

Presentation for the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, during the Round Table 2: "Addressing drivers of migration, particularly large movements, and highlighting the positive contributions of migrants"

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Good morning everyone. I would like to thank the Office of the President of the General Assembly for inviting me and NGLS and the co-facilitators in your commitment to include migrants and refugees and our organisations in the different stages of this process. I am an example of that effort and it is giving me inspiration. But most importantly I hope to inspire you today to think critically about our current discourse on Migration Governance. Before I will share the story of Tina I would like to mention that I am part of a larger organized community of migrants and refugees and in coalition with Global Coalition of Migration, Women in Migration, and in Europe of the Transnational Migrant Platform.

Tina is a Migrant Domestic Worker in the private household in the Netherlands. Her migration journey started in the Middle East – Kuwait then Cyprus and then in the Netherlands. *"As Migrant Domestic Workers working in the Private household in the Netherlands we have organised ourselves - to empower and understand our position in Netherlands, and we have placed our issue in the agenda of the politicians and the Trade Union. The main goal in our campaign is to be recognised with respect because we know that our work allows the parents in our families to balance their work and family life. Our campaign is for all the women and men working in the domestic sector in the Netherlands. We are united, and full of strength with total awareness of our rights, dignity and capacities as human beings, we also get involved in the wider struggle for migrant rights against racism and discrimination."* For more than 30 years she has not been able to be reunited with her family because of lack of regular status. Her daughter was able to finish her study as a physiotherapist, but because of lack of prospects in the Philippines her daughter migrated to Netherlands and is also working as a domestic worker.

1) I want to put here the issue of equality - to be specific gender equality. Why are our working condition and our possibility to move cross borders different from Tina and her daughter? Tina and her daughter are workers too, just like you and me. Despite the adoption of ILO C189 domestic work is not recognised to be contributing economically in many countries, - therefore not a category for migration and Tina is not categorized as an expat but as a migrant.

2) Also in developing mechanisms to protect all migrants regardless of status we need to consider the role of Private Military Corporations and Private Security Companies actors in the migration industry. Specifically their role in shaping migration policies and how these corporations are actively encouraging a growing securitisation of borders. Securitization frameworks will fuel criminalization of migrant communities; intensify racist and xenophobic narratives that demonize migrants and refugees. We need to look at the issue from the perspective of mobility and development achieving the social cohesion and economic inclusion.

3) Why is her daughter compelled to migrate and leave her son in the Philippines? We need to be comprehensive that the pressure to migrate is a very complex phenomena and that the large movements of people today are 'mixed flows' of people. The prospects of the daughter of Tina finding job in the Philippines, refugees fleeing war and environmental degradation and disasters are very much related to our foreign policies, economic, trade and investment agreements. Competition and the drive for market efficiency, and the systemic erosion of social models of our countries during crisis have facilitated commodification in every aspect of our life and our environment. This has resulted into massive displacement of people and the explosive growth of precarious wage labour leading to a precarious existence, without a secure identity or sense of development achieved through labour.

4) *To leave no one behind* - we need a more intense effort to work with civil societies reclaiming areas of development and that governments at state and UN level should promote policy coherence across the spectrum of development, trade and investment and peace and safe movement of peoples across borders. We see common grounds with other sectors of civil society and social movements who are proposing alternatives to respect and safeguard the right of people to work in their own territories and defend their environment and natural resources. We believe that the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees will be best ensured when these are seen in an integrated way as part of peoples human rights- whether we are women, indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees or workers and peasants. The UN has a major role and responsibility to ensure this integrated approach to the challenges facing the global human rights agenda and the rights of our environment.