

**Council of
Global
Unions:**

COUNCIL OF GLOBAL UNIONS STATEMENT TO THE GLOBAL
FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD) AND
THE CIVIL SOCIETY DAY OF THE FORUM
BRUSSELS, 9-11 JULY 2007

Chair:
Fred van Leeuwen, EI

Vice Chair:
Anita Normark, BWI

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Guy Ryder, ITUC

***SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND A RIGHTS-BASED
FRAMEWORK - AT THE HEART OF MIGRATION
POLICY***

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

1. As representatives of workers worldwide including migrants, and as defenders of their rights and interests, Global Unions must be an integral part of the policy dialogue which aims to shape policies on migration and development.
2. Trade unions are concerned about the narrow thematic focus of the GFMD, namely on various types of temporary migration schemes geared to filling labour market shortages in sending developed countries, and call for a shift to a more comprehensive, rights-based approach to migration.
3. The Council of Global Unions calls on governments to shoulder their social and human rights responsibilities, and set up regulatory frameworks that respect the fundamental rights of migrants regardless of their status, in keeping with the UN and ILO instruments that regulate the human and labour rights of migrant workers.
4. Global Unions recommend a holistic approach to looking at migration and development linkages, one which considers, not only the impacts of migration on development, but also the impacts of uneven development on migration.
5. Global Unions insist that migration policies must not compromise the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). Furthermore, they must be consistent with national-level policies to implement the decent work agenda.
6. Policy frameworks must recognize that the decent work deficit in developing countries and the failure of the global economy to create jobs where people live, are critical push factors in the "migration by necessity" syndrome. They must prioritize support policies to strengthen labour markets and

create decent work that provides a living wage for people in their home communities.

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7. Global Unions recommend that a priority be placed on the provision of quality public services, particularly in education and health, and social protections, with a view to stemming the brain drain, and achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed goals.
8. The Council of Global Unions recommends the adoption of the Tripartite model of consultations between governments, employers and trade unions in partnership with migrant workers' associations on the formulation of policies and the pursuit of best practice. Within this framework, agreements should be reached to extend union membership and protections to migrant workers, and to use collective bargaining as an instrument to ensure equal rights and treatment of migrants with nationals.
9. Global unions commend as an example of best practice, their model of union to union partnerships between sending and receiving countries of migrants. These focus on agreements to facilitate integration, access to public services for migrants and their families, promoting decent work, unionization, equal treatment, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.
10. Global unions insist that legislative frameworks should make adequate provision for the protection of the rights of migrant women, and that enforcement mechanisms be put in place to ensure compliance by recruiters and employers.
11. The Council of Global unions urges Member States to return to the UN for the continuation of this Global Consultative Forum. They maintain that it should be anchored within the UN, where a rights-based framework would provide adequate guarantees on the protection of migrant workers' rights. Also, the consultative frameworks of ECOSOC and the ILO afford trade unions a place in the policy dialogue, a place that is now denied, in the context of the GFMD, held at the initiative of individual Member States. This situation calls for urgent redress.

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