Migrants and migration belong in international and national post-2015 development agendas, as both actors and subjects of human and economic development that is sustainable.

As a first matter, SDGs must address root causes and conditions that force people to migrate, especially surging global inequalities driven by current development and economic paradigms. We must move towards people and nature-centered, rights-based development. This is an urgent practical matter, but also a clear moral imperative, not least so that migration can be a choice, not a necessity. In this direction, the SDGs must include strong goals for:

- decent work for all, with labour rights, as a goal for all countries but with explicit reference to protection of migrant workers regardless of status
- universal publicly-funded and delivered social protection in critical areas of community well-being

Migrant earnings and remittances are important contributors to family and community development. Remittances however, are private transfers: they should not be diverted or used as the “answer” or substitute for development policy or assistance.

The SDGs must point to and incorporate full participation of migrants and diaspora as partners in public policy planning and implementation, development and data collection.

As described on the next page, a number of migrant and migration-related targets may fit either under broader SDGs (such as ending poverty; fair, accessible and adequate healthcare, education and governance; empowering girls and women, etc.) or together as a logical set for transformative human and economic development, including:

- decreasing remittance transfer costs
- reducing risks to migrants on the move, in particular: recruitment costs; lack of fair, regular and orderly channels of migration; criminalization of migrants; and risks to women and to children in contexts of human trafficking, transit and crisis
- portability of social security, pension and skills, including recognition of qualifications
II. Targets under goals similar to the current MDGs or focus areas of the Open Working Group.

GOAL 1
Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth
- Create and preserve decent work opportunities in countries of origin which make migration and re-migration an option instead of a necessity and mitigate brain drain
- Ensure that migrants enjoy decent working conditions and social protection that conform to international human rights and labour standards
- Ensure portability of skills and benefits

GOAL 2
End poverty
- Reduce costs of labour migration, with priority to abolishing debt bondage and recruitment charges to migrant workers
- Reduce the cost of sending remittances
- Protect and promote the private use of remittances for family and community development

GOAL 3
Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality
- Provide access to social and legal protection and decent work to migrant women and girls, including domestic workers

GOAL 4
Provide quality education and lifelong learning
- Ensure migrants’ access to education, particularly for children who are migrants themselves or the children of migrants

GOAL 5
Ensure healthy lives
- Ensure that all migrants have access to adequate and quality healthcare

GOAL 6
Ensure good governance and effective institutions
- Ensure that all migrants have access to justice and due process equal to nationals
- End policies and practices that criminalize and detain migrants based upon their migration status
- Increase participation and contribution of migrants in public policy planning and implementation
- Ratify and implement core UN and ILO instruments

GOAL 7
Ensure stable and peaceful societies
- Increase public awareness of cultural, social and economic contributions of migrants and diaspora
- Institutionalize mechanisms that embrace and integrate or reintegrate migrants and their families into their countries of origin, heritage and destination

GOAL 8
Create a global enabling environment for development with new partnerships
- Ensure that migrants and diaspora are fully engaged as partners in development
- Expand collaboration on and access to migration and development data

GOAL 9
Enlarge human security and human development benefits of migration
- Prevent and address international human trafficking and violence against migrants
- Improve systemic responses to forced migration, including migrants uprooted by crisis and climate change
- Facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, through enhanced international cooperation
- Reduce inefficiencies that generate large numbers of migrants lacking proper documentation

III. Targets under a stand-alone goal for multi-actor global and national collaboration.

Civil society believes that this goal uniquely frames four targets to remedy inefficiencies and obstacles that block migrants and migration from achieving greater human and economic development.

IV. Measurable indicators for all of the above targets are being developed separately.