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Migration and Development
Civil Society Network



HIRDA Foundation, Wibuatstraat 150,
2nd Floor | 1091GR
Amsterdam

Re.: the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Your Excellency, Dear Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

The commitment to “leave no one behind” is a key feature of the newly adopted 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This transformative agenda, which outlines the goals for sustainable development for the coming 15 years and beyond, truly has the poorest, most disadvantaged and the most vulnerable at its heart. Not only are migrants, refugees and internal displaced persons inherently part of all the adopted 17 goals and 169 targets, since “no goal should be met unless it is met for everyone” – migrants, refugees and IDPs are also fully recognized as actors and subjects of sustainable human development.

The agenda embraces migration in multiple ways. Migrants and migration are specifically mentioned in the accompanying Declaration, stating “*We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons.*” Most importantly, the 2030 Agenda explicitly refers to migration and migrants in the following 7 targets:

- **5.2:** *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation*
- **8.7:** *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms*
- **8.8:** *Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.*



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- **10.7:** *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*
- **10.c:** *By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.*
- **16.2:** *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children*

- **17.18:** *By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts*

Now that the 2030 Agenda has been adopted unanimously, it is time to put the goals and targets into practice in every country around the globe. From January 1st 2016, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda 2030 needs to begin with translating the goals and targets into national policies – taking the SDGs as a minimum policy requirement and if possible going beyond the compromise reached at the UN. In this sense, the SDG framework “is a floor and not a ceiling”. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be seen as a menu to “pick and choose from”, and therefore *all* goals and targets should be addressed and measured.

We therefore ask you to reaffirm that the SDGs apply “for all” and that no one will be left behind and that you will respect, protect and promote the human rights of migrants. We also ask you to ensure in particular:

1. The translation of migrant-related goals and targets into national policies
2. The adequate resourcing and implementation of these policies.
3. The establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships to take this agenda forward, with meaningful participation of migrants, diaspora and other civil society actors.
4. The establishment of disaggregated data based on migration status and meaningful national indicators for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the SDGs, with migrants and the diaspora included.
5. The reduction of remittance transaction costs to less than 3 per cent before 2020 (10 years before the UN deadline), and the elimination of remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%; and ensure the facilitation of migrant and diaspora business and investment opportunities.

We thank you for your attention, and look forward to discussing and partnering with you on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Yours faithfully,



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