Oral Statement
Submitted by Helen Saldanha

At the “Civil Society Briefing during the 5th Intergovernmental Negotiations to adopt a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” (GCM) on 8 June 2018- 9-10am

On Behalf of International Presentation Association and VIVAT International, Members of NGO committee on Migration. We also support the Joint Statements made by International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and Global Coalition on Migration.

Thank you Co-facilitators for the revised draft and more specifically for the recognition of the contribution of the faith-based organizations done through the inclusion of the term in the draft. We appreciate the space provided for the civil society and stakeholders to participate in the GCM process.

The New York Declaration recognized beyond measure the urgency of addressing large movements of migrants and refugees. It is a declaration of profound solidarity with, and support for, the millions of people in different parts of the world who, for reasons beyond their control, are forced to uproot themselves and their families from their homes. It reiterated the determination of the member states to save lives, from a humanitarian perspective to take on this challenge to find long-term and sustainable solutions to reduce the sufferings of thousands of human persons in most vulnerable situations. The very idea of GCM is rooted in the working out solutions upholding the principles of human rights. It speaks for those who are left behind. We make three recommendations:

1. **On Expansion of regular Pathways:**
   Irregular migration is a response of people in vulnerabilities to survive. Considering the reality on the ground, the expansion of regular pathways is a way forward enabling safe, regular and orderly migration. Migrants irrespective of their status, contributes to the economy of the destination countries as much as the source countries. The Issue Brief on 6th Thematic Sessions during the 1st deals with the positive outcomes expanding pathways. Legal barriers to regular migration that do not respond to labour market realities can result in greater irregular migration, resulting in sub-optimal and at times negative outcomes for communities of origin and destination, as well as for migrants themselves. We also urge the GCM process to develop multilateral policy framework based on international cooperation and human rights to provide access to services to all migrants irrespective of their migratory status as affirmed by several member states, access to services and justice including decent work and working conditions, remuneration, education and health. Hence we urge the member states to deliberate this issue considering the drivers of migration and large movements, as a way of one of the strategies for long term solutions for a safe, orderly and regular migration.
2. On Implementation, Follow up and Review:
Civil society organizations including faith-based organizations have offered solutions and work in cooperation with the governments to make migration a positive experience especially to those who are vulnerable. They accompany them in every stage of their migratory cycle. Many national governments recognize and acknowledge this contribution. The whole of society approach in the GCM has reference to civil society organizations. What will follow the adoption of the GCM is very important and civil society’s engagement possible on the ground. Several member states including Brazil, Uruguay also have made references to the way forward at the end of the negotiations. International migration review forum that will give a platform for commitment to 2030 agenda in the context of migration. Our recommendation to the member states is – make a commitment to take the process engaging in the process of developing effective monitoring strategies based on international cooperation, gender responsiveness, and inclusion of relevant stakeholders after the compact is adopted in later this year.

3. Humanitarian Policy and principle of non-refoulement
From a humanitarian point of view, it is essential that the international community recognizes and addresses the protection needs of refugees and vulnerable migrants especially women and children and those affected by natural disasters and climate induced displacements.

Protection against return is essential for a number of migrants based on the Principle of non-refoulement, and well-established under international law. IOM’s International Migration Law Informative Note, 2014, deals with the Principle of Non-refoulement. In Chapter III, it highlights the principle of non-refoulement is applicable in the case of migration when there are threats to the human rights of the returnees. We appeal to the member states to work towards deliberating on, and including the principle of non-refoulement in the GCM.

Thank you Co-facilitators.

Source:

Para 8 of New York of New York Declaration
Para 10 of New York Declaration
https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/ts6_issues_brief_0.pdf