 2004 that established a network of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion
- **Ester Foundation’s Helsingborg, Sweden-based program** that assists women with migrant backgrounds to become social entrepreneurs by teaching them business skills and confidence building, enabling them to start a business in a new country
- **Refugees on Rails program** in Germany, which teaches new migrants the employment skill of coding

**Act 7.2: Anti-discrimination plans and legislation**
- **UN's Together Initiative**, which aims to strengthen social cohesion between host communities and refugees.
- **New York City’s I.D. NYC program** that offers free identification card for all city residents, regardless of status, which enables them to open bank accounts, obtain loans, and access many social and other services which require identity verification
- **New Zealand Ministry of Social Development’s** conceptual framework and step-by-step guide for policy development and service delivery planning intended to enhance social inclusion and participation.
- **Anti-racism campaigns and public endorsement** of positive integration and diversity by several governments, both national and local (e.g. Italy, Francophone Belgium, Toronto, and Johannesburg), p. 8
- **Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance program**, which distributes media toolkits and produces magazines and films teaching social inclusivity and diversity
- **International Federation of Journalists'** code for ethics which includes avoidance of discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinions, and national or social origins