Press Release
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PEOPLES' GLOBAL ACTION SEEKS TO REFORM THE GFMD WITH INDEPENDENCE AND DIVERSITY

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an annual meeting of governments that emerged from the recommendation of the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of September 2006 in New York. It has met three times: in Brussels (2007), Manila (2008), and Athens (2009) with insignificant results. In 2010, the Global Forum will be hosted by Mexico.

During those three years, this government Forum included the hosting of its own Civil Society days, yet a growing group of social organizations have held the forum known as the Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA).

In Mexico, the major networks and national and international civil society and migrants organizations, concerned and committed to the care and protection of rights and promoting development, have resolved to seek more organic participation in the Global Forum without losing their independence or diversity.

To that end they have initiated a dialogue with the presidency of the GFMD, held by the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, that will continue during the first months of 2010 with the goal of deciding on methods of inclusion and cooperative work.

It could be noted that the previous Forums took place in a disjointed manner, the vision and interests of the receiving countries of migrant workers and their families prevailing, without effective mediation of a dialogue between the emissary and receiving countries governments, and without the involvement of civil society.

In Mexico, the PGA will work to make the GFMD take a step forward, transitioning from an isolated annual event to a process in which the various activities, and regional and global conferences, related to development, migration, and human rights, all converge and contribute to the planning and realization of public policies.

On this road to cooperation, the PGA hopes to help civil society act as a decisive player in the construction of a productive dialogue between emissary and receiving countries.

Participating in the PGA are organizations such as Migrant Forum Asia, Migrants Rights International, National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, National

Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo, Instituto de Estudios y Divulgación sobre Migración, A.C., Red Regional de Organizaciones Civiles para las Migraciones, and Sin Fronteras, I.A.P. Furthermore, the World Social Forum on Migration has demonstrated its interest in joining this process, and has initiated contact with the Scalabrini International Migration Network, Global Union Federation, European Working Group, African Working Group, Federación Internacional de Derechos Humanos, Foro Migraciones, and many other organizations.

The PGA seeks to bring subject experts to the GFMD that effectively represent the interests of the migrant community and emphasize the development and defense of their legal rights, in order to, overcome the narrow context in which, until now, they discussed the issues. In the previous forums, the discussions centered on the migrant contribution to the economic growth of the country of origin without consideration for the root causes of the migration, their contributions to the development of the destination countries, and the costs that it entailed for the countries and communities of origin.

In this context, the PGA will work to promote a broader agenda that includes the discussion of critical issues such as security and the growing criminalization of migrants and their defenders, the migration of professionals and scientists, child migration, human and labor rights, the environment and migration, and the return and reintegration of migrants.

For all this, the PGA will carry out various introductory events throughout the year that will culminate with two main events in October: one in Mexico City, and the other in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, the setting of the GFMD, where representatives of the PGA will present their findings and proposals, while supporting dialogues with the governments.

For more information:

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