20 June 2018

Re: the Election of a New Director-General for the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Your Excellency,

We are writing you as NGOs with longstanding expertise and experience on refugee, migrant, forced displacement and human rights issues. We represent more than 600 organisations across the world; many of us are migrant-based and work directly within migrant communities.

With the International Organization for Migration (IOM) officially entering the United Nations in 2016, and with the likelihood of it playing a central role in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), IOM will be in a position to set the parameters for governments and other stakeholders to work together to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration in the coming years.

Civil society views the election of the IOM Director General (DG) as a critical and decisive moment in shaping the future of the Compact, its implementation and as a signal of what we collectively want for the future of global migration governance. We put forward four key characteristics we believe are essential for IOM’s DG to demonstrate, and urge that you consider them when it comes to selecting a new DG on 29 June 2018:

1. **Commitment to lead with integrity**
   IOM’s broad mandate and the expected central role it will play in global migration governance calls for a DG with profound political and institutional experience, and a deep and authentic commitment to multilateralism. The DG should demonstrate a vision that openly acknowledges the need for more transparency, accountability, and flexibility for organizational reform in the face of a rapidly changing policy environment as well as a changing UN system. This may include the need to move more decisively on developing clear operational standards in line with UN principles.

2. **Commitment to oversee GCM implementation, in the spirit of the New York Declaration, consistent with the intent of the 192 Member States who negotiated it.**
   With the New York Declaration in 2016, the international community acknowledged a shared responsibility to save lives and to find long-term and sustainable solutions for people on the move. If and when adopted, the GCM will launch a landmark process to develop a framework on international cooperation to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration. IOM will likely be assigned the coordinator of the UN Network, supporting the implementation of the GCM. IOM’s DG should be dedicated to taking up this role and working in a collaborative and respectful manner with all States, UN agencies and other stakeholders on fulfilling the commitments outlined in the Compact.

3. **Showcasing strong will to further develop IOM’s partnership with civil society**
   IOM’s collaboration with civil society is defined in Article 1 (2) of its constitution and it has adopted the Principles of Partnership. IOM and civil society collaborate on a broad variety of migration management issues globally. It is of the utmost importance that candidates highly value, promote and act within this framework and recognize the important role of civil society organizations and of migrants themselves, in assisting migrants and advocating for their rights. In this context, it is also particularly relevant that the IOM DG demonstrates a record of and commitment to respecting diversity and condemning xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance.
4. **Commitment to prioritise the IOM budget reform**

IOM’s broad mandate and lack of core funding opens it up to the debate that its choice of projects is driven by the priorities of donor countries rather than the best interests of the migrants themselves. The tension between using a rights-based framework and the incentives to serve its member states, and recognizing that those states have competing interests, should be addressed by a budget reform. We need a DG committed and able to lead the IOM in efforts of transparency and away from increased undue influence of funding on its operations.

We stand ready to discuss this in further detail with you. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Yours sincerely,

Act Alliance
Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
AFFORD – The African Foundation for Development
Alianza Americas
Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)
Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria de Servicios para la Salud (ACCSS) - Guatemala
Asociación Rumiñahui y la Red de Ecuatorianos en Europa- Ecuador-Europa
Asylum Access
Bloque Latinoamericano sobre Migración
Caritas Internationalis
Casa del Migrante de Saltillo (CDMS) - México
Church World Service
Clínica Jurídica de Migrantes y Refugiados de la Universidad Diego Portales - Chile
Colectivo por una Migración Sin Fronteras - México
Comisión Argentina para los Refugiados y Migrantes (CAREF) - Argentina
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Destination Unknown Campaign
FM4 Paso Libre- México
Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho (FJEDD) en México y Centroamérica
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters USA-JPIC
Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW)
Global Coalition on Migration
Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador, GMIES- El Salvador
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loretto Generalate
Instituto de Estudios y Divulgación sobre Migración (INEDIM)
México Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI) - México
International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
International Presentation Association
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Migration Working Group, Malaysia
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
NGO Committee on Migration
Our Journey, Malaysia
Pacificwin, Focal Point for Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organisations (PIANGO),
Pacific Region
PANiDMR
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
Red Jesuita con Migrantes y Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados- Latinoamérica y el Caribe
Red Sudamericana para las Migraciones Ambientales - Latinoamérica
Save the Children
Sin Fronteras – México
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Chicago, IL
Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis (SSJTO SF)
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
Terre des Hommes International Federation
The Institute for Women in Migration
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)
Womens Refugee Commission
World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)

*This letter was initiated by the Civil Society Action Committee, a group of 24 organisations that fosters joint civil society action towards the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). The Action Committee is co-convened by ICMC, ICVA and the NGO Committee on Migration.*