The Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) has prepared a template advocacy letter to which Terre des Hommes and the DU Campaign contributed. The letter is to be used by civil society organizations to write to their government about the upcoming SDG Summit, on 25-27 September in New York.

The letter requests their explicit endorsement of the migrant-related goals and targets, and their commitment to translate these into national policies and budgets.

Letter is sent to targeted Ministers and Ambassadors

Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and 25-27 September 2015 UN Summit Meeting

The commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ has been a key feature of all the discussions on the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The idea that ‘no goal should be met unless it is met for everyone’ is well established in the draft outcome document titled Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This means ensuring that every individual migrant – in countries of origin, transit or destination – will have access to the full range of rights and opportunities incorporated within the SDGs, regardless of migratory status.

We believe that the negotiations have resulted in a transformative agenda within which migrants and diaspora are clearly recognized as actors and subjects of sustainable human and economic development. This recognition reflects wide evidence that, regardless of migratory status, migrants contribute to economic growth and well-being not only in countries of destination, but also in countries of origin, e.g. by sending money back home (remittances) or investing as social entrepreneurs in their home communities. As access to basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of status, greatly increases these contributions by migrants, to human as well as economic development.

Migration-explicit targets appear under the goals on economic growth, employment and decent work (SDG 8), inequality (SDG 10), and means of implementation (SDG 17).

These include:

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;

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; and

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries [...] to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by [inter alia...] migratory status

In addition, three targets call for an end to exploitation and human trafficking under the goals on gender equality (SDG 5); economic growth, employment and decent work (SDG 8); and peaceful societies, access to justice and accountable institutions (SDG 16).

As a child rights organization not only do we lobby for the understanding of the mainstreaming of Child Rights through the segregation of data by age throughout most of the SDGs but do we also focus on Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence against and torture of children. Within the context of migration, children on the move are often in a particularly vulnerable situation.

Together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which forms ‘an integrated part of the post-2015 development agenda’, this is an important step forward in integrating migrants and migration into the global development agenda. Regarding migration, the AAAA spells out policies and actions related to ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of status; ending human trafficking; access to and portability of earned benefits; education for migrant and refugee children; skills recognition; lowering the costs of recruitment and remittances (cheaper, faster and safer transfer, including by promoting competition, transparency and the use of new technology and addressing obstacles to flows of remittances and to improving data collection); financial inclusion, services and literacy; combatting xenophobia; and facilitating social integration.

The 25-27 September Summit offers governments the opportunity to address the UN General Assembly with national engagement and commitment to implementing the SDGs. We ask you to use this opportunity to embrace and endorse the SDG agenda and its important references to migrants and migration, and in your intervention(s) to:
1. Reaffirm that the SDGs apply “for all” and that no one will be left behind; and that you will respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of migrants in particular of children.

2. Pledge to translate the migration-related goals and targets into national policies, and ensure their adequate resourcing and implementation.

3. Pledge to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships to take this agenda forward, with meaningful participation of migrants, diaspora and other civil society actors.

4. Pledge to establish disaggregated data based on migration status and meaningful indicators for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the SDGs, with migrants and the diaspora included.

5. Pledge to support the reduction of remittance transaction costs to less than 3 per cent before 2030, and the elimination of remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%; and commit to encouraging and facilitating migrant and diaspora business and investment opportunities.

We look forward to discussing and partnering with you on the implementation of the SDG agenda going forward.

We thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Ignacio Packer
Secretary General
Terre Des Hommes International Federation