

## **“Migration and Development: A Decent Work Issue”**

Panel event parallel to the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development

**2 October 2013, 10:00 am-1:00 pm**

**Conference Room 6, North Lawn Building, UNHQ, New York**

*Co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations,  
the Council of Global Unions and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

### **Concept**

International migration today is largely driven by the search for decent work. Of the currently estimated 214 million international migrants, 105 million are economically active, or are engaged in the world of work. While the impact of the crisis continues to unfold, poverty continues to spread as global unemployment deepens and access to essential public services and social protection is drastically reduced. Migrant workers, particularly women and young workers are disproportionately affected. Despite their known positive contributions to societies, migrant workers suffer from discrimination, abuses and violations of their rights.

Nevertheless, migratory pressures will continue as driven by skills shortages in destination countries with ageing populations, the lack of jobs and decent working conditions in countries of origin and the widening income inequalities within and between countries in the North as well as in the South. South-South migration is becoming important, as well as South-North migration. Almost half of the international migration today comprise of women who are predominantly found in jobs such as in health and social care, education, hospitality and domestic work. This feminisation of migration can be empowering but can also imply increased vulnerability of women migrants, often linked to the undervaluing of women’s work, precarious work, exploitation, discrimination, xenophobia, trafficking and unethical recruitment practices, which are serious threats to migrant workers’ rights.

The growing debate on the role of migration in the post-2015 Development Agenda affirms the important contribution of migration to social, cultural, political and economic development. As such, the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development provides the opportunity within the United Nations to review the current discourse on migration and development, rectify the deficiencies in the global governance of labour migration and tackle migration and development from the normative framework of development and human rights.

### **Objectives**

The panel will bring together representatives of governments, social partners, UN organisations and civil society organisations in order to contribute to the outcomes of the UN High Level Dialogue through:

- Promoting decent work and a labour market perspective in the deliberations and outcome of the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.
- Increased dialogue between governments, social partners, international institutions, such as the ILO, and civil society, on the rights-based normative framework in the global governance of labour migration; and
- Promotion of good practices, solutions and ideas for government-trade union cooperation.

## Programme

### 10:00 Welcome

**Ambet Yuson**, General Secretary, Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI); Chair of the Council of Global Unions and Global Unions Working Group on Migration

**Michele Auga**, Executive Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

### 10:10 Interactive panel moderated by Wellington Chibebe, Deputy , General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation

- **representative**, Government of the Philippines
- **representative**, Government of Switzerland (*tbc*)
- **Michelle Leighton**, Branch Chief, Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Office (ILO MIGRANT)
- **Annie Geron**, Vice President, Public Services International (PSI); General Secretary of Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK)
- **Samidha Garg**, International Relations Officer, UK National Union of Teachers; Member, Education International's Migration Taskforce
- **Tefere Gebre**, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO (*tbc*)
- **Francesca Pizzutelli**, Researcher and Advisor, Amnesty International

The interactive panel will address the following questions:

- What do governments expect from the High Level Dialogue?
- What needs to be done to better integrate migration policy in the labour market policy?
- What do Global Unions expect from the High Level Dialogue?
- What can social partners bring to debates on migration?
- Can the High Level Dialogue deliver on a rights-based approach to migration?
- To what extent can or should the High Level Dialogue encourage cooperation at the international level on the UN normative framework related to migration?
- How can we enhance the role of civil society in migration governance?

### 11:30 Question and Answer Exchange with the Audience

### 12:45 Wrap-up by Ambet Yuson